
PART 5: TEST STRUCTURE & CONFIGURATION

Test Architecture

Interview Prep Series
Questions 41 to 50

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What is playwright.config.ts used for?

It is the central brain of your project. It defines global timeouts, browser projects (Chrome, Firefox, Webkit), reporter settings, and base URLs.

```
export default defineConfig({
  timeout: 30000,
  use: { baseURL: 'https://site.com' }
});
```

What are retries in Playwright?

Retries allow Playwright to automatically re-run a failed test. This is essential for handling "flaky" tests that might fail due to network glitches but pass on the second try.

```
In config //
retries: process.env.CI ? 2 : 0
```

Q43: TIMEOUTS

How do you set timeout for a test?

You can set timeouts globally in the config, or override them for a specific test file or block.

```
test('slow test', async ({ page }) => {  
  test.setTimeout(60000);  
  // ...  
});
```

Q44: SETUP & TEARDOWN

What is global setup & teardown?

Global Setup runs once before any tests start (e.g., logging in once). Global Teardown runs once after all tests finish (e.g., clearing a DB).

```
globalSetup: './global-setup',  
globalTeardown: './global-teardown'
```

Q45: PARALLEL EXECUTION

How to run tests in parallel?

By default, Playwright runs files in parallel. You can use `fullyParallel: true` to run tests inside the same file in parallel too.

```
export default defineConfig({
  fullyParallel: true,
  workers: 4
});
```

Q46: SKIPPING TESTS

How to skip tests?

Use `test.skip()` to ignore a test. You can also skip based on conditions (e.g., skip on Firefox).

```
test.skip('not ready', async () => { ... });

test.skip(browserName === 'firefox', 'Broken on FF');
```


Q47: TAGGING

How to tag tests?

Add tags to test titles (e.g., @smoke). You can then run only those tests using the `--grep` command.

```
test('login @smoke', async () => { ... });  
  
CLI: npx playwright test --grep @smoke
```

Q48: EXECUTION CONTROL

How to run a single test file?

Provide the path to the file in the terminal. You can also use `-g` to target a specific test name.

```
npx playwright test login.spec.ts
```

What is expect.soft()?

Standard assertions stop the test. Soft assertions log the failure but allow the rest of the test code to keep running.

```
await expect.soft(page).toHaveTitle('Home');  
await page.click('#next'); // Still runs even if title fails
```

What is beforeAll and afterAll?

These hooks run once per file. `beforeAll` runs before any test in the file, and `afterAll` runs after all tests finish.

```
test.beforeAll(async () => {  
  console.log('Starting File Suite ... ');  
});
```