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Resume Review

Company Reviews

Business Insights

Misc.

Job Interviews

Amazon Phone Interview - SDE

A Anonymous
Jul 11

Have a technical phone interview coming up soon. Can anybody comment on what kind of questions to expect?

I have 2.5 yoe.

Amazon AWS Phone Interview Interview

Questions

- 1. What kind of coding questions should I expect? Do they ask design questions as well? What's the best strategy to crack this interview?
50 words minimum.
- 2. Do Amazon ask Leadership Principle questions during phone interview? What are some commonly asked leadership principles?
50 words minimum.
- 3. How long does it take Amazon to reply after a phone interview?
50 words minimum.

1. What kind of coding questions should I expect? Do they ask design questions as well? What's the best strategy to crack this interview?

The practices of teams and orgs at Amazon can vary drastically, so take everything I say with a grain of salt please.

The tech phone interview is usually not designed to be very difficult, the meat of the challenge is to be delivered at the on-site interview.

You probably won't be faced with major design questions, but it depends on the interviewer and how well your code was written. If your algorithm is sketchy, expect questions on its design and trade-offs. This is a hint really to see if you can come up with something better.

"Crack" this interview by doing pretty mundane coding tasks. Chances are you won't be faced with really heavy, leet-code style problems.

2. Do Amazon ask Leadership Principle questions during phone interview? What are some commonly asked leadership principles?

The answer to your first question is "No, that is not common".

The most important leadership principle in a wider Amazon context is Customer Obsession. After that, in an interview context, the next best ones are probably "Dive Deep" and "Invent and simplify".

It is unlikely that you will be asked to name all LPs. More likely is that you will have to explain how a certain leadership principle has worked out for you in the past, e.g. how you demonstrated it. Prepare to tell some stories ("case studies").

But again, that part usually comes into play at the onsite interview.

3. How long does it take Amazon to reply after a phone interview?

This time can vary wildly, as it can be like a hot (or not so hot!) potato thrown between the Hiring Manager and HR. Amazon employees tend to be notoriously overloaded with work, and people love to wait for deadlines until they act, and to pass on excess work to other people. Often the Hiring Manager will have a pressing need to get you onboard, but HR will have to handle a lot of candidates so it sits with them for a good long while. That being said, you can anticipate to wait around 3-6 weeks.

Good luck.

Oh, and here's a bonus: getting hired is just the beginning. The real challenges start after this point, when you've been accepted as an employee. I could tell you a lot more about this.

A Anonymous ★★★★★

Thank you for the comments. Really helpful.



oldmonk Amazon

Jul 11

+ Ask

1. What kind of coding questions should I expect? Do they ask design questions as well? What's the best strategy to crack this interview?

How much you prepare depends on the amount of time you have at hand. You can always postpone the interview by a week or 2 generally to make yourself sometime to prepare. Amazon HR's are pretty flexible with that. Anyways I will tell you what you should not concentrate on for the phone interview first. Don't bother about Dynamic Programming and Leetcode hard questions for telephonic interviews. Concentrate on Binary Trees and Binary Search Trees.

Learn ways to traverse the binary tree inorder/post/pre/horizontal/vertical order traversals. Understanding these traversals provide you the basic foundation for any binary tree problems.

Understand how to apply BFS and DFS to binary trees.

Given an array in any of the above traversal orders you should know how to construct the tree.

Concentrating on the above 3 should help you solve most of the binary tree related question. After trees start with Arrays and Stacks related questions on Leetcode. Sort by questions asked by Amazon on Leetcode. This should give you a fair idea on what kind of questions will be asked. Take a glance at the Linked List related questions in leetcode. They are the easiest amongst all in my opinion.

Improve your skills to use data structures and algorithms (specifically sorting and searching algos like Binary Search) in any programming language.

Having these in your arsenal should give you enough ammunition to crack most of the tech interviews.

As I said earlier check with your recruiter to see if you can get sometime for preparation. It's always good to get some time to prepare.

2. Do Amazon ask Leadership Principle questions during phone interview? What are some commonly asked leadership principles?

Leadership Principles are not concentrated on a lot for phone screens generally but don't be surprised if you are asked one.

Check out this link

<https://www.amazon.jobs/en/principles>.

There is another one here with sample questions.

<https://kraftshala.com/what-questions-to-expect-in-amazon-interview/>

I think these 2 should be sufficient for any tech phone screens. I'd recommend you to think of a situation for each of the 14 principles and have a small (20-30) words write up for each principle. For phone screens I would say concentrate on data structures and algos for about 70% and LP's 30%. For onsite it's a different story.

3. How long does it take Amazon to reply after a phone interview?

Amazon is generally very quick with their response. Their typical response times are anywhere between 1 day to a week. Within a week they should definitely get back with the results. Rarely if someone fails to contact you, just send them an email after a week. Sometimes because of factors like manager's being on vacation, HR handling your case being on vacation/busy might cause some delays. But feel free to follow up. They are always responsive.

A Anonymous ★★★★★

Solid advice. Thank you for the comments!

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