

Full-Stack Interview Questions with Detailed Answers

1. HTML & CSS

Q1: What are semantic tags? Semantic tags are HTML5 elements that carry meaning about the content within them. For example, `<article>`, `<header>`, `<footer>`, `<nav>`, and `<section>` clearly define the role of the content. These tags improve accessibility and SEO, and help developers understand the structure of the webpage more intuitively.

Q2: Difference between `id` and `class`?

- `id`: Uniquely identifies a single element. Cannot be reused on the same page.
- `class`: Used for styling multiple elements with the same style. Can be reused multiple times.

Use `id` when a style or script will apply to only one element. Use `class` when the same styling is applied to multiple elements.

Q3: What is the CSS box model? The box model consists of:

- **Content**: The actual content (text/images)
- **Padding**: Space around content
- **Border**: Surrounds the padding
- **Margin**: Space outside the border

Understanding the box model is key to proper layout and spacing.

Q4: Difference between `relative`, `absolute`, `fixed`, and `sticky`?

- `relative`: Positioned relative to its normal position.
- `absolute`: Positioned relative to the nearest ancestor with `position` other than `static`.
- `fixed`: Stays fixed relative to the browser window (useful for navbars).
- `sticky`: Switches between relative and fixed depending on scroll.

Q5: What are media queries? Media queries allow you to apply styles based on device characteristics (like width, height, resolution).

```
@media (max-width: 768px) {  
  body { font-size: 14px; }  
}
```

Q6: CSS specificity? It determines which style rule gets applied. Specificity hierarchy:

- Inline styles (highest)
- ID selectors

- Class selectors / attributes / pseudo-classes
- Element selectors (lowest)

Q7: Flexbox vs Grid?

- **Flexbox**: One-dimensional layout. Aligns items in rows/columns.
- **Grid**: Two-dimensional layout. Aligns items in rows *and* columns.

Use Flexbox for simpler layouts and Grid for more complex designs.

Q8: Difference between `visibility: hidden` and `display: none`?

- `visibility: hidden`: Hides the element, but it still occupies space in layout.
- `display: none`: Completely removes the element from the layout.

Use Case: Use `visibility: hidden` for temporary toggling when you want the layout preserved.

Q9: Difference between `display: inline`, `display: block`, and `display: inline-block`?

- `display: inline`: Cannot set width/height; sits beside other elements.
- `display: block`: Takes full width; starts on a new line.
- `display: inline-block`: Like inline, but allows setting width/height.

Q10: How to make a layout responsive? Use fluid layouts with percentages or `em/rem`, use media queries, flex/grid layouts, and avoid fixed pixel sizes. Use mobile-first design practices.

2. JavaScript

Q1: What is a closure? A closure is a function that remembers the variables from its outer lexical scope, even after the outer function has returned.

```
function outer() {
  let count = 0;
  return function inner() {
    count++;
    return count;
  };
}
const counter = outer();
console.log(counter()); // 1
```

Q2: Difference between `==` and `===`?

- `==`: Compares values with type coercion.
- `===`: Compares values *and* types.

```
"5" == 5 // true
"5" === 5 // false
```

Q3: What is hoisting? JavaScript moves function and variable declarations to the top of their scope before code execution.

```
console.log(a); // undefined
var a = 5;
```

Q4: What is the event loop? It's a mechanism that lets Node.js and browsers handle non-blocking async operations. It pushes callback functions to the task queue and executes them after the call stack is clear.

Q5: What is lexical scope? Lexical scope means that scope is determined by the position of functions in the source code.

Q6: Difference between `var`, `let`, and `const`?

- `var`: Function-scoped, can be hoisted.
- `let`: Block-scoped, not hoisted like var.
- `const`: Block-scoped, cannot be reassigned.

Q7: What is a promise? A Promise is an object representing the eventual completion or failure of an asynchronous operation.

```
new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
  // async logic
})
```

Q8: Difference between `call`, `apply`, and `bind`?

- `call`: Invokes function with context and arguments.
- `apply`: Same as call but arguments are passed as array.
- `bind`: Returns a new function with context bound.

Q9: Debounce vs Throttle?

- **Debounce**: Executes only after a pause in activity (e.g., search bar).
- **Throttle**: Executes at intervals, no matter how often the event is triggered (e.g., scroll).

Q10: Explain `map`, `filter`, and `reduce`

- `map()`: Transforms each array element.
- `filter()`: Filters elements based on condition.
- `reduce()`: Reduces array to single value.



3. TypeScript

Q1: Type vs Interface?

- Use `interface` for object shapes that you expect to extend.
- Use `type` for union types, primitives, tuples, etc.

Q2: What is `**` vs `**` ?

- `any` : Turns off type checking.
- `unknown` : Requires type checking before usage.

