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5 Essential CSS Interview Questions \*

Toptal sourced essential questions that the best CSS developers and engineers can answer. Driven from our community, we encourage experts to submit questions and offer feedback.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1.

Explain the CSS “box model” and the layout components that it consists of.

Provide some usage examples.

Hide answer

The CSS box model is a rectangular layout paradigm for HTML elements that consists of the following:

Content - The content of the box, where text and images appear

Padding - A transparent area surrounding the content (i.e., the amount of space between the border and the content)

Border - A border surrounding the padding (if any) and content

Margin - A transparent area surrounding the border (i.e., the amount of space between the border and any neighboring elements)

Each of these properties can be specified independently for each side of the element (i.e., top, right, bottom, left) or fewer values can be specified to apply to multiple sides. For example:

/\* top right bottom left \*/

padding: 25px 50px 75px 100px;

/\* same padding on all 4 sides: \*/

padding: 25px;

/\* top/bottom padding 25px; right/left padding 50px \*/

padding: 25px 50px;

/\* top padding 25px; right/left padding 50px; bottom padding 75px \*/

padding: 25px 50px 75px;

2.

Explain what elements will match each of the following CSS selectors:

div, p

div p

div > p

div + p

div ~ p

Hide answer

div, p - Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements

div p - Selects all <p> elements that are anywhere inside a <div> element

div > p - Selects all <p> elements where the immediate parent is a <div> element

div + p - Selects all <p> elements that are placed immediately after a <div> element

div ~ p - Selects all <p> elements that are anywhere preceded by a <div> element

3.

Explain the meaning of each of these CSS units for expressing length:

cm

em

in

mm

pc

pt

px

Hide answer

cm - centimeters

em - elements (i.e., relative to the font-size of the element; e.g., 2 em means 2 times the current font size)

in - inches

mm - millimeters

pc - picas (1 pc = 12 pt = 1/6th of an inch)

pt - points (1 pt = 1/72nd of an inch)

px - pixels (1 px = 1/96th of an inch)

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4.

In CSS3, how would you select:

Every <a> element whose href attribute value begins with “https”.

Every <a> element whose href attribute value ends with “.pdf”.

Every <a> element whose href attribute value contains the substring “css”.

Hide answer

Select every <a> element whose href attribute value begins with “https”:

a[href^="https"]

Select every <a> element whose href attribute value ends with “.pdf”:

a[href$=".pdf"]

Select every <a> element whose href attribute value contains the substring “css”:

a[href\*="css"]

5.

Given the following HTML:

<div id="page">

<h1>Heading Title</h1>

<h2>Subheading Title</h2>

<h2>Subheading Title</h2>

<h1>Heading Title</h1>

<h2>Subheading Title</h2>

<h1>Heading Title</h1>

</div>

How could you use CSS to achieve the following automatic numbering:

1) Heading Title

1.1) Subheading Title

1.2) Subheading Title

2) Heading Title

2.1) Subheading Title

3) Heading Title

Hide answer

The following CSS will achieve this type of automatic numbering:

#page {

counter-reset: heading;

}

h1:before {

content: counter(heading)") ";

counter-increment: heading;

}

h1 {

counter-reset: subheading;

}

h2:before {

content: counter(heading)"." counter(subheading)") ";

counter-increment: subheading;

}