**Interview Questions**

**Sites**

<http://www.mainframetutorials.com/COBOLFAQ.html>

<http://mainframewizard.com/content/cobol-interview-questions-1>

<http://www.mainframegurukul.com/interview-questions/COBOL>

<http://mainframewizard.com/content/cobol-interview-questions-answers>

<http://dev.fyicenter.com/Interview-Questions/COBOL/>

<http://www.mainframes360.com/2010/09/cobol-interview-questions.html>

<http://www.mainframegurukul.com/ibmmainframeforums/viewtopic.php?t=5508>

<https://sites.google.com/site/indusitfactory/cobol-interview-questions>

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**Questions**

**Q. Declaration of variable what levels it can take?**

**ANS**

Level specifies the hierarchy of data within a record. It can take a value from the

set of integers between **01-49 or from one of the special level-numbers 66 77 88**

01 level. Specifies the record itself. It may be either a group item or an

Elementary item. It must begin in Area A.

02-49 levels. Specify group or elementary items within a record. Group level items

must not have picture clause.

66 level. Identify the items that contain the RENAMES clause.

77 level. Identify independent data item.

88 level. Condition names.

**Q.Editing a Copybook - How to?**

**You have some changes to be made in a copybook. Like adding a new field and renaming another field.**

A. just give a search in program library to identify all the programs which uses this copybook.Then do a mass search whether any of them will use the field to be changed too. Then change the programs accordingly. I mean name change ,record layout change etc. Then do a recompile too for all the members which uses the copybook.

**Q.There is a PS file that gets created everyday with one record and with a character 'A' in it in different positions. How to write a cobol logic to find it's position in the file?**

A.You could use a loop starting at the first byte and counting the positions until the A is found or the end of record is reached.

or

You could use INSPECT/TALLYING. Read here:

**INSPECT** source-string **TALLYING** tally-counter **FORLEADING** ‘A’

**Q.What is the result of the following?**

MOVE 1 TO VAR1

MOVE 2 TO VAR2

EVALUATE TRUE

WHEN VAR1=1

PERFORM PARA-1

WHEN VAR2=2

PERFORM PARA-2

WHEN OTHER

NEXT SENTENCE

END-EVALUATE.

**A) PARA-1 will be performed**

**B) PARA-2 will be performed**

**C) Both PARA-1 and PARA-2 will be performed.**

**D) Compile error for incorrect use of NEXT sentence**

ANS. A

**Q.how would you set the variable record length and what is the use of defining file as variable length format.**

ANS. The 2 main reasons to use Variable Length records is

1. to save space
2. improve performance.

The **four bytes preceding the logical record is the Record Descriptor Word.** The content is as follows. Bytes Description

1-2 This is the length of the logical record plus the length of the four-byte Descriptor Word.

3-4 Usually low values

**Q. Date Handling in Cobol like adding one day to current date.**

**ANS.**

Gregorian-date = 20140119

COMPUTE integer-date = FUNCTION **INTEGER-OF-DATE** (Gregorian-date).

add 1 to integer-date

COMPUTE Gregorian-date-new = FUNCTION **DATE-OF-INTEGER** (integer-date)

**Q. Hierarchy of the execute of logical operators is**

ANS. NOT, AND, OR

**Q. What is File status 02 ?**

a) Record Key duplicate

b) End of file

c) Alternate Key Duplicate

d) File open Error

ANS. A

**Q. Which of the following is not a procedure division verb?**

a) Start

b) Seek

c) Rerun

d) Delete

**ANS**. b

Q. Compare two files say file1 and file2 and write the results matched and unmatched records in two files say file3 and file4

ANS. first sort the two input files

**file1**

hari

mahesh

sandeep

srinivas

**file2**

amir

sandeep

srinivas

zaheer

**LOGIC**

setup loop

if (eof-file1 = n and eof-file2 = n)

Evaluate True

\*writing unmatched fields when both files donot have same records

When File1 End of File

write File2 into file4 until end of file2

When File2 End of File

write File1 into file4 until end of file1

When File-1-rec = File-2

write File-1-rec into File-3-rec

read file-1-rec

read file-2-rec.

\*here we compare file1 with file2 if f1<f2 then it implies we cant find any more match in second file since both are sorted \*files

When file-1-rec-key < File-2-rec-key

write File-1-rec into File-4-rec

read file-1-rec.

