<http://java-questions.com/Threads-interview-questions.html>

**Process:**

An executing instance of a program is called a process.

Some operating systems use the term ‘task‘ to refer to a program that is being executed.

A process is always stored in the main memory also termed as the primary memory or random access memory.

Therefore, a process is termed as an active entity. It disappears if the machine is rebooted.

Several process may be associated with a same program.

On a multiprocessor system, multiple processes can be executed in parallel.

On a uni-processor system, though true parallelism is not achieved, a process scheduling algorithm is applied and the processor is scheduled to execute each process one at a time yielding an illusion of concurrency.

Example: Executing multiple instances of the ‘Calculator’ program. Each of the instances are termed as a process.

**Thread:**

A thread is a subset of the process.

It is termed as a ‘lightweight process’, since it is similar to a real process but executes within the context of a process and shares the same resources allotted to the process by the kernel.

Usually, a process has only one thread of control – one set of machine instructions executing at a time.

A process may also be made up of multiple threads of execution that execute instructions concurrently.

Multiple threads of control can exploit the true parallelism possible on multiprocessor systems.