

# **IBM COBOL400 Interview Questions And Answers Guide.**



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## IBM COBOL400 Job Interview Preparation Guide.

### Question # 1

What is the difference between section, paragraph and sentences?

#### Answer:-

Section is group of Paragraphs.  
Paragraph is group of executable statements.  
Sentence is statement(executable statements).

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### Question # 2

How array can be declare in cobol?

#### Answer:-

Array can be declared in cobol using the OCCURS clause.  
Syntax is,  
For one dimensional array,  
01 Arrays.  
    05 Var1 PIC X(10) Occurs 10 times.  
For two dimensional array,  
01 Arrays.  
    03 AAA Occurs 10 times  
        05 BBB Occurs 10 times  
            07 Value PIC 9(3).

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### Question # 3

What is the difference between comp & comp-3?

#### Answer:-

Comp : Store the data in Binary formate, it will take less space compare to Comp-3.  
Comp-3 : Store the data in Pack decimal, it will take more space compare to Comp.  
Example :

S9(18)  
Comp : takes 4 bytes  
Comp-3: takes 10 bytes

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### Question # 4

What is comp?

#### Answer:-

"COMP" in Cobol = Binary storage format(if -ve bit is ON, if +ve bit is OFF)  
COMP-1 = Single precision floating point. Uses 4 bytes.  
COMP-2 = Double precision floating point. Uses 8 bytes.  
COMP-3 = packed decimal format. Uses 4 bytes.  
Example 01 WS-VAR USAGE COMP-1.

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### Question # 5

What is PERFORM? and its types?



### Answer:-

to execute set of statement elsewhere in the program.

types :

perform para-name.

perform para1 until condition.

perform para1 n times.

perform para1 thru para4 until condition.

inline perform.

perform varying i from 1 by 1 until condition.

perform para1 with test before/after until condition.

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### Question # 6

What is the difference between SEARCH and SEARCHALL?

### Answer:-

Search verb searches an item in a sequential manner. But Search All searches an item by using Binary search, so it is more efficient and faster than its counter part. One thing required in Search All verb is the array must be sorted.

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### Question # 7

WHAT ALL THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR USING OPEN OP CODE ON A FILE?

### Answer:-

There are some conditions,

1. File should be declare in FILE-CONTROL, FILE SECTION.

2. file should be closed before opening it other wise it will gives error.

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### Question # 8

Can we open close file in COBOL any number of times?

### Answer:-

yes, we can open closed file in COBOL any no. of time but the condition is the file is not closed with "WITH LOCK" clause otherwise you can't open.

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### Question # 9

What are Fillers?

What is the actual use of Fillers? With small/simple Example?

### Answer:-

When a programmer is not intended to use any fields in a record structure, it can be defined as Filler.

This can't be initialized or used in any operation of the procedure division.

Eg: if a record contains the following fields

05 EMP-REC.

10 EMP-KEY PIC XXX.

10 EMP-NAME PIC X(32).

10 EMP-SEX PIC X.

10 EMP-DEPT PIC X(10)

10 EMP-DESIG PIC X(5).

10 EMP-SAL PIC 9(7).

If the programmer is not intended to use , name ,dept and sal in the program then u can define the structure as follows

05 EMP-REC.

10 EMP-KEY PIC XXX.

10 FILLER PIC X(32).

10 EMP-SEX PIC X.

10 FILLER PIC X(10)

10 EMP-DESIG PIC X(5).

10 FILLER PIC 9(7).

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### Question # 10

What is the cobol compiler?

### Answer:-

The cobol compiler is IGYCRCTL

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### Question # 11



How to detect record is locked in Cobol/400?  
Wat is the solution for that?

**Answer:-**

Check the file status, if the file status is 9D then it indicates that the record is locked. Solution should be READ the file with NO LOCK.

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**Question # 12**

How to Convert 2010/02/11 to m/dd/yyyy.. with string and without string if any other method... code?

