

SECTION 1: REACT BASICS

1) What is React?

Answer:

React is a **JavaScript library** used to build **user interfaces**, especially **single-page applications (SPAs)**.

It follows a **component-based architecture** and uses a **virtual DOM** for fast updates.

2) Why React is fast?

Answer:

- Uses **Virtual DOM**
- Updates only the **changed part of UI**
- Uses **diffing algorithm**
- Reduces direct DOM manipulation

3) What is SPA (Single Page Application)?

Answer:

SPA loads a single HTML page and dynamically updates content without reloading the page.

React applications are SPAs.

Example:

- Gmail
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

4) What is JSX?

Answer:

JSX is **JavaScript XML**.

It allows writing HTML inside JavaScript.

```
const element = <h1>Hello React</h1>;
```

JSX is converted into JavaScript using **Babel**.

5. Can browser understand JSX directly?

Answer:

No[JSX is converted into JavaScript by **Babel** before execution.]

6. What is Virtual DOM?

Answer:

Virtual DOM is a **lightweight copy of the real DOM**.

Flow:

State Change → Virtual DOM → Compare with previous → Update Real DOM

7. Difference between Virtual DOM and Real DOM?

Real DOM	Virtual DOM
Slow	Fast
Updates entire UI	Updates only changed nodes
Browser dependent	JavaScript object

8. What are Components?

Answer:

Components are **reusable UI blocks**.

Example:

- Header
- Footer
- Navbar
- LoginForm

9. Types of Components?

Answer:

1. Functional Components (Recommended)
2. Class Components (Old)

10. Functional Component Example

```
function Welcome() {  
  return <h1>Welcome to React</h1>;  
}  
export default Welcome;  
Class Component
```

```
import React, { Component } from 'react';  
class Welcome extends Component {  
  constructor(props) {  
    super(props);  
    this.state = {  
      message: 'Hello from a Class Component!'  
    };  
  }  
  changeMessage = () => {  
    this.setState({ message: 'You clicked the  
button!'});  
  };  
}
```

```

render() {
  return (
    <div>
      <h1>{this.state.message}</h1>
      <p>Welcome, {this.props.name}!</p>
      <button onClick={this.changeMessage}>Click
Me</button>
    </div>
  );
}

export default Welcome;

```

SECTION 2: PROPS & STATE (MOST IMPORTANT)

11. What are Props?

Answer:

Props are **read-only data** passed from parent to child.

```

function Child(props) {
  return <h2>{props.name}</h2>;
}

```

12. Are props mutable?

Answer: No

Props are **immutable**.

13. What is State?

Answer: State is a **local, mutable data** managed inside a component.

14. Difference between Props and State?

Props	State
Passed from parent	Managed within component
Read-only	Mutable
Used for communication	Used for UI changes

15. useState Hook

```
const [count, setCount] = useState(0);
```

useState is a **React Hook** that lets you add **state variables** to functional components.

16. Why hooks were introduced?

Answer:

- To use state in functional components
- To avoid complex class lifecycle methods
- To reuse logic easily

SECTION 3: EVENTS & CONDITIONAL RENDERING

17. Handling Events in React

```
<button onClick={handleClick}>Click</button>
```

18. Conditional Rendering Example

Answer: showing different UI elements depending on certain conditions,

IF condition

```

function Greeting({ isLoggedIn }) {
  if (isLoggedIn) {
    return <h1>Welcome back!</h1>;
  }
  return <h1>Please log in.</h1>;
}

```

Using Ternary Operator

```

function Greeting({ isLoggedIn }) {
  return (
    <div>
      {isLoggedIn ? <h1>Welcome back!</h1> :
      <h1>Please log in.</h1>}
    </div>
  );
}

```

19. Why arrow functions used in React?

Answer:

- Automatically binds this
- Cleaner syntax

SECTION 4: LISTS, KEYS & FORMS

20. Rendering List in React

```
items.map(item => <li  
key={item.id}>{item.name}</li>)
```

21. Why key is important?

Answer:

Keys help React identify elements uniquely and improve performance.

22. Controlled vs Uncontrolled Components

Controlled	Uncontrolled
State managed by React DOM manages state	
Preferred	Less control

23. Controlled Input Example

```
<input value={name} onChange={e =>  
setName(e.target.value)} />
```

SECTION 5: HOOKS (VERY IMPORTANT)

24. What is useEffect?

Answer:

Used to handle **side effects** like:

- API calls
 - subscriptions
 - DOM updates
-

25. useEffect Syntax

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

26. useEffect dependency array

- [] → runs once
 - [value] → runs when value changes
-

- no array → runs every render

27. useEffect vs useState

useState	useEffect
Stores data	Performs side effects
Triggers re-render	Executes logic

SECTION 6: API INTEGRATION (REAL PROJECT QUESTIONS)

28. How do you call REST API in React?

Answer: Using:

- fetch()
 - axios
-

29. Axios Example

```
axios.get("/api/users")  
.then(res => setUsers(res.data))
```

30. Where should API calls be made?

Answer:

Inside useEffect() to avoid infinite loops.

