

SPRINT PLANNING

INVOLVEMENT

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

for BUSINESS ANALYST



Think2change

Questions

What is your role as a BA during sprint planning?

- ➡ As a BA, my role is to ensure that the user stories are refined, clear, and aligned with business goals before the sprint planning. I walk through each story with the team, clarify business rules, define acceptance criteria, and assist the Product Owner in prioritizing based on business value and technical feasibility.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

**Have you ever faced pushback from developers during sprint planning?
How did you handle it?**

➡ Yes, there was a case where developers flagged a user story as too vague. I paused the discussion, took it back to SMEs, added missing workflows, updated mockups, and rescheduled the story for the next sprint. It reinforced the value of detailed pre-planning and BA-developer alignment.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you ensure the right stories get picked for a sprint?

- ▶ I align closely with the PO to ensure that selected stories support sprint goals and business priorities. I provide context, dependencies, and any compliance deadlines. I also raise concerns if the team tries to overload or ignore sequence-sensitive items.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you handle dependencies during sprint planning?

➡ I track cross-team and external system dependencies and flag them during backlog grooming. During sprint planning, I call out these blockers and confirm readiness before stories are committed. For example, in one integration-heavy sprint, I coordinated with the upstream API team to validate delivery timelines.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

Describe a time when incomplete stories were added to a sprint. What did you do?

➡ In one project, the PO added a story mid-sprint without full BA review. It lacked critical acceptance criteria, leading to back-and-forth during development. Post-retrospective, I created a “definition of ready” checklist for every story, and we agreed no unrefined stories would enter sprints.

-Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you support estimation during sprint planning?

➡ I provide context on business value, complexity, edge cases, and assumptions. I don't estimate directly, but I ensure the dev and QA teams have everything needed to make accurate estimates. I've also helped introduce Planning Poker and T-shirt sizing for consistent estimations.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

What do you do when sprint capacity is less than expected?

- I help the PO prioritize ruthlessly. I highlight regulatory must-haves or dependencies that cannot slip. If needed, I adjust lower-priority stories to the next sprint and ensure stakeholders are informed proactively.

-Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you work with the QA team during sprint planning?

➤ I collaborate with QA to discuss story scope, test cases, and acceptance criteria. I often provide business use-case examples and edge scenarios to ensure complete coverage. I also review test case drafts for business accuracy post-sprint planning.

-Tejas Bhale

Questions

Have you ever had to drop a story mid-sprint due to wrong planning?

➤ Yes, once a story was misunderstood — it relied on a service that wasn't yet built. I facilitated a quick triage, informed the PO, and we pulled it out of the sprint. We used that experience to improve our sprint-readiness validation checklist.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

What happens when stakeholders want to change scope mid-sprint?

➤ I assess whether the change is critical or can wait. If it's minor, I document it for the next refinement session. If it's critical (e.g., compliance), I work with the PO and scrum master to negotiate scope trade-offs or pull in additional resources.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you help the team stay focused after sprint planning?

➤ I attend daily stand-ups to support blockers and clarify doubts. I avoid scope creep and make sure changes are funneled through the proper channels. I also validate stories mid-sprint so that sign-off is quicker during sprint review.

-Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you balance stakeholder expectations with development capacity?

➡ By clearly communicating what's feasible within sprint limits. I work with the PO to present a realistic roadmap and explain why certain items are deferred. Transparency is key — I keep both sides informed about progress and blockers.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you ensure sprint goals align with business objectives?

➡ I work with the PO and stakeholders before sprint planning to understand evolving priorities. I validate that stories selected directly contribute to business outcomes or OKRs. If a story doesn't, I challenge its inclusion in the sprint.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you handle last-minute feedback from UAT or demos during sprint planning?

➡ I log all feedback and review it with the PO before planning. Urgent feedback is groomed into user stories or tasks with business and technical context. I make sure feedback-driven changes are validated for impact before inclusion in future sprints.

- Tejas Bhale

Questions

How do you prepare user stories before sprint planning?

- I follow the INVEST model and ensure each story is detailed enough for development. I collaborate with stakeholders to gather details, break down epics into smaller tasks, and define precise acceptance criteria. I also work with developers and QA to estimate complexity and feasibility beforehand.

-Tejas Bhale