Quant Trading Interview — 5-Week Study Plan

A realistic runway from a cold start to full mock-superday readiness. Less if you are refreshing skills from a prior cycle. Twenty to forty minutes a day beats weekend cramming: mental-math fluency is built by repetition.

THE PLAN

Weeks 1-2 Baseline and fundamentals. Take one untimed practice mental-math set to find your error patterns (fractions? percentages? two-digit multiplication?). Drill those specific weak spots 20-30 minutes daily, starting untimed and only adding a clock once accuracy is consistently above roughly 90%. In parallel, refresh core probability tools: expected value, conditional probability and Bayes' rule, combinatorics, and basic distributions.

Week 3 Add timed pressure. Move to full timed mock mental-math tests (for example, an 80-questions-in-8-minutes format) three to four times this week, reviewing every miss to classify it as a knowledge gap versus a rushing error. Start daily brain-teaser practice, working problems out loud or on paper to build the habit of narrating assumptions and structure, not just producing an answer.

Week 4 Layer in game and behavioral practice. Run simple market-making drills (quoting a spread on an unknown value, adjusting to new information), and draft and rehearse four to six STAR-format stories covering a mistake you owned, a decision made under uncertainty, and a firm-specific "why this firm" answer.

Week 5 Full mock superday. String together a timed math test, a probability/brain-teaser round, a market-making or trading-game simulation, and a behavioral round back-to-back with a study partner (or solo against the clock) to build the stamina needed for the fatigue that sets in by round four or five of a real superday.

Final week Taper volume, not consistency. Keep short daily reps (15-20 minutes of mental math, one or two brain teasers) to stay sharp without burning out, re-read the specific firm's public materials and any recent candidate reports, and prioritize sleep before test day over late cramming.

FIRM FORMATS AT A GLANCE

FIRM	FORMAT	WHAT IT ACTUALLY TESTS
Optiver	80Q · 8 min · typed · −1	80 typed arithmetic questions in 8 minutes, −1 per wrong answer, reported pass ~60 net — plus the rest of the publicly described OA: sequences, probability, and Zap-N.

CTC	50Q · 15 min · mixed · no penalty	50 mixed-reasoning questions in 15 minutes — numerical, spatial, verbal, logic. No negative marking, as candidates report the format.
Flow Traders	75Q · 8 min · MCQ · −2 · pass ~70	75 four-choice arithmetic questions in 8 minutes, −2 per wrong answer, reported pass around 70. Integers, decimals and fractions.
Maven Securities	40Q · 6 min · 5-choice · bar 34	40 five-choice questions in 6 minutes, −2 per wrong answer, reported bar of 34 correct. Fractions, percentages and powers.
SIG	70Q · 8 min · mixed · pass 55	70 questions in 8 minutes mixing typed difference-of-squares tricks with MCQ decimals and ugly fractions. Pass mark 55.
Akuna Capital	80Q · 8 min · typed · −1	80 typed arithmetic questions in 8 minutes, −1 per wrong answer — the first OA screen as publicly reported. A separate sequences section follows.