

PYTHON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Dear readers, these **Python Programming Language Interview Questions** have been designed specially to get you acquainted with the nature of questions you may encounter during your interview for the subject of **Python Programming Language**. As per my experience good interviewers hardly plan to ask any particular question during your interview, normally questions start with some basic concept of the subject and later they continue based on further discussion and what you answer –

What is Python?

Python is a high-level, interpreted, interactive and object-oriented scripting language. Python is designed to be highly readable. It uses English keywords frequently where as other languages use punctuation, and it has fewer syntactical constructions than other languages.

Name some of the features of Python.

Following are some of the salient features of python –

- It supports functional and structured programming methods as well as OOP.
- It can be used as a scripting language or can be compiled to byte-code for building large applications.
- It provides very high-level dynamic data types and supports dynamic type checking.
- It supports automatic garbage collection.
- It can be easily integrated with C, C++, COM, ActiveX, CORBA, and Java.

What is the purpose of PYTHONPATH environment variable?

PYTHONPATH – It has a role similar to PATH. This variable tells the Python interpreter where to locate the module files imported into a program. It should include the Python source library directory and the directories containing Python source code. PYTHONPATH is sometimes preset by the Python installer.

What is the purpose of PYTHONSTARTUP environment variable?

PYTHONSTARTUP – It contains the path of an initialization file containing Python source code. It is executed every time you start the interpreter. It is named as .pythonrc.py in Unix and it contains commands that load utilities or modify PYTHONPATH.

What is the purpose of PYTHONCASEOK environment variable?

PYTHONCASEOK – It is used in Windows to instruct Python to find the first case-insensitive match in an import statement. Set this variable to any value to activate it.

What is the purpose of PYTHONHOME environment variable?

PYTHONHOME – It is an alternative module search path. It is usually embedded in the PYTHONSTARTUP or PYTHONPATH directories to make switching module libraries easy.

Is python a case sensitive language?

Yes! Python is a case sensitive programming language.

What are the supported data types in Python?

Python has five standard data types –

- Numbers
- String
- List
- Tuple
- Dictionary

What is the output of print str if str = 'Hello World!'?

It will print complete string. Output would be Hello World!.

What is the output of print str[0] if str = 'Hello World!'?

It will print first character of the string. Output would be H.

What is the output of print str[2:5] if str = 'Hello World!'?

It will print characters starting from 3rd to 5th. Output would be llo.

What is the output of print str[2:] if str = 'Hello World!'?

It will print characters starting from 3rd character. Output would be llo World!.

What is the output of print str * 2 if str = 'Hello World!'?

It will print string two times. Output would be Hello World!Hello World!.

What is the output of print str + "TEST" if str = 'Hello World!'?

It will print concatenated string. Output would be Hello World!TEST.

What is the output of print list if list = ['abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2]?

It will print concatenated lists. Output would be ['abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2].

What is the output of print list[0] if list = ['abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2]?

It will print first element of the list. Output would be abcd.

What is the output of print list[1:3] if list = ['abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2]?

It will print elements starting from 2nd till 3rd. Output would be [786, 2.23].

What is the output of print list[2:] if list = ['abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2]?

It will print elements starting from 3rd element. Output would be [2.23, 'john', 70.2000000000000003].

What is the output of print tinylis * 2 if tinylis = [123, 'john']?

It will print list two times. Output would be [123, 'john', 123, 'john'].

What is the output of print list + tinylis * 2 if list = ['abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2] and tinylis = [123, 'john']?

It will print concatenated lists. Output would be ['abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2, 123, 'john', 123, 'john'].

What are tuples in Python?

A tuple is another sequence data type that is similar to the list. A tuple consists of a number of values separated by commas. Unlike lists, however, tuples are enclosed within parentheses.

What is the difference between tuples and lists in Python?

The main differences between lists and tuples are – Lists are enclosed in brackets [] and their elements and size can be changed, while tuples are enclosed in parentheses () and cannot be updated. Tuples can be thought of as read-only lists.

What is the output of print tuple if tuple = 'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2?

It will print complete tuple. Output would be 'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2000000000000003 .

What is the output of print tuple[0] if tuple = 'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2?

It will print first element of the tuple. Output would be abcd.

What is the output of print tuple[1:3] if tuple = 'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2?

It will print elements starting from 2nd till 3rd. Output would be 786, 2.23.

What is the output of `print tuple[2:]` if `tuple = 'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2`?

It will print elements starting from 3rd element. Output would be `2.23, 'john', 70.200000000000003`.

What is the output of `print tinytuple * 2` if `tinytuple = 123, 'john'`?

