Publishing and Sharing in Power BI — Written Brief Explanations

1. What is the difference between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Online Service?

- **Power BI Desktop** is a free, Windows application used to build, design, and develop Power BI reports and semantic models (datasets). It's where you do your modeling, DAX coding, and visualizations.
- **Power BI Online Service** (app.powerbi.com) is a cloud-based SaaS platform for publishing, sharing, managing, collaborating, and consuming Power BI content (reports, dashboards, apps).

2. How do you publish a Power BI report from Desktop to the Online Service?

- In Power BI Desktop, after saving your report, click **Home > Publish**.
- Sign in to your Power BI account.
- Select a **Workspace** in the Online Service.
- The report (and associated dataset) will be published to the selected workspace.

3. What is a workspace in Power BI? What are the types of workspaces available?

A **workspace** is a collaborative area in Power BI Service where users can publish, manage, and share Power BI content.

Types:

- **My Workspace**: Personal, private space for individual work.
- **Shared Workspaces**: Collaborative spaces where multiple users can access, edit, or view content depending on their role (Admin, Member, Contributor, Viewer).

4. What is the difference between a workspace and an app in Power BI?

- A **workspace** is for creating and managing content collaboratively.
- An **App** is a packaged collection of dashboards and reports published from a workspace, designed for end users (typically viewers) to consume content in a structured, read-only environment.

5. Explain the different Power BI license types and their limitations.

License Type	Key Features	Limitations
Free	Build reports in Desktop, view in personal workspace	Cannot share or collaborate
Pro	Share reports, collaborate, access workspaces, publish apps	Needed by both sender & receiver to share content
Premium per User (PPU)	All Pro features + AI, paginated reports, larger dataset sizes	Requires PPU for both sharer and viewer
Premium Capacity	Dedicated cloud resources for enterprise-level workloads	High cost, ideal for large organizations

6. How can you share a report with someone who doesn't have a Pro license?

- By hosting the report in a **Premium capacity workspace**, then publishing it via an **App** or direct link — users without a Pro license can view it since Premium covers viewer access.

7. What is a semantic model (dataset) in Power BI, and where is it stored in the service?

A **semantic model (dataset)** is the data model created in Power BI Desktop (relationships, measures, calculated columns) and uploaded to Power BI Service when a report is published.

- It is stored in the **workspace where the report was published**.

8. How does Scheduled Refresh work in Power BI Online Service?

Scheduled Refresh automatically updates datasets in the Power BI Service at configured intervals by reconnecting to the data sources and reloading data.

- It's configured in the dataset's **Settings > Scheduled Refresh**.
- Limited to **8 times/day for Pro** and **48 times/day for Premium**.

9. What is the difference between a dataset and a dataflow in Power BI?

Dataset	Dataflow
Data model with queries, relationships, measures	Collection of tables loaded via Power Query in the cloud
Created in Desktop and published to Service	Created directly in Power BI Service

Dataset	Dataflow
Stored within a workspace	Centralized, reusable ETL component

10. When and why would you use a dataflow instead of a dataset?

Use **dataflows** when you need:

- Centralized, reusable, pre-processed data tables (e.g., for multiple reports).
- Cloud-based ETL without creating a desktop PBIX file.
- Simplified data management and governance in large organizations.

11. What are dashboards in Power BI Online? How are they different from reports?

A **dashboard** is a single-page, canvas-based visual interface that displays visuals (tiles) pinned from one or multiple reports or datasets.

Dashboard	Report
Single page (canvas)	Multi-page
Can combine visuals from multiple reports	Based on one dataset
Interactive tiles only (limited interaction)	Fully interactive

12. How do you pin a visual to a dashboard from a report?

- Open the report in Power BI Service.
- Hover over a visual → Click the **Pin icon**.
- Choose an existing dashboard or create a new one.
- The visual will appear as a tile on the dashboard.

13. What is the mobile view in Power BI and why is it useful?

Mobile View is a layout customization option in Power BI Service allowing you to design a version of your report optimized for mobile devices.

- Ensures readability and usability on smartphones and tablets.
- Configured via **View > Phone Layout** in Power BI Service.

14. What is a paginated report in Power BI and when would you use it?

A **paginated report** is a pixel-perfect, printable report designed for precise formatting (e.g., invoices, statements, financial reports).

- Use when fixed layouts, page headers/footers, and precise print output are required.

- Created with **Power BI Report Builder** and published to Power BI Service (Premium/PPU required).

15. Can you export reports from Power BI Service to PDF or PowerPoint? How?

Yes:

- Open the report in Power BI Service.
- Click **File > Export > Export to PDF** or **PowerPoint (PPTX)**.
- The export will capture current visuals and filters applied.

16. What does "Live Connection" mean in Power BI Service, and how does it work?

A **Live Connection** allows Power BI reports to query data directly from an external source (like SQL Server Analysis Services or a semantic model in Power BI Service) without importing data.

- Data remains in the source; queries are sent live at runtime.
- Reports always reflect the latest data.

17. Explain Row-Level Security (RLS) and how it's applied in Power BI Online.

Row-Level Security (RLS) restricts data access for users at the row level, based on filters defined in Power BI Desktop.

- Defined via **Manage Roles** in Desktop.
- Published roles are applied in Power BI Service.
- Users see only data permitted by their role assignment.

18. How can you test RLS roles in Power BI Service?

- Go to the dataset's settings in Power BI Service.
- Under **Security**, assign users to roles.
- In the report, use **View As** to simulate the view of a specific role.

19. What are Apps in Power BI and how do you publish one?

A **Power BI App** is a packaged bundle of dashboards, reports, and datasets published from a workspace for distribution to a broader audience.

- Publish via **Power BI Service > Workspace > Publish App**.
- Configure navigation, audience permissions, and publish.

20. What are some key benefits of using the Power BI Online Service in enterprise environments?

- Centralized data management and sharing
- Scalable, cloud-based infrastructure
- Scheduled and incremental data refresh
- Dataflows for reusability
- Row-Level Security for controlled access
- Paginated and interactive reports
- Mobile-optimized reports
- Power BI Apps for structured content distribution
- Integration with Azure, Microsoft 365, Teams