31. How React connects with Spring Boot?

Answer:

- React → Frontend
 - Spring Boot → Backend REST APIs
 - Communicate via HTTP (JSON)
-

section> SECTION 7: ROUTING (IMPORTANT)

32. What is React Router?

Answer:

Library used for **navigation** in React SPA.

33. Route Example

```
<Route path="/login" element={<Login />} />
```

34. useParams Hook

Used to read URL parameters.

SECTION 8: ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE QUESTIONS

35. What is Lifting State Up?

Answer:

Moving shared state to the nearest common parent.

36. What is Context API?

Answer:

Used to avoid **prop drilling**.

37. Prop Drilling?

Answer:

Passing props through multiple components unnecessarily.

38. Controlled API error handling

```
try {  
  const res = await axios.get(url);  
} catch(error) {  
  console.log(error);  
}
```

39. Difference between useEffect and componentDidMount?

Answer:

useEffect replaces all lifecycle methods in functional components.

40. React vs Angular?

React	Angular
Library	Framework
Virtual DOM	Real DOM

Easy learning Steep learning

REACT CODING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

(Basic → Advanced → Tricky → Real Interview Style)

LEVEL 1: BASIC CODING QUESTIONS (Warm-up)

1 Create a simple counter

?

Question:
Create a counter with increment and decrement buttons.

?

Code:

```
function Counter() {  
  const [count, setCount] = React.useState(0);  
  
  return (  
    <>  
    <h2>{count}</h2>  
    <button onClick={() => setCount(count + 1)}>+</button>  
    <button onClick={() => setCount(count - 1)}>-</button>  
    </>  
  );  
}
```

?

Checks: useState, re-render behavior

2 Toggle text on button click

?

Show/Hide text on button click.

```
const Toggle = () => {  
  const [show, setShow] = React.useState(true);  
  
  return (  
    <>  
    <button onClick={() =>  
      setShow(!show)}>Toggle</button>  
    {show && <p>Hello React</p>}  
    </>  
  );  
};
```

?

Conditional rendering

3 Controlled input field

?

Store input value in state and display it.

```
function InputBox() {  
  const [text, setText] = React.useState("");
```

```
return (
  <>
  <input onChange={e => setText(e.target.value)}>
/>
  <p>{text}</p>
</>
);
}
```

Controlled component

Render list with keys

 Render list of users.

```
const users = ["A", "B", "C"];
```

```
users.map((u, index) => (
```

```
  <li key={index}>{u}</li>
));
```

Keys and rendering lists

LEVEL 2: INTERMEDIATE CODING QUESTIONS

Fetch API data using useEffect

 Fetch and display users from API.

```
useEffect(() => {
```

```
  fetch("https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users")
    .then(res => res.json())
    .then(data => setUsers(data));
}, []);
```

Side effects, dependency array

Prevent infinite API calls

 Why this is wrong?

```
useEffect(() => {
  fetchData();
});
```

Correct

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

Dependency understanding

Parent to child data flow

 Pass name from parent to child.

```
function Parent() {
  return <Child name="React" />;
}
```

```
function Child({ name }) {
```

```
  return <h1>{name}</h1>;
}
```

Props

Child to parent communication

 Update parent state from child.

```
function Parent() {
  const [count, setCount] = useState(0);
  return <Child update={setCount} />;
}
```

```
function Child({ update }) {
```

```
  return <button onClick={() => update(c => c +
1)}>+</button>;
}
```

Callback props

Form submit handling

 Prevent page reload.

```
const handleSubmit = (e) => {
  e.preventDefault();
  console.log("Submitted");
};
```

Event handling

Conditional rendering using role

```
{role === "admin" && <AdminPanel />}
```

Logical rendering

LEVEL 3: ADVANCED CODING QUESTIONS

Search filter in React

❓ Filter list based on input.

```
const filtered = users.filter(u =>
  u.toLowerCase().includes(search.toLowerCase()))
);
```

🧠 State + derived data

1 2 Debounce input

❓ Delay API call.

```
useEffect(() => {
  const timer = setTimeout(() => fetchData(search),
  500);
  return () => clearTimeout(timer);
}, [search]);
```

