

# Core PHP Interview Notes (For Laravel Devs)

## 1. PHP Basics

- Data Types, Type Casting, Operators
- `isset()`, `empty()`, `unset()`, `die()`, `exit()`
- Superglobals: `$_GET`, `$_POST`, `$_FILES`, `$_SESSION`, `$_COOKIE`
- `==` vs `===`, `echo` vs `print`, `include` vs `require`

## 2. Sessions & Authentication

- `session_start()`, `$_SESSION`, `session_destroy()`
- Difference between sessions and cookies
- Login system using core PHP vs Laravel Auth

## 3. Form Handling & Validation

- GET vs POST method
- Form field validation using PHP (empty, email format, length)
- CSRF token concept (used in Laravel)
- File upload using `$_FILES` and `move_uploaded_file()`

## 4. File Handling in PHP

- `fopen()`, `fwrite()`, `fread()`, `fclose()`, `file_get_contents()`
- Upload directory security

## 5. OOP in PHP

- Class, Object, Constructor, Destructor
- Access modifiers: `public`, `private`, `protected`

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- Inheritance, Interfaces, Traits, Static methods
- Magic methods: \_\_construct, \_\_get, \_\_set, \_\_toString

## 6. Security Essentials

- SQL Injection: Use of mysqli\_real\_escape\_string() and Prepared Statements
- XSS Protection: htmlspecialchars()
- Password security: password\_hash(), password\_verify()

## 7. AJAX + JSON

- Using XMLHttpRequest or fetch() to load data
- PHP file returns JSON using json\_encode()
- Frontend updates data without reloading

## 8. Laravel vs Core PHP

- Laravel is a framework built on top of PHP (uses MVC)
- Laravel handles routing, sessions, validation, CSRF, Auth easily
- Core PHP gives full control and is good for learning fundamentals
- Interviewers expect Laravel devs to know core PHP concepts too