

Power BI Interview Preparation Checklist

Fundamentals

- ☐ Understand what Power BI is and its components (Desktop, Service, Mobile)
- ☐ Explain the difference between Power BI Pro and Premium
- ☐ Define basic terminology (reports, dashboards, datasets, workspaces)
- ☐ Describe the Power BI development lifecycle

Data Connection & Preparation

- ☐ Connect to various data sources (SQL, Excel, CSV, Web)
- ☐ Understand connection types (Import, DirectQuery, Live Connection)
- ☐ Clean and transform data using Power Query Editor
- ☐ Merge and append queries
- ☐ Create calculated columns in Power Query
- ☐ Handle errors and null values

Data Modeling

- ☐ Design star/snowflake schema models
- ☐ Create relationships between tables (one-to-many, many-to-many)
- ☐ Understand active vs inactive relationships
- ☐ Set up role-playing dimensions
- ☐ Implement slowly changing dimensions
- ☐ Create calculated columns and measures using DAX

DAX (Data Analysis Expressions)

- ☐ Understand context transition and filter context
- ☐ Use basic functions (SUM, AVERAGE, COUNT, DISTINCTCOUNT)
- ☐ Apply time intelligence functions (SAMEPERIODLASTYEAR, DATEADD)
- ☐ Use iterator functions (SUMX, AVERAGEX)
- ☐ Implement conditional calculations (IF, SWITCH)
- ☐ Create calculated tables
- ☐ Understand and use variables in DAX

Visualization Techniques

- ☐ Create and customize various visualizations
- ☐ Implement sorting, filtering, and highlighting
- ☐ Create drill-down and drill-through reports
- ☐ Design responsive reports
- ☐ Use bookmarks and selection panes
- ☐ Add conditional formatting
- ☐ Understand and use small multiples

Advanced Analytics

- ☐ Implement hierarchies and grouping
- ☐ Use AI visuals (Key Influencers, Decomposition Tree)
- ☐ Configure Q&A features
- ☐ Apply statistical functions
- ☐ Implement what-if parameters
- ☐ Create and use calculation groups

Performance Optimization

- ☐ Diagnose and optimize slow reports
- ☐ Use Performance Analyzer
- ☐ Implement query folding
- ☐ Create aggregations
- ☐ Optimize DAX measures
- ☐ Understand VertiPaq engine and storage modes

Deployment & Administration

- [] Manage workspaces and apps
- [] Implement row-level security (RLS)
- [] Set up scheduled refreshes
- [] Configure data gateways
- [] Create dataflows for reusable ETL
- [] Implement incremental refresh

Integration & Extensibility

- [] Embed Power BI reports in applications
- [] Use Power BI REST API
- [] Create custom visuals
- [] Integrate with R and Python
- [] Connect Power BI with Power Apps and Power Automate
- [] Implement DirectQuery for Power BI datasets and Analysis Services

Real-world Scenarios

- [] Design solutions for common business problems
- [] Troubleshoot data refresh issues
- [] Optimize large datasets
- [] Create end-to-end solutions from data source to visualization
- [] Implement governance and best practices

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