

Python OOP Questions & Answers (Set 4 - Operator Overloading)

Q1. Which two operator overloading methods can you use in your classes to support iteration?

Two ways:

1. `__iter__` with `__next__` (iterator protocol).
2. `__getitem__` with successive indexes until `IndexError` (sequence protocol).

Q2. In what contexts do the two operator overloading methods manage printing?

`__str__`: user-friendly string, used by `print()`, `str()`, f-strings.

`__repr__`: developer/debug string, used by `repr()`, REPL, inside containers. Fallback if `__str__` not defined.

Q3. In a class, how do you intercept slice operations?

Implement `__getitem__`, `__setitem__`, and `__delitem__`.

Inside, check if key is a slice instance, then handle accordingly.

Q4. In a class, how do you capture in-place addition?

Implement `__iadd__`(self, other) for `+=`.

Mutable types typically mutate self and return it.

If missing, Python falls back to `__add__` and rebinding.

Q5. When is it appropriate to use operator overloading?

Use when it makes code more natural and aligns with semantics:

- Math/structured types (vectors, matrices, complex numbers).
- Container-like behavior (iteration, indexing, slicing).
- String/debug views (`__repr__`, `__str__`).

Avoid when it surprises users or makes code less readable.