🧠 Cleanup, performance

1 3 Custom Hook

❓ Create useFetch.

```
function useFetch(url) {
  const [data, setData] = useState(null);

  useEffect(() => {
    fetch(url).then(res => res.json()).then(setData);
  }, [url]);
```

return data;

}

🧠 Reusability

1 4 useRef example

❓ Focus input on button click.

```
const inputRef = useRef();
```

```
<button onClick={() => inputRef.current.focus()}>
```

🧠 DOM access

1 5 Memoization using React.memo

```
const Child = React.memo(({ value }) => {
  console.log("Rendered");
  return <h3>{value}</h3>;
});
```

🧠 Performance optimization

LEVEL 4: TRICKY REACT QUESTIONS (VERY IMPORTANT)

1 6 Why this count not increment twice?

```
setCount(count + 1);
setCount(count + 1);
```

✓ Correct

```
setCount(prev => prev + 1);
setCount(prev => prev + 1);
```

🧠 State batching

1 7 Why useEffect runs twice in development?

✓ Because of React StrictMode

🧠 React internals

1 8 Fix stale state bug

```
setTimeout(() => {
  setCount(count + 1);
}, 1000);
✓
setCount(prev => prev + 1);
```

🧠 Closures

1 9 Infinite re-render bug

❓ What's wrong?

```
setCount(count + 1);
Inside component body.
```

🧠 Render cycle understanding

2 0 Why hooks must not be conditional?

```
if (x) useState();
```

✗ Breaks hook order

LEVEL 5: REAL INTERVIEW SCENARIOS (PROJECT STYLE)

2 1 Protected Route

```
return isAuthenticated ? <Outlet /> : <Navigate to="/login" />;
```

Routing logic

2 2 Role-based UI

```
{user.role === "ADMIN" && <Admin />}
```

Authorization

2 3 Optimizing large list rendering

✓ Pagination

✓ Lazy loading

✓ Proper keys

2 4 React + Spring Boot API handling

❓ How do you handle CORS?

✓ Enable CORS in backend

✓ Proxy in React

2 5 Error Boundary (Concept + Code)

```
class ErrorBoundary extends React.Component {  
  componentDidCatch(error) {  
    console.log(error);  
  }  
}
```

Error handling

1 Is setState / setCount synchronous?

✗ No, it is asynchronous

✓ Explanation:

React batches multiple state updates to improve performance.

So state updates don't happen immediately.

✗ Wrong assumption

```
setCount(count + 1);  
console.log(count); // old value
```

✓ Correct way

```
setCount(prev => prev + 1);
```

Interview line:

React batches state updates, so setState is asynchronous.

2 Can we use state without re-render?

✗ No

Explanation:

State exists only to trigger re-renders.

Whenever state changes → component re-renders.

If you want NO re-render?

✓ Use useRef

```
const countRef = useRef(0);  
countRef.current++;
```

Interview line:

State always causes re-render; refs don't.

3 Does React re-render child if parent re-renders?

✓ Yes (by default)

✗ Example

```
function Parent() {  
  return <Child />;  
}
```

Parent re-render ⇒ Child re-render

✓ How to stop it?

```
const Child = React.memo(() => {  
  return <h1>Child</h1>;  
});
```

Interview line:

React re-renders children when parent re-renders unless memoized.

4 Why key should NOT be index?

✗ Index keys cause UI bugs

✗ Problem

```
items.map((item, index) => (  
  <li key={index}>{item}</li>  
));
```

If list order changes → React confuses elements

✓ Correct

```
<li key={item.id}>{item.name}</li>
```

Interview line:

Index keys break reconciliation when list changes dynamically.

5 Difference between useEffect & useLayoutEffect

useEffect **useLayoutEffect**

Runs after paint Runs before paint

Async Sync

No UI blocking Blocks rendering

Used for API calls Used for DOM measurements

Example:

```
useLayoutEffect(() => {  
  divRef.current.style.color = "red";  
});
```

Interview line:

useLayoutEffect runs before browser paint and can block UI.

6 Can we call hooks inside loops or conditions?

No

Wrong

```
if (x) {  
  useState();  
}
```

Reason:

Hooks depend on call order.

Conditional usage breaks order → runtime error.

Interview line:

Hooks must be called at the top level to maintain consistent order.

7 Why state updates are asynchronous?

Explanation:

- Improves performance
- Prevents unnecessary re-renders
- Enables batching

Example:

```
setCount(count + 1);
```

```
setCount(count + 1);
```

Result → +1 only

Correct

```
setCount(prev => prev + 1);
```

```
setCount(prev => prev + 1);
```

Interview line:

React batches updates, making state updates asynchronous.

