

Comprehensive CA Articleship Interview Preparation Guide

1. HR Round Questions

- Tell me something about yourself.
- Why did you choose CA?
- Why Statutory Audit / Internal Audit / Direct Tax?
- Difference between Statutory Audit and Internal Audit.
- Why should we hire you?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
- Why Big4/Big6? Why KPMG and not other Big4? Why GT/BDO and not Big4?
- How will you manage work pressure?
- How will you manage CA Final studies with work?
- Will you be able to work long nights?
- Are you comfortable with travelling? Are you willing to relocate?

2. Technical Audit Questions

A. Core Standards

- Learn SA numbers and names (at least 3–5 in depth).
- Auditing Standards (Series 200, 300, 500, 700).
- Important SAs: SA 200, 210, 230, 299, 315, 320, 500 series, 530, 700 series.
- SQC-1.

B. Audit Concepts

- What is Audit?
- Vouching & Verification.
- Assertions.
- Materiality.
- Cut-off Procedures.
- Provisions vs Contingencies.
- Test of control vs Test of details.

- Auditor's Report & Types of Opinions.
- Key Audit Matters (KAMs) vs Emphasis of Matter (EOM) para.
- Why do we conduct Audit?
- Internal Audit vs Statutory Audit.
- Going Concern assessment – time period required.

C. Companies Act & Related

- Companies Audit (Chapter 10).
- CARO 2020 (vs CARO 2016 – major changes, clauses, applicability).
- MCA V3 Portal, New Forms
- CSR Amendments – Section 135.
- Section 248 – Struck off companies.
- Schedule III amendments (recent changes).
- Audit of Internal Financial Controls (IFC) over Financial Reporting.

D. Practical Audit Questions

- Bank Reconciliation Statement – procedures, adjustments, audit.
- Cash flow adjustments.
- Journal entries (TDS, Provisions, etc.).
- Inventory valuation & consolidation (AS 21).

3. Technical Law Questions

- Section 138 – Internal Audit.
- Section 135 – CSR provisions.
- Section 248 – Struck off Companies.
- Section 177 – Audit Committee.
- Budget 2025-26 – basic overview.

4. Technical Accounts Questions

- Applicability & overview of Ind AS.
- Important Ind AS: Ind AS 115 (Revenue), Ind AS 116 (Leases).
- Accounting Standards: AS-2, 5, 9, 10, 11, 17, 20, 22, 29.
- Depreciation case study.
- Consolidation (AS 21).

- Deferred Tax (AS 22).
- Provisions & Contingencies.

5. Taxation

- Union Budget 2025-26 – key highlights.
- TDS/TCS provisions (limits & rates).
- Depreciation Rates & Additional Depreciation.
- Section 80 deductions.

6. GST

- Section 17(5) – ITC blocked credits.
- Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) – deep understanding.
- Basic Sections of TDS/TCS under GST.
- GSTR compliances & filing dates.

7. Practical / Skill-Based

- Excel formulas: VLOOKUP, XLOOKUP, Pivot Table.
- Preparation of MIS reports.
- Financial analysis using Excel.

8. Tips to Succeed

- Stay updated with recent amendments (CARO, Schedule III, CSR, Tax updates).
- Read **Economic Times, Inshorts, ICAI notifications** for latest changes.
- Prepare **2 favourite Accounting Standards (AS)** and be ready for case study questions.
- Be confident in your **strengths & weaknesses** – they will definitely be asked.
- Revise **audit basics** as if you're teaching them – clear & simple explanations impress interviewers.

HR Round – Sample Q&A for CA Articleship Interview

Q1. Tell me something about yourself.

A:

"I am _____, currently pursuing Chartered Accountancy, and have cleared [mention last level completed]. I have a strong academic foundation in accounting, taxation, and finance. I am disciplined, detail-oriented, and believe in consistent learning. Along with academics, I also focus on practical application through case studies, current affairs, and finance updates."

Q2. Why did you choose CA?

A:

"I chose CA because it is one of the most respected and comprehensive professional courses in the field of finance and business. It provides deep exposure to taxation, auditing, law, and strategic decision-making. I enjoy problem-solving and analytical work, and CA gives me the right platform to develop expertise while contributing meaningfully to organizations."

