



# Top 50 Software Engineering Interview Questions and Answers (2021)

By Matthew Martin Updated October 27, 2021

## 1) What are the important categories of software?

- System software
- Application software
- Embedded software
- Web Applications
- Artificial Intelligence software
- Scientific software.

## 2) What is the main difference between a computer program and computer software?

A computer program is a piece of programming code. It performs a well-defined task. On the other hand, the software includes programming code, documentation and user guide.

## 3) What is software re-engineering?

It is a process of software development which is done to improve the maintainability of a software system.

## 4) Describe the software development process in brief:

The software development life cycle is composed of the following stages:

- Requirement analysis
- Specification
- Software architecture
- Implementation
- Testing

- . . .

- Maintenance

## 5) What are SDLC models available?

Waterfall Model, Spiral Model, Big-bag model, Iterative Model, and V- Model are some of the famous SDLC models.

## 6) What is verification and validation?

### Verification:

Verification is a term that refers to the set of activities which ensure that software implements a specific function.

### Validation:

It refers to the set of activities which ensure that software that has been built according to the need of clients.

## 7) In software development process what is the meaning of debugging?

Debugging is the process of identifying and removing errors or bugs from the code to make it work correctly.

**8) How can you make sure that your code is both safe and fast?**

In the software development, security is always first. So if the execution of the program is slow then, I will try to identify the reason out ways to its time complexity.

**9) Name two tools which are used for keeping track of software requirements?**

There many ways to keep track of requirements.

Two commonly used are:

- Make a requirements specifications document to list all of the requirements.
- Create an excel sheet the list down the requirement, type, dependency, priority, etc.

**10) What is the main difference between a stubs, a mock?**

A stub is a minimal implementation of an interface which generally returns hardcoded data while mock usually verifies outputs against expectations. Those expectations are set in the test.

**11) What language do you like to write programming algorithms?**

Every developer has their views when it comes to the programming language choices. Though, one should prefer high-level languages because they are dynamic. Like C and C++ languages.

**12) What is computer software?**

Computer software is a package which includes a software program, its documentation

**13) According to you which SDLC model is the best?**

There, is no such ranking, as SDLC Models are adopted as per the need for the development process. It may differ software-to-software.

**14) Who is software project manager? What is his role?**

A software project manager is a person responsible for managing the software development project.

The project manager is doing the project planning, monitoring the progress, communication. He or she also manages risks and resources to deliver the project within time, cost, and quality constraints.

**15) What is mean by software scope?**

Software scope is a well-defined boundary. It includes all kind of activities that are done to develop and deliver the software product.

The software scope defines all functionalities and artifacts to be delivered as a part of the software. The scope also identifies what the product will do? What is not the part of the project? What is project estimation?

This process is helpful to estimate various aspects of the software product. This estimation can be decided either consulting experts or by using pre-defined formulas.

**16) How to find the size of a software product?**

The size of software product can be calculated using by following two methods

- Counting the lines of delivered code
- Counting delivered function points

**17) What are function points?**

Function points are the features which are provided by the software product. It is considered as a most important measurement for software size.

**18) What are software project estimation techniques available?**

- Decomposition technique
- Empirical technique



## 19) What is Software configuration management?

Software configuration management is a process of tracking and controlling changes that happen in the software.

Change control is a function which ensures that all changes made into the software system are consistent and created using organizational rules and regulations.

## 20) How can you measure project execution?

We can measure project execution using Activity Monitoring, Status Reports, and Milestone Checklists.

## 21) Tell me about some project management tools.

There are many types of management tools used as per the need for a software project. Some of them are Pert Chart, Gantt Chart, Resource Histogram, Status Reports, etc.

## 22) What are software requirements?

Software requirements are a functional description of a proposed software system. It is assumed to be the description of the target system, its functionalities, and features.

## 22) What is feasibility study?

will prove to the organization. The software analyzer conducts a study to know the economic, technical and operational feasibility of the project.

1. **Economic:** It includes the cost of training, cost of additional and tools and overall estimation of costs and benefits of the project.
2. **Technical:** It evaluate technical aspect. Is it possible to develop this system? Assessing the suitability of machine(s) and OS on which software will execute, knowledge of the software development and tools available for this project.
3. **Operational:** Here the analyst need to assess that the organization will able to adjust smoothly to the changes done as per the demand for the project. Is the problem worth solving at the estimated cost?

After, studying all this the final feasibility report is created.

#### **24) What are functional and non-functional requirements?**

Functional requirements are functional features which are expected by users from the proposed software product.

Non-functional requirements are related to security, performance, look, and feel of the user interface.

#### **25) What is software metric?**

Software Metrics offers measures for various aspects of software process which are divided into:

1. Requirement metrics: Length requirements, completeness
2. Product metrics: Number of coding Lines, Object-oriented metrics, design and test metrics.

#### **26) What is modularization?**

Modularization is a technique which is used for dividing a software system into various

**27) What is cohesion?**

Cohesion is a measure that defines the intra-dependability among the elements of the module.

**28) Mentions some software analysis & design tools?**

Some of the most important software analysis and designing tools are:

- Data Flow Diagrams
- Structured Charts
- Structured English
- Data Dictionary
- Hierarchical Input Process Output diagrams
- Entity Relationship Diagrams and Decision tables

**29) What is mean by level-0 Data flow diagram?**

Highest abstraction level is called Level 0 of DFD. It is also called context level DFD. It portrays the entire information system as one diagram.

