

Qt/C++ Object Lifetime Management Exam

Instructions

This exam tests your understanding of Qt's parent-child object lifetime management model. Answer all questions. Code should be written in modern C++ (C++11 or newer) using Qt 5/6 conventions.

1 Theoretical Understanding (20 points)

1. Explain Qt's parent-child ownership model and how it manages object lifetimes. Contrast it with RAI and smart pointers. (5 points)
2. Describe what happens in these scenarios when a QObject parent is deleted:
 - (a) A child has Qt::DirectConnection to the parent's signal
 - (b) A child has Qt::QueuedConnection to the parent's signal
 - (c) A child stores a pointer to its parent(5 points)
3. Explain the difference between QObject::deleteLater() and immediate deletion. When would you use each? (5 points)
4. How does Qt handle object trees with multiple inheritance from QObject? What are the limitations? (5 points)

2 Implementation (30 points)

1. Implement a QWidget-derived class that:

- Manages a collection of child QWidgets
- Properly cleans them up when destroyed
- Provides methods to safely add/remove children
- Handles cases where children might be deleted externally

(10 points)

```
1 // Your implementation here
```

2. Create a QObject-derived class that maintains a bidirectional parent-child relationship without creating memory leaks. Include:

- Parent-to-child (strong ownership)
- Child-to-parent (weak reference)
- Proper cleanup in all destruction scenarios

(10 points)

```
1 // Your implementation here
```

3. Implement a scene graph system where:

- Each Node is a QObject
- Nodes can have child Nodes
- The root Node manages all children's lifetimes
- Provides a method to reparent subtrees

(10 points)

```
1 // Your implementation here
```

3 Problem Solving (30 points)

1. Analyze this code and identify all object lifetime issues:

```
1 class ResourceManager : public QObject {
2 public:
3     QList<QWidget*> resources;
4
5     void addResource(QWidget* res) {
6         resources.append(res);
7     }
8
9     ~ResourceManager() {
10         qDeleteAll(resources);
11     }
12 };
```

How would you fix them? (10 points)

2. Design a system where some QObjects need to outlive their parents. How would you implement this while maintaining clean memory management? Include:

- A mechanism for ownership transfer
- Safety considerations
- Thread-safety aspects

(10 points)

3. Explain how you would handle object lifetime management in a plugin system where:

- Plugins are loaded/unloaded dynamically
- Each plugin creates QObjects
- Some objects need to persist after plugin unload
- The host application manages core objects

(10 points)

4 Advanced Concepts (20 points)

1. Explain how Qt's parent-child model interacts with:

- The event loop
- Cross-thread object usage
- QML engine ownership

(10 points)

2. Design a system that combines Qt's parent-child model with shared ownership (QSharedPointer) for specific objects. Describe:

- When you would use each approach
- How to safely convert between them
- Memory management at system boundaries

(10 points)

Bonus Question (10 extra points)

Implement a QObject-derived class that acts as a scoped guard for child objects, automatically reparenting them when the guard goes out of scope. Demonstrate usage in both stack and heap scenarios.

1 `// Your implementation here`