

Module 12: Reading Assignment Questionnaire

(SWE – Software Engineer)

Q1: What are 3 Tips for an Impactful SWE Interview?

1. The first tip for an impactful SWE interview is to remember to ask questions. You want to make sure you understand what an interview question is asking. You want to clarify things and you want to make sure there is no miscommunication between you and the interviewer.
2. The second tip is to remember to explore your options. You should not always jump into the first thing that comes into mind. Many interview questions have many solutions of which some are better than others. You should be able to weigh things out.
3. The third tip is to leave room for improvement. You may not have time for perfection, but be ready to acknowledge areas of improvement and growth.

Q2: What are the 3 Primary SWE Career Paths?

1. Individual Contributor (IC): Someone that works on hands-on projects as opposed to managerial roles.
2. Engineering Management: Someone that performs standard managerial duties, which involve communication, conflict management, and leadership.
3. Freelance or contractor: People that are not part of organizations that employ them, but instead act as their own business entities.

Q3: What is the Role of a Product Manager?

Product managers generally manage complex products and collaborate with people from all sorts of departments.

Depending on what product manager you are, you could be: organizing data, handling product development, gathering customer feedback, review metrics, conduct surveys, help come up with solutions to issues, resolve issues within a team, and help a team develop goals. A product manager could also be working with different roles and departments, such as: engineering, design, sales, and marketing.

Q4: Describe the SWE Career Path Progression?

For software engineering career path progression, people generally start off as a junior software engineer, which involves software development. From there, one can become a senior software engineer, and then either a principal software engineer, or an engineering manager. From an engineering manager, one can progress to be a vice-president of engineering, and then a chief technology officer.

Q5: What are some Tips for Advancing Your SWE Career Path?

Some tips for advancing your SWE career path are:

1. Volunteer for more work.
2. Always help others.
3. Work with other departments as much as possible.
4. Learn more about your organization's goals.
5. Always learn and keep on improving your skills.
6. Participate in software engineering communities outside your organization.

Q6: What are a Few Lessons Learned from the “Interview Prep for SWE” Video?

- It is helpful to pace appropriately and don't be afraid to walk through the thought process.
- Be capable of explaining one's own thought process and spend enough time when doing so.
- It helps to use concrete examples to explain an idea.
- Make sure you understand the logic behind what you are doing, do not just memorize.
- Don't be afraid to ask clarifying questions.
- Avoid jumping into assumptions.
- Be able to recognize redundancies and trade-offs in your work.
- Always consider edge cases you may not have covered.
- Don't be afraid to verify the solution with the interviewer.