Q3: What is `never`? Used for functions that never return (throw errors, infinite loops).

```
function error(msg: string): never {  
  throw new Error(msg);  
}
```

Q4: What are Generics? Generics allow code to be reusable for any data type.

```
function identity<T>(arg: T): T {  
  return arg;  
}
```

Q5: Utility Types?

- `Partial<T>`
- `Required<T>`
- `Readonly<T>`
- `Pick<T, K>`
- `Omit<T, K>`



4. React

Q1: Functional vs Class Component? Functional components are simpler and use hooks. Class components use lifecycle methods.

Q2: What are Hooks? Functions like `useState`, `useEffect`, `useRef`, `useMemo` that allow you to use React features without classes.

Q3: `useEffect` Usage? Runs after render. Common for API calls.

```
useEffect(() => {
  fetchData();
}, []);
```

Q4: Controlled vs Uncontrolled components?

- **Controlled:** Value controlled via React state.
- **Uncontrolled:** Value managed by DOM.

Q5: What are keys in React? Used to identify list elements uniquely. Helps React optimize re-rendering.

Q6: What is lifting state up? Moving state to a common parent component to share between child components.

Q7: What is Reconciliation? The process by which React updates the DOM. It uses diffing algorithm on virtual DOM.

(### 5. Redux & RTK Query

Q1: What is Redux? Redux is a predictable state management library for JavaScript apps. It stores the state in a single global store and lets components access state via actions and reducers.

Q2: Core concepts of Redux?

- **Store:** Single source of truth
- **Actions:** Plain JS objects with a `type` property
- **Reducers:** Pure functions that update the state
- **Dispatch:** Sends an action to the store

Q3: What is Redux Toolkit? Redux Toolkit (RTK) is the official, opinionated way to write Redux logic. It simplifies store setup and eliminates boilerplate.

```
const slice = createSlice({
  name: 'counter',
  initialState: 0,
  reducers: {
    increment: state => state + 1,
  }
});
```

Q4: What is RTK Query? RTK Query is a powerful data-fetching and caching tool built into Redux Toolkit. It auto-generates endpoints and handles caching, updating, and invalidation.

```
const api = createApi({
  baseQuery: fetchBaseQuery({ baseUrl: '/api' }),
  endpoints: builder => ({
    getUsers: builder.query({ query: () => 'users' })
  })
});
```

Q5: Difference between Redux and Context API?

- **Context API** is good for simple state sharing.
 - **Redux** is better for complex, large-scale applications with predictable state updates and middleware support.
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6. Node.js

Q1: What is Node.js? Node.js is a JavaScript runtime built on Chrome's V8 engine that allows JavaScript to be run server-side.

Q2: Event Loop in Node.js? It handles asynchronous operations using a single-threaded loop with queues (event queue, callback queue).

Q3: What is middleware in Node.js/Express? Middleware functions are functions that have access to the `req`, `res`, and `next` objects and are used for things like authentication, logging, and parsing.

```
app.use((req, res, next) => {
  console.log("Request Received");
  next();
});
```

Q4: What are streams? Streams are objects used to read or write data piece-by-piece. Types: Readable, Writable, Duplex, Transform.

Q5: Common built-in modules in Node.js?

- `fs`: File System
 - `http`: HTTP server
 - `path`: File paths
 - `events`: EventEmitter
-

7. NestJS

Q1: What is NestJS? NestJS is a framework for building scalable and maintainable server-side applications using Node.js and TypeScript. It uses Express (or optionally Fastify) under the hood.

Q2: What is a Module in NestJS? Modules are decorators that group related controllers and providers together.

```
@Module({
  controllers: [UserController],
  providers: [UserService],
})
export class UserModule {}
```

Q3: What are Controllers and Providers?

- **Controllers** handle incoming requests and return responses.
- **Providers** (mostly services) contain the business logic and can be injected using Nest's Dependency Injection.

Q4: DTO and Validation? DTO (Data Transfer Object) is used to define the shape of data. We use `class-validator` with DTOs to enforce validation rules.

```
class CreateUserDto {
  @IsEmail()
  email: string;

  @IsString()
  name: string;
}
```

Q5: What is Dependency Injection in NestJS? It's a design pattern where classes receive their dependencies from an external source. Nest handles this automatically via metadata and decorators.

Q6: Middleware and Guards?

- **Middleware:** Runs before route handlers. Good for logging or modifying request objects.
- **Guards:** Used for authorization checks before route handlers.

Q7: Interceptors and Pipes?

- **Interceptors:** Modify input/output of a request.
- **Pipes:** Used for validation and transformation of incoming data.

✅ This concludes a full-stack interview preparation guide across your tech stack. Let me know if you'd like coding exercises or a mock interview next!)