66 Scrum Master Interview Questions to Assess Candidates

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9. Can you explain the three pillars of Scrum in simple terms?

10. How would you explain the role of a Scrum Master to someone who's never heard of Scrum?

11. What's the difference between a Sprint Goal and a Product Goal?

12. How would you handle a situation where the Product Owner wants to add items to an ongoing Sprint?

13. What strategies would you use to encourage team members to speak up during Daily Scrums?

14. How do you ensure that Sprint Retrospectives lead to actionable improvements?

15. What would you do if you notice the team is consistently overcommitting in Sprint Planning?

16. How would you help a team that's struggling with estimating user stories?

17. What's your approach to facilitating a Sprint Review meeting?

18. How would you handle a stakeholder who keeps interrupting the development team during a Sprint?

19. What strategies would you use to help the team improve their Definition of Done?

20. How do you explain the concept of technical debt to non-technical stakeholders?

21. What would you do if you notice that the team is not adhering to Scrum values?

22. How would you approach coaching a Product Owner who's new to Scrum?

23. What techniques would you use to help the team break down large user stories?

24. How do you ensure that the team understands and follows the Sprint Backlog?

25. What's your approach to helping the team become more self-organizing?

26. How would you handle a situation where team members are reluctant to pair program or do code reviews?

27. What strategies would you use to improve communication between the development team and stakeholders?

28. How do you help the team maintain focus and avoid scope creep during a Sprint?

29. How would you explain the concept of 'empirical process control' in Scrum?

30. Can you describe a situation where you had to balance the needs of the development team with those of the stakeholders?

31. How do you promote self-organization within a Scrum team?

32. How do you handle a situation where the Product Owner is not fully engaged with the Scrum process?

33. How do you ensure that the team is continuously improving their processes?

34. How do you handle dependencies between multiple Scrum teams working on the same project?

35. How do you prepare the team for a Sprint Planning meeting?

36. What factors do you consider when determining the capacity for a Sprint?

37. How do you prioritize backlog items for a Sprint?

38. Describe your approach to managing scope changes during a Sprint.

39. How do you ensure that all team members are engaged during Sprint Planning?

40. What techniques do you use to help the team estimate effort for tasks?

41. How do you handle situations where the team cannot agree on the priorities for a Sprint?

42. What is your process for setting a Sprint Goal?

43. How do you address potential risks identified during Sprint Planning?

44. In what ways do you assist the Product Owner in refining the backlog before Sprint Planning?

45. How do you ensure that dependencies are managed effectively before starting a Sprint?

46. What steps do you take to align the team's understanding of the Sprint Backlog?

47. How would you handle a team member who consistently dominates discussions during Sprint Retrospectives?

48. What would you do if you noticed the Development Team was bypassing the Product Owner and taking requirements directly from stakeholders?

49. How would you address a situation where team members are reluctant to collaborate and prefer working in silos?

50. What approach would you take if the team's velocity has been steadily decreasing over the past few Sprints?

51. How would you handle a situation where the Product Owner and key stakeholders disagree on Sprint priorities?

52. What would you do if you noticed that the team was consistently delivering work that didn't meet the Definition of Done?

53. How would you address a situation where team members are frequently multitasking and context-switching during the Sprint?

54. What approach would you take if you noticed that the team was becoming demotivated due to constant changes in project direction?

55. How would you handle a situation where a critical team member unexpectedly leaves in the middle of a Sprint?

56. What steps would you take if you noticed that the team was struggling to deliver potentially shippable increments at the end of each Sprint?

57. Can you describe a time when you had to deal with a particularly difficult team member? How did you handle the situation?

58. Tell me about a time when you had to convince the team to adopt a new Agile practice. How did you approach this?

59. Describe a situation where you had to mediate a conflict between the Product Owner and the Development Team. How did you handle it?

60. Tell me about a time when you had to help a team recover from a failed sprint. What steps did you take?