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Amazon Alexa AI Sr. Technical Program Manager Interview

S SMC55
May 11

I have an interview next week for a Senior Technical Program Manager role at Alexa AI (L6). I have 15+ years experience, and I've been self employed for the last few years consulting. My background is SW and HW engineering, but I haven't coded in a few years.

Amazon Alexa AI Interview Technical Program Manager

Questions

1. What should I expect for the “technical” part of the TPM interview? How can I prepare for the interview?
50 words minimum.
2. The recruiter hinted that I might be considered more for L7. What can I do to encourage that during the interview?
50 words minimum.
3. What are some Dos and Don'ts during interview?
50 words minimum.

1 Answer

E Engineer9 Amazon
May 12

+ Ask

1. What should I expect for the “technical” part of the TPM interview? How can I prepare for the interview?

As they are considering you for L6/7 TPM there will be no coding questions, there will be System Design questions. Prepare very thoroughly for your system design interview, a good way to go about it is the grokking system design course on educative.io. Don't just jump into the answer if you know it ask clarifying questions all along, and please use the whiteboard, I cannot tell you how hard it is to visualize diagrams in the air. Don't forget about behavioral questions though, keep a focus on the Leadership Principles and try to incorporate them in your answers.

2. The recruiter hinted that I might be considered more for L7. What can I do to encourage that during the interview?

An L7 TPM is responsible for an org of 50-100 people you will be expected to do all the usual TPM tasks like running projects, setting up processes, providing technical input from an architectural standpoint and inbound as well as out bound communication. In addition at L7 you are expected to deal with a lot of ambiguity, an L6 TPM can solve hard problems and land projects on time an L7 TPM identifies problems that are present and then solves them, he creates order out of chaos. The way to do this is to provide strategy inputs to the leadership and more importantly to create a new product or initiative that adds substantial value and then drive that to completion. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to drive what you initiate to completion because all that matters here are the results that you are delivering. If you can show that you have done this in your last job then you have a better chance for L7.

3. What are some Dos and Don'ts during interview?

DOs:

- 1) Research Amazon and have a compelling reason for why you want to join the team that you want to join
- 2) Review the Amazon leadership principles and incorporate these into your answers.
- 3) Ask clarifying questions to fully understand the question being presented.
- 4) Amazon is a very data-driven company. Provide examples using metrics/data.
- 5) Prepare questions for your interviewers at the end of each interview. Don't ask frivolous questions like what do you like best at Amazon, try to come up with questions on the projects that they are working on.

DON'Ts

- 1) Do not be late
- 2) If you don't know something do not equivocate we will know
- 3) Listen intently to the question and answer to the point and clearly
- 4) Pay attention to the writing sample, some people come in without doing the writing sample and that reflects very badly

S SMcC55 ★★★★★

Nice summary of everything. I don't have any specific feedback. Let's say this was very helpful and put me a good position to succeed.



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