**30) What is the major difference between structured English and Pseudo Code?**

Structured English is native English language. It is used to write the structure of a program module. It uses programming language keywords. On the other hand, Pseudo Code is more like to the programming language without syntax of any specific language.

**31) What is structured design?**

Structured design is a conceptualization of problem. It also called solution design and which is based on ‘divide and conquer’ strategy.

**32) What is functional programming?**

It is a programming method, which uses the concepts of a mathematical function. It provides means of computation as mathematical functions, which also produces results irrespective of program state.

**33) What is Quality Assurance vs. Quality Control?**

Quality Assurance checks if proper process is followed while developing the software while Quality Control deals with maintaining the quality of software product.

**34) What are CASE tools?**

CASE means Computer Aided Software Engineering. They are set of automated software application programs, which are used to support, enhance and strengthen the SDLC activities.

**35) Which process model removes defects before software get into trouble?**

Clean room software engineering method removes defects before software gets into trouble.

**36) Solve this problem**

There are twenty different socks of two types in a drawer in one dark room. What is the minimum number of socks you need to take to ensure you have a matching pair?"

If you pick up three socks, they may be of the same type even if the odds are 50%. Odds never an equal reality. Therefore, the only way to 'ensure you have a matching pair' is to pick up at least 11 number of shocks.

**37) How you can make sure that your written code which can handle various kinds of error situation?**

I can write tests that define the expected error situations.

**38) Explain the differences between a Thread and a Process?**

A process is instance of the computer program.In a single program it is possible to have one or more threads.

**39) Tell me the difference between an EXE and a DLL?**

An exe is an executable program while a DLL is a file that can be loaded and executed by programs dynamically. It is an external code repository for programs. As both are different programs, reuse the same DLL instead of having that code in their file. It also

**40) What is strong-typing and weak-typing? Which is preferred? Why?**

Strong typing checks the types of variables at compile time. On the other hand, weak typing checks the types of the system at run-time. Among them, Strong typing is always preferred because it minimizes the bugs.

**41) Describe the difference between Interface-oriented, Object-oriented and Aspect-oriented programming.**

- Interface programming is contract based.
- Object-oriented is a way to write granular objects which have a single purpose.
- Aspect Oriented Programming is to segregate the code in such a manner that various objects carry the main tasks, and the subsidiary tasks are carried by independent objects.

**42) Why using catch (exception) is always a bad idea?**

It is a bad idea because:

- As there is no variable defined, it is not possible to read the exception
- It's good to use an exception when you have known exception types.

**43) What type of data is passed via HTTP Headers?**

Script and metadata passed via HTTP headers.

**44) How do you prioritize requirements?**

First, you need to design a system by evaluating data structure. Then you should move on to the code structure needed to support it.

**45) Give me differences between object-oriented and component-based design?**

Object-oriented design can easily be encapsulated to some degree in component-based design.

**46) When do you use polymorphism?**

Polymorphism is used when there is a need for override functionality when inheriting class. It's about shared classes and shared contracts.

- Queue is always First In, First Out
- Stack is always Last In, First Out

**48) What is essential for testing the quality of the code?**

According to me, the unit testing framework is essential for testing the quality of the code.

**49) Do you think that the maintenance of software is expensive?**

According to me, maintenances of software will never be expensive if we are using proper development process.

**50) Give me differences between tags and branches?**

Tags are for versioning releases which are temporary holding places for doing such thing. However, branches are deleted when those changes are merged into the trunk.

**51) Where is a protected class-level variable available?**

Protected class-level variables are available to any sub-class derived from the base class.

**52) Is it possible to execute multiple catch blocks for a single try statement?**

Yes. Multiple catch blocks can be executed for a single try statement.

**53) When do you need to declare a class as abstract?**

We should declare a class as abstract in the following situations:

1. When the class is inherited from an abstract class, but not all the abstract methods have been overridden.
2. In the case when minimum one of the methods in the class is declared as an abstract.

**54) Develop an algorithm that output your current location and a list of ATMs locations in that area. Get you the closest K ATMs to your location.**

Code:

```
import java.util.HashMap;

import java.util.Map;

import java.util.PriorityQueue;

public class PrioRQueueExample {

    public static void main(String[] args){

        PriorityQueue<Double> pq = new PriorityQueue<Double>((x,y) -> { Double
z = y-x; return z.intValue(); });

        PrioRQueueExample pqe = new PrioRQueueExample();

        //Number of ATMs to return i.e. K

        int num_ATMs = 3;

        double curr_loc = 0.00;

        Map<String,Double> nallATMLocs = new HashMap<String,Double>();

        //Map of ATM names and their distance co-ordinates

        nallATMLocs.put("atm1",45.0);

        nallATMLocs.put("atm2",78.0);

        nallATMLocs.put("atm3",54.0);

        nallATMLocs.put("atm4",64.0);

        nallATMLocs.put("atm5",35.0);

        nallATMLocs.put("atm6",42.0);

        nallATMLocs.put("atm7",57.0);
```

```
nallATMLocs.forEach((atm,dist) ->{if(pq.size() < num_ATMs) {  
  
    pq.add(pqe.getLocation(curr_loc,dist));}  
  
else{  
  
    if( pq.peek() > pqe.getLocation(curr_loc,dist) ) {  
  
        pq.poll();  
  
        pq.add(pqe.getLocation(curr_loc,dist));  
  
    }  
  
}});  
  
pq.forEach(atmLoc -> System.out.println(atmLoc));  
  
}  
  
private double getLocation(double curr,double atm){  
  
    return atm - curr;  
  
}  
  
}
```

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