It will print tuple two times. Output would be `123, 'john', 123, 'john'`.

What is the output of `print tuple + tinytuple` if `tuple = 'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2` and `tinytuple = 123, 'john'`?

It will print concatenated tuples. Output would be `'abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.200000000000003, 123, 'john'`.

What are Python's dictionaries?

Python's dictionaries are kind of hash table type. They work like associative arrays or hashes found in Perl and consist of key-value pairs. A dictionary key can be almost any Python type, but are usually numbers or strings. Values, on the other hand, can be any arbitrary Python object.

How will you create a dictionary in python?

Dictionaries are enclosed by curly braces and values can be assigned and accessed using square braces `[]`.

```
dict = {}  
dict['one'] = "This is one"  
dict[2] = "This is two"  
tinydict = {'name': 'john', 'code': 6734, 'dept': 'sales'}
```

How will you get all the keys from the dictionary?

Using `dictionary.keys()` function, we can get all the keys from the dictionary object.

```
print dict.keys() # Prints all the keys
```

How will you get all the values from the dictionary?

Using `dictionary.values()` function, we can get all the values from the dictionary object.

```
print dict.values() # Prints all the values
```

How will you convert a string to an int in python?

`intx[, base]` – Converts `x` to an integer. `base` specifies the base if `x` is a string.

How will you convert a string to a long in python?

`longx[, base]` – Converts `x` to a long integer. `base` specifies the base if `x` is a string.

How will you convert a string to a float in python?

`floatx` – Converts `x` to a floating-point number.

How will you convert a object to a string in python?

`strx` – Converts object `x` to a string representation.

How will you convert a object to a regular expression in python?

`reprx` – Converts object `x` to an expression string.

How will you convert a String to an object in python?

`evalstr` – Evaluates a string and returns an object.

How will you convert a string to a tuple in python?

`tuples` – Converts `s` to a tuple.

How will you convert a string to a list in python?

`lists` – Converts `s` to a list.

How will you convert a string to a set in python?

`set`s – Converts `s` to a set.

How will you create a dictionary using tuples in python?

`dict`d – Creates a dictionary. `d` must be a sequence of *key, value* tuples.

How will you convert a string to a frozen set in python?

`frozenset`s – Converts `s` to a frozen set.

How will you convert an integer to a character in python?

`chr`x – Converts an integer to a character.

How will you convert an integer to an unicode character in python?

`unichr`x – Converts an integer to a Unicode character.

How will you convert a single character to its integer value in python?

`ord`x – Converts a single character to its integer value.

How will you convert an integer to hexadecimal string in python?

`hex`x – Converts an integer to a hexadecimal string.

How will you convert an integer to octal string in python?

`oct`x – Converts an integer to an octal string.

What is the purpose of `**` operator?

`**` Exponent – Performs exponential *power* calculation on operators. `a**b` = 10 to the power 20 if `a = 10` and `b = 20`.

What is the purpose of `//` operator?

`//` Floor Division – The division of operands where the result is the quotient in which the digits after the decimal point are removed.

What is the purpose of `is` operator?

`is` – Evaluates to true if the variables on either side of the operator point to the same object and false otherwise. `x is y`, here `is` results in 1 if `id`x equals `id`y.

What is the purpose of `not in` operator?

`not in` – Evaluates to true if it does not find a variable in the specified sequence and false otherwise. `x not in y`, here `not in` results in 1 if `x` is not a member of sequence `y`.

What is the purpose of `break` statement in python?

`break` statement – Terminates the loop statement and transfers execution to the statement immediately following the loop.

What is the purpose of `continue` statement in python?

`continue` statement – Causes the loop to skip the remainder of its body and immediately retest its condition prior to reiterating.

What is the purpose of `pass` statement in python?

`pass` statement – The `pass` statement in Python is used when a statement is required syntactically but you do not want any command or code to execute.

How can you pick a random item from a list or tuple?

`choice`s`eq` – Returns a random item from a list, tuple, or string.

How can you pick a random item from a range?

`randrange [start,]stop[, step]` – returns a randomly selected element from range *start, stop, step*.

How can you get a random number in python?

`random` – returns a random float *r*, such that 0 is less than or equal to *r* and *r* is less than 1.

How will you set the starting value in generating random numbers?

`seed[x]` – Sets the integer starting value used in generating random numbers. Call this function before calling any other random module function. Returns None.

How will you randomizes the items of a list in place?

`shuffle`*lst* – Randomizes the items of a list in place. Returns None.

How will you capitalizes first letter of string?

`capitalize` – Capitalizes first letter of string.

How will you check in a string that all characters are alphanumeric?

