

Lesson 19 – Publishing and Sharing in Power BI with written, concise explanations for each question.

1. Difference between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Online Service

Desktop: Free Windows application to build models, create reports, and prepare data. Work happens locally.

Service: Cloud platform (app.powerbi.com) for hosting, sharing, refreshing, collaborating, and administering reports and datasets.

2. How to publish from Desktop to Online Service

Click Publish in Power BI Desktop → Sign in with your Power BI account → Choose a workspace in the Service → Report and dataset are uploaded to that workspace.

3. What is a workspace in Power BI? Types of workspaces

Workspace: A container in the Service for reports, datasets, dashboards, and dataflows.

Types:

My Workspace (personal, for individual use).

Shared Workspaces (collaborative, team-based, requires Pro or Premium).

4. Difference between workspace and app

Workspace: Collaboration & development environment where creators build reports/dashboards.

App: Published, read-only package of content from a workspace, designed for distribution to a wider audience.

5. Power BI license types & limitations

Free: Limited to “My Workspace,” can’t share or consume shared content unless in Premium capacity.

Pro: Needed to publish, share, collaborate; required for most sharing scenarios.

Premium Per User (PPU): Pro features + Premium features (AI, larger refresh, paginated reports).

Premium capacity: Org-wide dedicated capacity, allows Free users to view shared content.

6. How to share with someone without a Pro license

Place the report in a Premium capacity workspace. Free users can then consume shared content without needing Pro.

7. What is a semantic model (dataset), and where is it stored?

Dataset: The semantic model created when you publish a report (tables, measures, relationships).

Stored in the Power BI Service workspace. Multiple reports can connect to the same dataset.

8. How does Scheduled Refresh work in the Service?

You configure credentials and frequency in the dataset settings. The Service connects to the original data source (cloud or on-prem via gateway), refreshes data, and updates reports/dashboards automatically.

9. Difference between dataset and dataflow

Dataset: A model (tables, measures, relationships) ready for reporting. Tied to a report when published.

Dataflow: ETL layer built in the Service using Power Query, reusable across multiple datasets and workspaces.

10. When & why use a dataflow instead of a dataset?

Use dataflows when:

You need to centralize transformations for multiple reports.

You want reusable, consistent data prep logic across workspaces.

You want to offload heavy ETL from Desktop to the cloud.

11. What are dashboards? Difference from reports

Dashboard: A single-page canvas in the Service with pinned visuals from one or more reports.

Reports: Multi-page, interactive visuals created in Desktop or Service. Dashboards are higher-level summaries; reports provide detailed exploration.

12. How to pin a visual to a dashboard

In a report (Service), hover over a visual → click the pin icon → choose an existing dashboard or create a new one → visual becomes a tile on the dashboard.

13. What is mobile view and why is it useful?

A layout mode in the Service/Desktop to rearrange visuals for optimal display on phones. Useful for executives and field workers who mainly access content via mobile devices.

14. What is a paginated report and when to use it?

Pixel-perfect, printable reports built in Power BI Report Builder.

Best for invoices, regulatory filings, or detailed tabular reports with thousands of rows.

Available with Premium or PPU.

15. Can you export to PDF/PowerPoint?

Yes. In the Service: Open report → File menu → Export to PDF or PowerPoint. Dashboards can also be exported to PDF.

16. What does “Live Connection” mean in the Service?

When a report connects directly to a dataset, Analysis Services, or Power BI dataset without importing data. Queries are run live, ensuring no data duplication and always up-to-date results.

17. Explain Row-Level Security (RLS)

Restricts data visibility based on user roles. Example: sales managers see only their region's data.

Defined in Desktop → roles with DAX filters → published to Service → roles assigned to users/groups.

18. How to test RLS in Power BI Service

Dataset settings → Security → Add users/groups to roles.

In the Service, use “Test as role” to simulate what data looks like for specific roles.

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

App: Packaged, curated collection of dashboards, reports, and datasets from a workspace.

To publish: In workspace → click Publish App → configure audience & permissions → distribute link or make discoverable.

20. Key benefits of Power BI Online Service in enterprises

Centralized sharing and collaboration.

Scheduled refresh and gateway connectivity.

Security (RLS, tenant governance).

Scalability via Premium capacity.

Integration with Microsoft 365 (Teams, SharePoint).

Access from web and mobile devices.