

Only students who complete the prep guide will be considered for long term coaching.

Data Structures & Algorithms

- Read Welcome To The Coding Interview, You Suck
 - Apply the principles outlined in the guide to 100 Leetcode questions.

Object Oriented Design

- Read Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software
- Read Clean Code

System Design

- Read Designing Data Intensive Applications
 - This is a very dense book so you don't need to read in depth but you should be able to familiarize yourself with it.

Preparedness Level 1

Cannot solve problems. Just memorizing solutions, usually stemming from terrible practice habits. The candidate may be able to luck through a phone screen but completely bombs onsite. Or, they may not even be able to clear a phone screen.

→ Recommended time: 6-8 weeks

Preparedness Level 2

Can solve a few problems but just spam the compiler until an answer falls out. However, he may be still memorizing solutions to a degree. Can solve simple problems. He can get through a phone screen on a good day.

→ Recommended time: 5-6 weeks

Preparedness Level 3

Can solve a problem 50% of the time. He may freeze when it comes to unknown problems that he doesn't know how to solve. He can fly through a phone screen but only answer half of the questions on an onsite, probably missing on some optimal solutions.

→ Recommended time: 4 weeks

Preparedness Level 4

Can someone get through unknown problems but may struggle towards the end to find solutions. He can get through a phone screen and do fairly well on some onsite but the committee may also reject him for not getting to the optimal solution or for being slow.

→ Recommended time: 2-3 weeks

Preparedness Level 5

Well studied and can get through a lot of problems. He may be making some hiccups and spotty mistakes but is overall a solid leetcode solver. Can get through a lot of problems on the first try without resubmissions. Candidate is already in a good position to get offers but we want to turn it into a guarantee.

→ Recommended time: 1-2 weeks

Preparedness Level 1

Cannot solve problems. Has no systematic way of thinking or evaluating systems or creating them. Has some understanding of the components but does not know how to put them together or why they work well together.

→ Recommended time: 6-8 weeks

Preparedness Level 2

Can solve a simple system problem. Flops when considering the benefits/tradeoffs of individual components or why decisions are made. Cannot defend decisions.

→ Recommended time: 5-6 weeks

Preparedness Level 3

Can adequately piece together a system but struggles to find and consider the optimal solutions. May show some insights into evaluations and can explain in detail what goes on underneath the hood (ie. why NoSQL vs MySQL, leaderless vs multileader election, etc.)

→ Recommended time: 4 weeks

Preparedness Level 4

Can sufficiently solve a problem end to end with good confidence in the result. Can justify decisions and incorporate feedback. May struggle under pressure and may not be fast enough to justify decisions.

→ Recommended time: 2-3 weeks

Preparedness Level 5

Literally a Staff Engineer. Can solve any system design problem and continue the conversation beyond the initial parameters. Can talk about scalability and how to break limitations of the system. Even brings in a great detailed knowledge of how industry technologies work.

→ Recommended time: 1-2 weeks