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Interview Questions	
GENERAL	
Where are you from?	I'm an Indonesian national.
When and for which job family did you apply for YPP?	• Social Affairs in 2012 (convoked, didn't pass the GP) • Public Information in 2013 (wasn't convoked due to Inspira hating me and my educational background) • Human Rights in 2014 (convoked, hoping to survive)
Why did you apply? (what attracted you in being a UN servant)?	I'm a Third Culture Kid and I've always liked the idea of helping people regardless of their background, race, religion, gender/orientation, political affiliation, etc. I currently live in an environment where people will ask others their religion/tribe off the bat upon meeting for the first time to get a sense of whether their "the same" and I see people who will only donate/volunteer to help civilians of their own religious group (when civilians from both/all sides are equally victims of conflict). And that kind of mentality has always bothered me. I prefer working in the public sector as an international civil servant as opposed to a national civil servant because I've never felt any attachment/sense of belonging toward any particular country and I don't believe that a person should be defined by what nationality they are born into—which they have no control of, but rather what they do—which is something one can work toward.
Did you pass? (of not – on which stage did you stop?)	Nope. I'm pretty sure I failed over the MCQs and not the précis writing section as I felt like I did fine in précis writing and I believe my writing was legible. There's never a good excuse to not pass an exam, however: This was the first year the UN applied MCQs (instead of short answers) and we had no idea what the questions would be like as no samples were available. In all honestly, I don't think it is in the UN's best interest to be asking the kind of questions it's currently asking in the MCQs (people who know the answers to these questions won't necessarily make good international civil servants, and not knowing the answers doesn't make one a bad potential international civil servant). That said, to have been able to answer the MCQ's I should have employed a different studying strategy/style.
WRITTEN EXAM	
How long did it spend on preparation for the exam?	In 2012, I had more free time (I was working as a freelance communications consultant and freelance media analyst) so I was able to start gathering study material as early as June–July 2012 (I started by visiting the UNIC's office in Jakarta to obtain the UN publications I found out about online during my initial research). This year, I have much less time due to work commitments, and will likely only be able to begin studying intensively the fortnight before the exam. However, I

	do not recommend studying the last two weeks before the exam—especially if you've never taken the exam before (as in you don't currently have a collection of material that you merely need to update, familiarise yourself to the overall process and try to get accustomed to the exam and answer sheet format).
How did you allocate time between general and specific paper while preparing?	I definitely spent more time prepping for the GP compared to the SP (because as I understood it the passing the GP is a requirement to getting your SP graded at all). Doing a killer job at the SP won't mean a thing if it's not going to read/grade it.
GENERAL PART	
How did you prepare for the summary?	Practiced précis writing on publications (articles) that use "big words" with my tighter-knit study group (members of whom I met at the Social Affairs Facebook study groups). We'd summarise articles and send them to another study group member and give each other a peer-review (to ensure all important points were included in our summaries, we were using synonyms correctly, etc.)
Any books, articles or websites you can recommend?	• UN Publications "Basic Facts" (or "ABC" en français) is a must for the MCQs (at least based on the questions from the 2012 exam). The 2011 edition has been circulating online and you can read it for free, but if you do read that version be sure to remember to keep updated on information like current non-permanent SC members and such. • A Guide to Writing for the United Nations (W.H. Hindle) • The UN News Centre has a quiz section (updated periodically)
SPECIFIC PART	
How did you prepare for the specific part?	I compiled a syllabus of all Social Affairs material by issues and geographic areas, arranged alphabetically, and used that as a study checklist. It really helped that I joined the Facebook groups since members compare notes and I got to see which issues I was missing in my own list. What's important is that you know what issues are out there and think of possible solutions for those issues.
What did you focus on: academic books/UN articles/UN resolutions/UN news?	The "Basic Facts" book, mainly. Back in 2012, I watched/read a lot of Al-Jazeera, BBC, got print copies of The Economist (it's paywalled—but if you join a study group, members can share material) and occasionally Time¹ magazine (because back then I had no reason to doubt their impartiality and journalistic ethics/integrity). If you have any reason to distrust those any of those sources, your best option is UN News (the press releases) and it also really helps to see read UN critique by NGOs/watch groups. Follow or make a Twitter list of relevant official accounts consisting of UN agencies, NGOs relevant to your job family, etc. Google Alerts for issues are also helpful. "Follow or make a Twitter list of relevant official accounts consisting of UN agencies, NGOs relevant to your job family, etc. Google Alerts for issues are

¹ Get your facts straight, genius.

	also helpful. And so is joining UN YPP LinkedIn groups and setting daily notifications (that's how I found out about the UNYP site in the first place)."
We heard that MCQ (though they are in the specific part) focus on more general information about international, basic facts about the UN, etc. What sources would you recommend to prepare for this part?	The "Basic Facts" book, and don't underestimate things like dates/who won a Nobel Peace Prize. They won't only ask 'important' and 'substantive' questions such as which peacekeeping operations are still active/which have pulled-out, which microstate is nearly submerged, or which country is/isn't classified an LDC.
What do you consider as the primary reason for your success on the written exam?	N/A. I epically failed.
EXAM DAY	
How did you approach the exam (what parts did you start from, what parts left to the end)?	I can't remember much. But I think the logical order would be: First skim through the MCQs, mark your answers on your answer booklet. Start drafting your summary on the provided scrap paper. Allocate a certain amount of words on the actual answer booklet (to make it easier for you to count your word count later on). When you're done with your summarising, you can do a second check on the MCQs.
ANY CHANGES	
If you can take the test once again - what would you change in your preparation?	More focus on the establishment/charter years and personalities (like which UNSG passed away in service). They'll ask during the MCQs.
MATERIALS	
Do you have any materials left from you preparation? Can you share them with current candidates?	Yes. Here: http://miadojowasito.com/2014/10/21/non-acting-stuff-un-ypp-2014/ (I'll probably add some stuff there when I'm free).
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	
What will you recommend to current candidates?	Practice using your common sense for the SP. It can be really fun answering the SP questions. The most interesting questions from 2012 was, if I'm remembering correctly, "explain the difference between sex and gender." There's also a lot of problem-solving to be done. Just remember you need to pass the GP to make that part matter. Also, practice handwriting daily (especially if you're not accustomed to handwriting or your muscles are prone to cramping—you will be handwriting ~4 hours non-stop).