

# **Assessment Criteria of Google (Holds good for most companies)**

- 1. Coding**
- 2. Data Structures & Algorithms**
- 3. Good Communication**
- 4. Independent Attitude**
- 5. Time Management/Speed of solving the question (20 mins per question for medium, 40 mins for Hard)**

You can judge your preparation level by solving Leetcode problems with a timer according to the time limits specified above.

Independent attitude means very less dependent on interviewer, keeping yourself accountable for everything which goes in the interview process —

- Drive the interview forward yourself.
- Keeping the time management in mind.
- Take minimum hints.

***One should focus on all the assessment criteria which are mentioned above. Being good in Coding doesn't mean good interviewing skills. It's a complete package of skills which should***

*be kept in mind especially good explanation of thought process, writing clean code and time management skills.*

## **Preparation Tips**

Below is my advice for anyone who wants to prepare for SDE interviews, based on my own experience of giving a lot of interviews.

### **Beginners Plan**

1. Learn a Coding Language (C++/ Java preferably)
2. Learn OOPs concepts
3. Understand all Data Structures and Algorithms well. You should be able to implement them from scratch without looking anywhere.
4. Learn the inbuilt Containers and Algorithms provided by the language like STL for C++.

### **Long term Preparation Strategy and where to Practice**

The goal of preparation should be to *Improve Problem Solving skills so that any unseen problem can be solved.*

**Things to keep in mind while preparing and platforms best suited for them —**

1. Know the use case of all algorithms, analyzing patterns of questions and building the intuition -> GFG, Leetcode

2. Focus on Quality, not Quantity -> Brainstorm around the question for around 20–30min before **analyzing editorial**
3. Gradually increase the level of difficulty of questions and challenge yourself
4. Improving speed of coding and debugging -> Short Contests on LC, Codeforces(Upto Div2 C or D)
5. Learn to explain your thought process well -> Mock Interviews
6. DON'T worry much about Ratings, focus on improvements. I strongly emphasize that the goal of practicing should be to improve the problem solving, fast coding and debugging skills, not just to increase ratings.

## **Online Coding Test**

1. Practice on Hackerearth for Online coding tests of hiring.
2. Always solve by brute force in the test, if you can't optimize.

## **Before the placement season or interview (1-2 months)**

1. Practice problems only on Leetcode/Interviewbit.
2. For every question you can't solve, analyze and note what you missed so that you instantly get the intuition while solving similar questions in the future.
3. If you find any interesting pattern, also note it down along with the link of question.
4. Read past interview experiences on GFG, Leetcode.

## **Just before the interview**

1. Stay calm and take a deep breath closing your eyes before any interview.
2. Don't try to memorize any question in mind, keep your mind free.
3. Just remember the concepts that you should think in different scenarios if stuck.

## **During the interview**

1. Ask clarifying questions and repeat the question once.
2. Immediately tell the brute force solution, whatever comes to your mind.
3. Try to optimize the solution by keeping all the options in mind.
4. NEVER stay quiet, silence is dangerous:) Keep explaining your thought process and treat your interview as a discussion.
5. If the interviewer is quiet, ask *Are you following up?* or *does this makes sense?*
6. Don't start coding before asking interviewer, interviewer should be satisfied by the approach.
7. Write clean code fast and check once by dry running on any test case.

8. Drive the interview according to your strengths. If you are a really good coder, logical thinker or good communicator, let the interviewer know this.
9. Take care of edge cases and debug the code to take them into account while dry running.

### Final words 😊

1. Every challenge comes with an opportunity, just recognize it and make the full out of it. The amount of free time we got during the pandemic lockdown is good enough to prepare for anything. Just attending Online Classes? well think again 😊
2. Luck is involved in everything. We can just improve our odds by working hard and smart. No need to worry after giving your best, regardless of the results. There are some things which we can't control.
3. Good things take time. If something isn't in your Favour even after you did your best, don't lose hope, GOD has better plans for you.
4. Enjoy the journey!

**These are just tips which I feel would be helpful from my experience. Everyone has their opinion and path, feel free to tweak this/create your own strategy which suits best to you.**

All the best 👍 📖

