PHP Developer Complete Checklist (2026)

INTERN LEVEL (Paid Internship Ready)

A. Core PHP Basics

- ☐ PHP syntax
- ☐ Variables & constants
- ☐ Data types
- ☐ Operators
- ☐ If-else / switch
- ☐ Loops (for, while, foreach)
- ☐ Functions
- ☐ Arrays (indexed, associative, multidimensional)
- ☐ Superglobals ($_GET, $_POST, $_REQUEST, $_SERVER)
- ☐ Form handling
- ☐ Basic validation

B. Basic Web Concepts

- ☐ Client vs Server
- ☐ HTTP methods (GET, POST)
- ☐ Sessions & Cookies
- ☐ File Upload
- ☐ Email sending (mail function)

C. MySQL + PHP

- ☐ Database connection (mysqli / PDO)
- ☐ CRUD operations
- ☐ Prepared statements
- ☐ Basic joins
- ☐ Basic authentication system (login/register)

D. Frontend Basic Knowledge (Very Important)

- ☐ HTML5
- ☐ CSS3
- ☐ Bootstrap
- ☐ Basic JavaScript
- ☐ Form validation (JS)

E. Internship Level Mini Projects

- ☐ Login/Register system
- ☐ Simple Blog
- ☐ Contact Form with database
- ☐ Student Management System

JUNIOR PHP DEVELOPER (Job Level)

☞ Goal: Software house ready

A. Advanced PHP Concepts

- ☐ OOP in PHP
  - o Classes & Objects
  - o Constructor / Destructor

- o Inheritance
- o Encapsulation
- o Abstraction
- o Interfaces
- o Traits
- ☐ Namespaces
- ☐ Autoloading
- ☐ Error Handling
- ☐ Exception Handling

B. Security (Very Important)

- ☐ SQL Injection prevention
- ☐ XSS prevention
- ☐ CSRF protection
- ☐ Password hashing (password_hash)
- ☐ Input sanitization
- ☐ Secure session management

C. REST API Development

- ☐ JSON handling
- ☐ API structure
- ☐ HTTP status codes
- ☐ Token authentication
- ☐ CRUD API building

D. MVC Pattern

- ☐ MVC architecture understanding

- ☐ Routing
- ☐ Controllers
- ☐ Models
- ☐ Views

E. Laravel Framework (Highly Recommended)

- ☐ Routing
- ☐ Controllers
- ☐ Blade
- ☐ Eloquent ORM
- ☐ Middleware
- ☐ Authentication
- ☐ API development
- ☐ File storage
- ☐ Validation

F. Git & Deployment

- ☐ Git basics
- ☐ GitHub
- ☐ Branching
- ☐ Hosting (cPanel)
- ☐ Basic VPS knowledge

PROFESSIONAL / INDUSTRY READY LEVEL

☞ Goal: High salary / Remote jobs

A. Advanced Laravel

- ☐ Queues
- ☐ Jobs
- ☐ Events & Listeners
- ☐ Service Container
- ☐ Service Providers
- ☐ Caching
- ☐ Redis
- ☐ API authentication (Sanctum / Passport)

B. Architecture & Best Practices

- ☐ SOLID principles
- ☐ Design patterns
- ☐ Repository pattern
- ☐ Clean Code
- ☐ Code refactoring

C. Testing

- ☐ PHPUnit
- ☐ Feature testing
- ☐ API testing

D. Performance Optimization

- ☐ Query optimization

- ☐ Indexing
- ☐ Caching strategies
- ☐ Lazy loading vs eager loading

E. DevOps Basic

- ☐ Docker basics
- ☐ CI/CD basic idea
- ☐ Server deployment

Interviewer Expectation Checklist

Interviewer usually checks:

Technical Questions

- Difference between GET & POST
- Session vs Cookie
- Include vs Require
- Abstract class vs Interface
- Explain MVC
- What is ORM?
- What is CSRF?
- How to prevent SQL Injection?
- How authentication works?
- What is REST API?

🖥 Practical Task

- Build CRUD
- Create login system
- Create REST API
- Fix security issue
- Debug code