When file-1-rec-key > File-2-rec-key

write File-2-rec into File-4-rec

read file-2-rec.

end-if

**Output**

**file3**

sandeep

srinivas

**file4**

amir

hari

mahesh

zaheer

**Q. In place of a WRITE statement in an INPUT PROCEDURE, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb is used to write records onto the sort or work file.**

**Answer: RELEASE** SORT-REC FROM IN\_REC

**Q.In place of a READ statement in an OUTPUT PROCEDURE, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb is used to read records from the sort or work file.**

**Answer:**

**RETURN** SORT-FILE-NAME

AT END

NOT AND END

END-RETURN

**Q.(T or F) The RELEASE statement uses a file-name, as does the RETURN statement.**

**Answer:**

False. RELEASE statement uses the record name and RETURN uses the file name.

**Q.(T or F) A WORK or SORT file is required when sorting.**

**Answer:** True

**Q.If a file is described by an SD, it is not defined in a SELECT clause and does not**

**have an FD.**

**Ans.**False.It is defined in SELECT clause, But does not have FD, It has SD.

Q.In the EBCDIC collating sequence, a blank has the lowest value and the SORT verb does not distinguish between upper- and lowercase letters.

ANS. False.

 Letters are considered “less than” numbers in EBCDIC, and letters are considered “greater than” numbers in ASCII.

  Lowercase letters are considered “less than” uppercase letters in EBCDIC and “greater than” uppercase letters in ASCII.

**Q.The syntax for SORT and MERGE are very different.**

**ANS.**False

Sort can have INPUT procedure, Merge cannot. The input to merge has to come directly using USING.

**Q. A sort can be performed with a minimum of two files: the input file and the file of sorted output records.**

**ANS.**False

Sort work file is required.

Q. How many bytes will comp-2 occupy?

ANS. 8 bytes

Q. The START statement enables the programmers to start processing from any record position.

True

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

Q. The INSPECT statement can be used to check whether the value in a data name is numeric.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| False |

Q. What does the BUFFER option in RECEIVE mean ?

Brings the entire datastream from the terminal buffer.

16. Which task control commands are used to make tasks serially re-usable?

Ans. Both ENQ and DEQ

|  |
| --- |
| ENQ |
| DEQ |
| Both a and b |
| None of the above |

#### 17. To use dynamic calls in CICS:

Ans. Yes, the called routine must be defined in PPT and the calling program must use CALL identifier

|  |
| --- |
| Called routine must be defined in PPT |
| Calling program must use call identifier |
| Called routine must be defined in PPT, Calling program must use call identifier. |
| Calling program must be defined in PPT, Calles routine must use call identifier. |

#### 19. Which of the following is true about START and XCTL?

|  |
| --- |
| START is used to start a new task |
| XCTL is used to pass control to a program within the same task. |
| START is an INTERVAL control command, XCTL is a program control command |
| All the above |
| Both a and b |

#### 20. What will be the value of EIBCALEN at START?

|  |
| --- |
| 0 |
| 1 |
| -1 |
| 10 |

|  |
| --- |
| Q.DCB stands for Data Control Block |
| It is a keyword for DD statement |
| It is used to describe Data Sets |
| Only a and b |
| Only a and c |
| All – a, b, c 33. Which of the following statements are true about a Leaf pages?  |  | | --- | | Leaf pages are opposite of root pages | | Leaf pages are lowest level index pages | | Both a and b | | None of the above |  34. How many clustering indexes can be built on a table?  |  | | --- | | 1 | | 2 | | 5 | | None |  37. Which of the following is true about Primary key values and Alternate key values?  |  | | --- | | Primary key values need not be unique, alternate key values must be unique | | Primary key values must be unique, alternate key values need not be | | Both a and b are true | | None of the above are true  Ans- Primary key values must be unique, alternate key values need not be | | |

#### 38. Which error condition do codes 22 and 90 signify?

|  |
| --- |
| 22 - duplicate key, 90- VSAM logic error. |
| 22- VSAM logic error, 90 – duplicate key |
| 22- record not found, 90 – VSAM logic error |
| 22- duplicate key, 90 – space problem |

Ans- 22 - duplicate key, 90- VSAM logic error.