`isalnum` – Returns true if string has at least 1 character and all characters are alphanumeric and false otherwise.

How will you check in a string that all characters are digits?

`isdigit` – Returns true if string contains only digits and false otherwise.

How will you check in a string that all characters are in lowercase?

`islower` – Returns true if string has at least 1 cased character and all cased characters are in lowercase and false otherwise.

How will you check in a string that all characters are numerics?

`isnumeric` – Returns true if a unicode string contains only numeric characters and false otherwise.

How will you check in a string that all characters are whitespaces?

`isspace` – Returns true if string contains only whitespace characters and false otherwise.

How will you check in a string that it is properly titlecased?

`istitle` – Returns true if string is properly "titlecased" and false otherwise.

How will you check in a string that all characters are in uppercase?

`isupper` – Returns true if string has at least one cased character and all cased characters are in uppercase and false otherwise.

How will you merge elements in a sequence?

`join`*seq* – Merges *concatenates* the string representations of elements in sequence *seq* into a string, with separator string.

How will you get the length of the string?

`len`*string* – Returns the length of the string.

How will you get a space-padded string with the original string left-justified to a total of width columns?

`ljust`*width[, fillchar]* – Returns a space-padded string with the original string left-justified to a total of width columns.

How will you convert a string to all lowercase?

`lower` – Converts all uppercase letters in string to lowercase.

How will you remove all leading whitespace in string?

`lstrip` – Removes all leading whitespace in string.

How will you get the max alphabetical character from the string?

`maxstr` – Returns the max alphabetical character from the string `str`.

How will you get the min alphabetical character from the string?

`minstr` – Returns the min alphabetical character from the string `str`.

How will you replaces all occurrences of old substring in string with new string?

`replaceold, new[, max]` – Replaces all occurrences of old in string with new or at most max occurrences if max given.

How will you remove all leading and trailing whitespace in string?

`strip[chars]` – Performs both `lstrip` and `rstrip` on string.

How will you change case for all letters in string?

`swapcase` – Inverts case for all letters in string.

How will you get titlecased version of string?

`title` – Returns "titlecased" version of string, that is, all words begin with uppercase and the rest are lowercase.

How will you convert a string to all uppercase?

`upper` – Converts all lowercase letters in string to uppercase.

How will you check in a string that all characters are decimal?

`isdecimal` – Returns true if a unicode string contains only decimal characters and false otherwise.

What is the difference between `del` and `remove` methods of list?

To remove a list element, you can use either the `del` statement if you know exactly which element s you are deleting or the `remove` method if you do not know.

What is the output of `len[1, 2, 3]`?

3

What is the output of `[1, 2, 3] + [4, 5, 6]`?

[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

What is the output of `['Hi!'] * 4`?

['Hi!', 'Hi!', 'Hi!', 'Hi!']

What is the output of `3 in [1, 2, 3]`?

True

What is the output of `for x in [1, 2, 3]: print x`?

1 2 3

What is the output of `L[2]` if `L = [1,2,3]`?

3, Offsets start at zero.

What is the output of `L[-2]` if `L = [1,2,3]`?

`L[-1] = 3, L[-2]=2, L[-3]=1`

What is the output of `L[1:]` if `L = [1,2,3]`?

2, 3, Slicing fetches sections.

How will you compare two lists?

`cmp`*list1, list2* – Compares elements of both lists.

How will you get the length of a list?

`len`*list* – Gives the total length of the list.

How will you get the max valued item of a list?

`max`*list* – Returns item from the list with max value.

How will you get the min valued item of a list?

`min`*list* – Returns item from the list with min value.

How will you get the index of an object in a list?

`list.index`*obj* – Returns the lowest index in list that *obj* appears.

How will you insert an object at given index in a list?

`list.insert`*index, obj* – Inserts object *obj* into list at offset index.

How will you remove last object from a list?

`list.pop`*obj* = *list*`[-1]` – Removes and returns last object or *obj* from list.

How will you remove an object from a list?

`list.remove`*obj* – Removes object *obj* from list.

How will you reverse a list?

`list.reverse` – Reverses objects of list in place.

How will you sort a list?

`list.sort`*[func]* – Sorts objects of list, use compare *func* if given.

What is Next?

Further you can go through your past assignments you have done with the subject and make sure you are able to speak confidently on them. If you are fresher then interviewer does not expect you will answer very complex questions, rather you have to make your basics concepts very strong.

Second it really doesn't matter much if you could not answer few questions but it matters that whatever you answered, you must have answered with confidence. So just feel confident during your interview. We at tutorialspoint wish you best luck to have a good interviewer and all the very best for your future endeavor. Cheers :-)