Scrum Master interview questions, and what a strong answer sounds like

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Scrum Master interviews test two things: whether you understand Scrum as written, and whether you can handle the messy situations where real teams drift from it. Here are common questions, grouped by type, with notes on what a strong answer includes.

TL;DR The short version

- Scrum Master interviews test both Scrum as written and how you handle teams that drift from it.
- The post groups common questions into framework, situational, personal and technical-awareness questions, with notes on strong answers.
- It also suggests questions to ask the employer, such as why they chose Scrum and how empowered Product Owners are.

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Framework questions

- **What are the Scrum accountabilities?** Developers, Product Owner and Scrum Master, per the 2020 Scrum Guide. Strong answers explain what each is accountable for, not just the names.
- **What are the artifacts and their commitments?** Product Backlog and Product Goal, Sprint Backlog and Sprint Goal, Increment and Definition of Done.
- **How long is the Daily Scrum, and who is it for?** 15 minutes, for the Developers. Mention that it is not a status report.
- **Can the Sprint Backlog change during a Sprint?** Yes. The Developers adjust the plan as they learn, as long as the Sprint Goal is not put at risk.

Situational questions

- **The Daily Scrum has become a status report to the manager. What do you do?** Talk to the manager privately about why it hurts the team, refocus the event on the Sprint Goal, and consider asking the manager to observe silently or skip it.
- **A stakeholder keeps going straight to a developer with requests.** Redirect them to the Product Owner kindly and consistently, and help the Product Owner make the backlog visible so they trust it.
- **The team misses its Sprint Goal three times in a row.** Look at the data with the team: oversized items, unplanned work, dependencies. Let the team choose an experiment in the Retrospective.

- **The team wants to drop the Retrospective because it is a waste of time.** Ask why. Usually the actions never happen. Change the format and make one action visible and owned.

Questions about you

- **Tell me about an impediment you removed.** Describe the problem, what you did, who you worked with and what changed.
- **How do you know you are a good Scrum Master?** Point to team outcomes: more predictable delivery, fewer blockers, the team solving problems without you.
- **When have you disagreed with a Product Owner?** Show you raised it privately, respected their accountability for the backlog, and kept the relationship.

Technical awareness

Engineering teams increasingly expect a Scrum Master to understand their work. Be ready to talk about the Definition of Done, CI/CD, technical debt and how DORA metrics can inform a Retrospective without becoming targets.

Questions to ask them

- Who chose Scrum here, and why?
- How are Product Owners empowered to decide?
- What would you want a new Scrum Master to change in the first three months?

> Related credential: Agile Delivery Practitioner. Explore the exam facts and syllabus.

Sources and further reading

1. Schwaber, K. and Sutherland, J. (2020). The Scrum Guide. scrumguides.org.

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