Q3. Why Statutory Audit / Internal Audit / Direct Tax?

A:

- **Statutory Audit:** "Because it builds a strong foundation in accounting standards, financial reporting, and regulatory compliance. It helps understand business processes end-to-end."
- **Internal Audit:** "It develops a problem-solving approach, risk management mindset, and improves understanding of internal controls and process improvements."
- **Direct Tax:** "I am interested in how taxation policies impact businesses and individuals. Tax is dynamic and keeps evolving, which keeps me motivated to learn and apply new provisions."

Q4. Difference between Statutory Audit and Internal Audit.

A:

"Statutory Audit is a legal requirement under the Companies Act, done by external auditors to express a true and fair view of financial statements. Internal Audit is conducted by internal teams/appointed auditors to evaluate internal controls, risk management, and operational efficiency. Statutory Audit ensures compliance; Internal Audit ensures improvements."

Q5. Why should we hire you?

A:

"You should hire me because I am sincere, disciplined, and adaptable. I bring strong conceptual clarity, eagerness to learn, and the ability to work hard under deadlines. I am

confident I can contribute positively to your team while continuously upgrading my knowledge and skills.”

Q6. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

A:

- **Strengths:** “Analytical mindset, attention to detail, quick learner, team player, and ability to stay calm under pressure.”
- **Weakness:** “At times, I focus too much on perfection, which slows me down. But I am learning to balance perfection with efficiency by prioritizing tasks better.”

Q7. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

A:

“In 5 years, I see myself as a qualified Chartered Accountant, having expertise in audit/taxation, working at a senior position where I can handle clients independently and contribute to organizational growth.”

Q8. Why Big4/Big6? Why KPMG and not other Big4? Why GT/BDO and not Big4?

A:

- **Big4/Big6:** “Because they provide diverse exposure, structured training, and global work culture. The learning curve is steep, which will help me grow professionally.”
- **Why KPMG?** “KPMG has a strong reputation in audit and advisory, with a focus on innovation and technology-driven solutions. I align with this culture of continuous improvement.”
- **Why GT/BDO?** “Grant Thornton and BDO provide excellent client exposure, faster growth opportunities, and hands-on learning in mid-sized setups, which helps in building a well-rounded profile.”

Q9. How will you manage work pressure?

A:

“I believe pressure is a part of learning. I stay organized, prioritize tasks, and take one thing at a time to ensure quality work. I also stay updated with my basics so that I can handle complex tasks with clarity.”

Q10. How will you manage CA Final studies with work?

A:

“I plan to balance work and study by proper time management. I am disciplined to dedicate specific hours daily for studies, and I intend to make full use of study leave provided by the firm. I believe practical exposure will also complement my theoretical knowledge.”

Q11. Will you be able to work long nights?

A:

"Yes, I understand that during audit deadlines or tax filing season, long working hours are required. I am flexible and ready to put in extra effort whenever the work demands."

Q12. Are you comfortable with travelling? Are you willing to relocate?

A:

"Yes, I am comfortable with travelling as I see it as a chance to gain diverse client exposure and practical experience. I am also open to relocation if the opportunity requires it."

Perfect 👍 Let's now prepare a **comprehensive Technical Round Q&A** for CA Articleship Interviews.

I'll cover **Accounts, Audit, Taxation (Direct + Indirect), GST, Law, and Current Affairs** — structured in a professional, interview-friendly way.

Technical Round – CA Articleship Interview Q&A

A. Accounting

Q1. What are Accounting Standards (AS) and Ind AS?

A:

Accounting Standards (AS) are principles issued by ICAI for consistency in financial reporting in India. Ind AS are converged with IFRS, applicable to large companies, ensuring comparability with global standards.

Q2. What is the difference between Cash Basis and Accrual Basis of Accounting?

A:

- **Cash Basis:** Revenue/expenses recorded only when cash is received/paid.
- **Accrual Basis:** Revenue/expenses recorded when earned/incurred, regardless of cash.
Companies Act mandates **Accrual** basis for companies.

