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## Google Product Manager Interview

A

Anonymous

Jun 21

Starting a loop for Google product manager. Trying to prepare for both the first phone screen and then on-site (hopefully I pass the phone).

Google

Product Manager

### Questions

1. What kind of questions should I expect during the phone screen?

50 words minimum.

2. What's onsite interview process like in general?

50 words minimum.

3. What are some things I can do to prepare for onsite interview? Any tips on product design and estimation questions?

50 words minimum.

### 2 Answers



Tee Google

Jun 22

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1. What kind of questions should I expect during the phone screen?

You can expect a mix of questions that span:

(1) product insight and vision-- e.g. "what's your favorite app? what do you think their success metric is? how would you improve it 10x?"

(2) behavioral questions -- e.g. "tell me a time when you had to motivate a team without clear top-down d

(3) analytical questions -- e.g. "how many people in the US do you think have ATM cards and what could we do to improve their experience"

It truly can vary, but you should have some products you use in the back of your head and some thoughts about improving them.

Lastly, it's not uncommon to get traditional questions like "Why Google? Why PM?" and the like.

## 2. What's onsite interview process like in general?

You have usually 4-6 in-person interviews that include:

- 1 senior level interviewer (Sr PM/GPM/Director+)
- 1 engineer asking about technical questions

Each interview is 45 minutes, and generally is designed to assess your ability in the following dimensions:

- product insight and vision
- execution and how you've shipped in the past
- technical skills (not coding, per se)
- googleyness (how you work and support/lead teams through hard times)
- analytical (how you can take a big fuzzy problem space and distill it)

Depending on the group, there may be more specific questions -- for instance, if you're going to be a PM for a Fintech-related project, you might deep dive there.

Usually, you'll also have a "feedback free" lunch with a PM who won't be evaluating you and can help give you a real-world perspective on questions you're thinking about. Use them as a resource<sup>1</sup>

Sometimes, we can't accommodate all interview roles in the first visit, so don't panic if we ask to follow-up via VC or phone to conduct additional interviews.

After feedback arrives, your recruiter will let you know if we're moving forward and what the process will look like (usually talking to more teams)

## 3. What are some things I can do to prepare for onsite interview? Any tips on product design and estimation questions?

You should check out: <https://www.amazon.com/How-Measure-Anything-Intangibles-Business/dp/1452654204> for estimation.

Product design-wise, I'd find a simple framework that feels right for you that helps you distinguish the important problems to solve, how you'd gauge success and what the general design would look for. A good article is over at <https://uxdesign.cc/reflections-from-a-designer-turned-product-manager-6-unexpected-differences-23b81a20388c>

Best of luck<sup>1</sup>



**A** Anonymous ★★★★★

Thank you for such a thorough response. This will definitely help my interview.

**P** PIIo04 Google  
Jun 24

+ Ask

### 1. What kind of questions should I expect during the phone screen?

Phone screens are usually pretty straight forward. Because this is a screening, you should expect some type of technical/coding questions (ie data structures and algorithms). You can expect some general analytical business case questions (like market sizing). Generally, the phone screen is to evaluate how structures your thought process is and whether you'll be able to fundamentally understand basic product engineering.

### 2. What's onsite interview process like in general?

On-site process usually takes place over two hours. You'll have typically 3-4 interviews. These interviews will measure the typical Google qualities: leadership, general cognitive ability, Googleness, and role-related knowledge.

For role related knowledge, PM's will be evaluated on product design, basic coding (data structures and algorithms), and business case questions.

### 3. What are some things I can do to prepare for onsite interview? Any tips on product design and estimation questions?

I would read "Cracking the PM Interview", which is generally the recommended guide if you talk to most current PM's at Google. Prep most on case questions, basic data structures/algorithms, and product design. One of the most failed types of questions is on product design. For product design, you'll want to think thoroughly about customer personas and how to prioritize their different needs (see also the CIRCLES method). Case/estimation questions just come with practice and would simply go through some of the most common frameworks for market sizing.

**A** Anonymous ★★★★★

Overall good answers.



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