#### 40. What does a file status of 02 on a VSAM indicate?

|  |
| --- |
| Duplicate alternate key |
| Duplicate primary key |
| No key |
| None of the above |

## Mainframe Test Breakdown:

**1. IF NOT PRICE LESS THAN 20 AND 30 GO TO PARA-BUY.  
The control will go to PARA-BUY if :**  
**You answered:** PRICE is greater than 30  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** PRICE is greater than or equal to 20 but less than 30  
  
**2. Where is the association between a filename and corresponding file medium done?**  
**Correct**  
  
**3. To describe a record the level numbers may be chosen from:**  
**You answered:** 01 to 49 and 77  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** 01 to 49  
  
**4. Relative key clause must be mentioned in case of a relative file organisation.**  
**Correct**  
  
**5. The START statement enables the programmers to start processing from any record position.**  
**You answered:** False  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** True  
  
**6. The INSPECT statement can be used to check whether the value in a data name is numeric.**  
**Correct**  
  
**7. Which of the following is not allowed to assign a value to a data name in a REPORT SECTION?**  
**You answered:** SOURCE  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** TOTAL  
  
**8. Which of the following is true about physical map and symbolic map?**  
**You answered:** Physical map is data structure, Symbolic map is load module.  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Physical map is load module, Symbolic map is data structure.  
  
**9. A map was generated. What is the output created as a result?**  
**Correct**  
  
**10. Which working storage fields are used for every field on the map?**  
**Correct**  
  
**11. Which of the following resets MDT?**  
**You answered:** RMDT  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** FRSET  
  
**12. Attribute byte is received at EOF in symbolic map?**  
**Correct**  
  
**13. BUFFER option in RECEIVE brings the entire datastream from the terminal buffer.**  
**Correct**  
  
**14. You want dynamic memory allocated within a CICS application program. What would you do?**  
**Correct**  
  
**15. What are TDQ and TSQ used for?**  
**You answered:** Permanent Data Storage  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Temporary Data Storage  
  
**16. Which task control commands are used to make tasks serially re-usable?**  
**Correct**  
  
**17. To use dynamic calls in CICS:**  
**You answered:** Calling program must be defined in PPT, Calles routine must use call identifier.  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Called routine must be defined in PPT, Calling program must use call identifier.  
  
**18. If program A passes 40 bytes to program B through common area and program B has defined its DFHCOMMAREA to be 60 bytes. Can there be a problem?**  
**You answered:** No  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Yes, if B tries to access bytes from 41-60  
  
**19. Which of the following is true about START and XCTL?**  
**Correct**  
  
**20. What will be the value of EIBCALEN at START?**  
**Correct**  
  
**21. You can access ESDS files from CICS.**  
**Correct**  
  
**22. Which of the following is true about DCB?**  
**Correct**  
  
**23. You want to pass parameters to a program coded in EXEC statement. How would you do that?**  
**Correct**  
  
**24. Which of the following statements are correct about GDG?  
  
i.) It means Generation Data Group  
ii.) It allows users to create multiple data sets with same base name.  
iii.)Data sets are distinguished by a logical number**  
**Correct**  
  
**25. What is the maximum number of GDG that can be created?**  
**Correct**  
  
**26. What does E37 error show?**  
**Correct**  
  
**27. How would you resolve SOC7 abend?**  
**You answered:** Debugging the program  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Eliminating the bad program by debugging the program  
  
**28. How do you eliminate duplicate values in DB2 SELECT?**  
**Correct**  
  
**29. You can use MAX on a CHAR column.**  
**Correct**  
  
**30. Which of the following is true about UNION, UNION ALL?**  
**Correct**  
  
**31. What do BETWEEN and IN in WHERE clause do?**  
**Correct**  
  
**32. Underscore (‘\_’) in the LIKE statement is the match for a single character.**  
**Correct**  
  
**33. Which of the following statements are true about a Leaf pages?**  
**You answered:** Leaf pages are opposite of root pages  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Both a and b  
  
**34. How many clustering indexes can be built on a table?**  
**You answered:**5  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** 1  
  
**35. The cursor is declared in the “working storage” in a program:**  
**You answered:** False  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** True  
  
**36. What happens when you perform update/ delete via a cursor?**  
**Correct**  
  
**37. Which of the following is true about Primary key values and Alternate key values?**  
**Correct**  
  
**38. Which error condition do codes 22 and 90 signify?**  
**Correct**  
  
**39. You want to load the data in a VSAM cluster. What ways can you take?**  
**You answered:** Either a or b  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Use the COBOL program  
  
**40. What does a file status of 02 on a VSAM indicate?**  
**You answered:** No key  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Duplicate alternate key  
  
**41. What are these? : KSDS, ESDS, RRDS, LDS.**  
**You answered:** Data structures in VSAM  
**Incorrect**  
  
**Correct answer:** Datasets in VSAM