**Answer:-**

The above issue can be resolved by using REDEFINES clause.

```
01 DATE-FIELD
  05 DATE-YYYY      PIC 9(04).
  05 DATE-MM        PIC 9(02).
  05 DATE-DD        PIC 9(02).
01 DATE-CONT REDEFINES DATE-FIELD
  05 DATE-MM-CONT   PIC 9(02).
  05 DATE-DD-CONT   PIC 9(02).
  05 DATE-YYYY-CONT PIC 9(04).
```

I guess the above declaration will resolve it. I have not tested it.

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**Question # 13**

Code how to read 5th element of the array?

**Answer:-**

In COBOL we can directly access the particular index of the array using subscript.

```
Eg: Arrayname(5)
or
Move 5 to indx
Arrayname(indx).
```

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**Question # 14**

How to update data area in cobol 400 program?

**Answer:-**

Either DISPLAY keywords in COBOL-400 we can update the data area.

For example

```
MOVE 'bbbb' TO GP-FILLER.
```

```
DISPLAY GP-FILLER UPON OTHER-DATA-AREA
FOR "SKDTAARA" LIBRARY "QGPL".
```

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**Question # 15**

When search all is used in cobol program without sorted input data?

**Answer:-**

SEARCH ALL is a binary search. So, the data needs to be in sorted order and the array used for search all operation should have index by.

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**Question # 16**

How can i change the below code in SQL to cobol/400?

```
EXEC SQL SELECT COUNT(*) INTO : WS-COUNT FROM Db file
WHERE Field 1 = : WS-VAR AND
Field 2 = : WS-USERID
END-EXEC
```

**Answer:-**

Declare below three variables in working storage section.

```
77 WS-COUNT      PIC 99.  VALUE ZEROS.
77 WS-VAR        PIC X(10) VALUE "WELCOME".
77 WS-USERID     PIC X(5)  VALUE "AAAAA".
```

Decalre one indicator for end of file.

```
04 EOF-DB-FILE   PIC X   VALUE "N".
88 EOF-DB-FILE   VALUE "Y".
```

Read each record from input file(Db file) and increase count if the conditions are satisfied.

PROCEDURE DIVISION.

OPEN INPUT DB-FILE.



```
READ Db-file
  AT END MOVE "Y" TO EOF-DB-FILE
  GO TO 1000-EXIT.
IF FIELD1 = WS-VAR AND FIELD2 = WS-USERID
  ADD 1 TO WS-COUNT
END-IF
GO TO 1000-EXIT.
DISPLAY WS-COUNT
CLOSE DB-FILE.
STOP RUN.
```

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### Question # 17

What is redefine and its syntax?

#### Answer:-

REDEFINE is a Cobol Verb.  
It is similar to RENAME Verb.  
It uses the same WORKING-STORAGE memory of a data name  
With another data name programmer want instead.  
Syntax.  
WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.  
01 WS-NAME PIC x(15).  
01 WS-AGE PIC 99.  
05 NAME REDIFINES WS-NAME.

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### Question # 18

What is INPUT PROCEDURE and OUTPUT PROCEDURE?

#### Answer:-

```
SORT WORKFILE ASCENDING KEY EMP-NO
INPUT PROCEDURE PARA-1
OUTPUT PROCEDURE PARA-2.
SO INPUT PROCEDURE(RELEASE THE RECORDS FOR SORTING)
OUTPUT PROCEDURE(RETURN THE SORTED RECORDS).
```

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### Question # 19

Define sort? and its syntax?

#### Answer:-

Here the sort is considered as an internal sort that is we want to manipulate the data before feeding it to sort. Else in rest of the cases we use external sort.  
The syntax is :  
SORT SORTFILE ON ASCENDING/DESCENDING KEY  
USING FILE1,FILE2/ INPUT PROCEDURE PARA-1  
GIVING FILE3/ OUTPUT PROCEDURE PARA-2

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