

25 commonly asked DAX (Data Analysis Expressions) Interview Questions Power BI

With concise answers

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Basic Level

1. What is DAX?

- DAX (Data Analysis Expressions) is a formula language used in Power BI, Power Pivot, and Analysis Services to create calculated columns, measures, and custom tables.

2. What are the key data types supported in DAX?

- Numeric, Boolean, Text, DateTime, and Blank.

3. What is the difference between a calculated column and a measure?

- Calculated Column: Computed row-by-row and stored in the data model.
- Measure: Computed at query time, optimized for performance, and used in visualizations.

4. What is a measure in DAX?

- A dynamic calculation performed on aggregations, defined using DAX.

7. What is the syntax of a DAX function?

- FunctionName(arguments) Example:
SUM(Sales[Amount])

8. What is the difference between SUM and SUMX?

- SUM: Aggregates a column.
- SUMX: Iterates row by row over a table and evaluates an expression.

9. What is a row context in DAX?

- A row-by-row evaluation used for calculated columns and iterators like SUMX.

10. What is a filter context in DAX?

- Filters applied to data before performing calculations in measures or visualizations.

11. Explain the difference between ALL and ALLEXCEPT.

- ALL: Removes all filters on a table or column.
- ALLEXCEPT: Removes all filters except the specified columns.

12. What is the purpose of the RELATED function?

- Fetches a value from a related table using an established relationship.

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Intermediate Level

11. What is the difference between CALCULATE and CALCULATETABLE?

- CALCULATE: Modifies filter context for an expression.
- CALCULATETABLE: Returns a filtered table based on an expression.

12. What is the purpose of the FILTER function?

- Returns a table that meets the specified condition(s).

13. How does the EARLIER function work?

- Refers to the previous row context in nested row-based operations.

14. What is the use of the DISTINCT function?

- Returns a unique list of values from a column or table.

15. How do you calculate a running total in DAX?

- Using CALCULATE and FILTER:

RunningTotal = CALCULATE(SUM(Sales[Amount]),
FILTER(ALL(Sales), Sales[Date] <= MAX(Sales[Date])))

16. What is the use of the DIVIDE function?

- Safely performs division and handles division by zero.

17. What is the difference between VALUES and DISTINCT?

- VALUES: Returns a one-column table with unique values, respects filters.
- DISTINCT: Ignores filters and returns unique values.

18. How does the RANKX function work?

- Ranks values in a column or table based on an expression and order.

19. What is the purpose of the USERELATIONSHIP function?

- Activates an inactive relationship in a calculation.

20. How do you handle many-to-many relationships in DAX?

- Using a bridge table and functions like CROSSFILTER or relationship configuration.

Advanced Level

21. What is the difference between NATURALINNERJOIN and NATURALLEFTOUTERJOIN?

- NATURALINNERJOIN: Returns the intersection of two tables.
- NATURALLEFTOUTERJOIN: Returns all rows from the left table and matching rows from the right.

22. How does the SAMEPERIODLASTYEAR function work?

- Returns a table of the same period (e.g., day, month) from the previous year.

23. What is the use of TREATAS in DAX?

- Forces a table to behave like a column in a relationship.

24. What is the function of GENERATE in DAX?

- Combines two tables using a Cartesian product and applies transformations.

25. How can you optimize DAX calculations for performance?

- Tips:
 - Use measures over calculated columns.
 - Reduce the use of FILTER and EARLIER.
 - Avoid complex nested iterators.
 - Leverage relationships and efficient filtering with ALLEXCEPT.

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