8 Can we stop re-render?

Yes

Methods:

1. React.memo
2. useCallback
3. useMemo

Example:

```
const Child = React.memo(ChildComponent);
```

Interview line:

Re-renders can be prevented using memoization techniques.

9 Difference between useRef & useState

useState **useRef**

Causes re-render No re-render

For UI updates For storing values

Async Sync

Example:

```
const ref = useRef(0);  
ref.current++;
```

Interview line:

Refs persist values without triggering re-render.

10 Context API vs Redux (VERY IMPORTANT)

Context API

Small apps

Auth, theme

Avoid prop drilling

```
<UserContext.Provider value={user}>
```

Redux

Large apps

Complex global state

Debugging & middleware

Interview line:

Context for simple global state, Redux for large scalable apps.

🔥 ONE-LINE ANSWERS (INTERVIEW GOLD)

Question One-line Answer

Is setState sync? No, it's async

State without render? No

Child re-render? Yes

Index as key? Causes bugs

useEffect vs layout? After vs before paint

Hooks in loops? No

Why async state? Batching

Stop render? memo

Ref vs state? No render

Context vs Redux? Small vs large

PART 1: REACT OUTPUT PREDICTION QUESTIONS

(*Most common trick round in interviews*)

Q 1 What is the output?

```
function App() {  
  const [count, setCount] = React.useState(0);
```

```
  return (  
    <button onClick={() => {  
      setCount(count + 1);  
      setCount(count + 1);  
    }}>  
      {count}  
    </button>  
  );  
}
```

Output after one click:

1

 Why?

React batches state updates → both use old count.

Q 2 What is printed?

```
console.log("A");
```

```
useEffect(() => {  
  console.log("B");  
}, []);
```

```
console.log("C");
```

Output:

A

C

B

 Why?

useEffect runs after render.

Q 3 What is the output?

```
function App() {
```

```
  const [count, setCount] = React.useState(0);
```

```
  React.useEffect(() => {  
    setCount(count + 1);  
  }, []);
```

```
  return <h1>{count}</h1>;  
}
```

Output:

1

 Why?

Effect runs once after first render.

Q 4 StrictMode question

```
useEffect(() => {  
  console.log("Hello");  
}, []);
```

Output in development:

Hello

Hello

 Why?

React StrictMode intentionally runs effects twice.

Q 5 Closure trap

```
useEffect(() => {  
  setTimeout(() => {  
    console.log(count);  
  }, 1000);  
}, []);
```

Output:

0



Closure captures initial state.

PART 2: MACHINE CODING ROUND (2-HOUR TASK)

TASK 1: CRUD App (VERY COMMON)

Requirements:

✓ Fetch users from API

✓ Add new user

✓ Delete user

✓ Search user

✓ Loading & error handling

Core Logic (Interview-level)

```
const [users, setUsers] = useState([]);
```

```
const [search, setSearch] = useState("");
```

```
const filteredUsers = users.filter(u =>
```

```
  u.name.toLowerCase().includes(search.toLowerCase())
);
```

What interviewer checks:

✓ State management

✓ useEffect usage

✓ Controlled forms

✓ Performance

TASK 2: Pagination

```
const currentUsers = users.slice(start, end);
```

Checks understanding of derived state.

TASK 3: Debounced Search

```
useEffect(() => {
  const timer = setTimeout(() => searchAPI(query),
  500);
  return () => clearTimeout(timer);
}, [query]);
```

Checks cleanup & optimization.

✓ Login page

✓ Protected route

✓ Logout

```
return isAuthenticated ? <Dashboard /> : <Login />;
```

PART 3: REACT DEBUGGING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Bug 1 Infinite loop

```
useEffect(() => {
  setCount(count + 1);
}, [count]);
```

✗ Problem:
Infinite re-render

✓ Fix:
useEffect(() => {
 setCount(prev => prev + 1);
}, []);

Bug 2 Input not typing

```
<input value={name} />
```

✗ Missing:
onChange={e => setName(e.target.value)}

Bug 3 List not updating after delete

✗ Mutating state directly
users.splice(index, 1);

✓ Correct
setUsers(users.filter(u => u.id !== id));

Bug 4 Child re-render issue

✗ No memoization

✓ Fix
const Child = React.memo(Child);

Bug 5 API called multiple times

✗ Missing dependency array
useEffect(() => fetchData());

TASK 4: Authentication UI