Q3. What is Deferred Tax Asset (DTA) and Deferred Tax Liability (DTL)?

A:

- **DTA:** When taxable income > accounting income now, but will reverse in future (e.g., higher depreciation in books).

- **DTL:** When accounting income > taxable income now, but will reverse later (e.g., provision for doubtful debts).

B. Audit

Q4. What is the objective of an Audit?

A:

The objective is to express an opinion whether financial statements present a **true and fair view** in accordance with applicable laws and standards.

Q5. Difference between Vouching and Verification.

A:

- **Vouching:** Checking validity of transactions with supporting documents (e.g., invoices, bills).
- **Verification:** Physically checking assets/liabilities (e.g., stock count, fixed assets).

Q6. What is CARO (Companies Auditor's Report Order)?

A:

CARO is an additional reporting requirement issued by MCA. Auditors must report on specific matters like fixed assets, inventories, loans, compliance, fraud, etc. (Applicable to certain companies except small/private exemptions).

Q7. Difference between Statutory Audit and Tax Audit.

A:

- **Statutory Audit:** Required under Companies Act to check true & fair financial reporting.
- **Tax Audit:** Required u/s 44AB of Income Tax Act to ensure proper income computation and compliance with tax provisions.

C. Direct Taxation

Q8. What is the difference between Exempt Income and Deduction?

A:

- **Exempt Income:** Fully exempt from tax, not included in total income (e.g., agricultural income).
- **Deduction:** Allowed from Gross Total Income to reduce taxable income (e.g., Sec 80C investments).

Q9. What is TDS? Give examples.

A:

TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) means tax is deducted at the time of payment/credit of income to recipient, ensuring advance tax collection.

Examples: Salary (u/s 192), Professional Fees (u/s 194J), Rent (u/s 194I).

Q10. What is Advance Tax? Who is liable?

A:

Advance Tax is part-payment of tax liability during the year in installments. Applicable if tax liability exceeds ₹10,000 after TDS. Paid in June (15%), Sep (45%), Dec (75%), March (100%).

D. GST / Indirect Tax

Q11. What is GST?

A:

GST is a **destination-based, value-added indirect tax** subsuming multiple taxes like Excise, VAT, Service Tax. Levied on **supply of goods/services**.

Q12. Difference between CGST, SGST, IGST.

A:

- **CGST:** Central share of GST within state.
- **SGST:** State share of GST within state.
- **IGST:** Levied on inter-state supply, later apportioned between Centre & State.

Q13. What is Input Tax Credit (ITC)?

A:

ITC allows taxpayers to claim credit of GST paid on purchases against GST payable on sales, ensuring tax is only levied on value addition.

Q14. What are Zero-Rated Supplies?

A:

Exports and supplies to SEZ are Zero-rated under GST. ITC is allowed, and refund can be claimed.

E. Corporate Law

Q15. What are the types of companies under Companies Act, 2013?

A:

- Private Company
- Public Company
- One Person Company
- Small Company
- Section 8 Company (Non-Profit)

Q16. What is the difference between Shareholder and Debenture Holder?

A:

- **Shareholder:** Owner, receives dividends, has voting rights.
- **Debenture Holder:** Creditor, receives fixed interest, no voting rights.

Q17. What is the difference between Equity Shares and Preference Shares?

A:

- **Equity Shares:** Variable dividend, voting rights, risk-bearing.
- **Preference Shares:** Fixed dividend, priority in repayment, no voting rights (except in special cases).

F. General Awareness / Current Affairs

Q18. What recent Finance Act amendments are you aware of?

A:

(Mention **AY 2025-26 updates**: New Tax Regime default, changes in capital gains structure, TDS/TCS changes on foreign remittances, etc.)

Q19. What do you know about IND-AS 115 (Revenue Recognition)?

A:

It deals with revenue recognition based on **5-step model** (contract, performance obligation, transaction price, allocation, recognition).

Q20. What is your understanding of Blockchain/AI in Audit?

A:

Emerging technologies like **Blockchain** improve transparency and reduce fraud, while **AI tools** assist in data analytics, anomaly detection, and risk management in audit.