

PHP Interview Questions

1) What is PHP?

PHP stands for *Hypertext Preprocessor*. It is an open source server-side scripting language which is widely used for web development. It supports many databases like MySQL, Oracle, Sybase, Solid, PostgreSQL, generic ODBC etc.

2) What is PEAR in PHP?

PEAR is a framework and *repository for reusable PHP components*. PEAR stands for **PHP Extension and Application Repository**. It contains all types of PHP code snippets and libraries.

It also provides a command line interface to install "packages" automatically.

3) Who is known as the father of PHP?

Rasmus Lerdorf

4) What was the old name of PHP?

Personal Home Page.

5) Explain the difference b/w static and dynamic websites?

In **static websites**, *content can't be changed* after running the script. You can't change anything in the site. It is predefined.

In **dynamic websites**, *content of script can be changed at the run time*. Its content is regenerated every time a user visit or reload. Google, yahoo and every search engine is the example of dynamic website.

6) What is the name of scripting engine in PHP?

The scripting engine that powers PHP is called *Zend Engine 2*.

7) Explain the difference between PHP4 and PHP5.

PHP4 doesn't support oops concept and uses Zend Engine 1.

PHP5 supports oops concept and uses Zend Engine 2.

8) What are the popular Content Management Systems (CMS) in PHP?

- o WordPress
- o Joomla
- o Magento
- o Drupal etc.

9) What are the popular frameworks in PHP?

- o CakePHP
- o CodeIgniter
- o Yii 2
- o Symfony
- o Zend Framework etc.

10) Which programming language does PHP resemble to?

PHP has borrowed its syntax from Perl and C.

11) List some of the features of PHP7.

- o Scalar type declarations
- o Return type declarations
- o Null coalescing operator (??)
- o Spaceship operator
- o Constant arrays using define()
- o Anonymous classes
- o Closure::call method
- o Group use declaration
- o Generator return expressions
- o Generator delegation
- o Space ship operator

12) What is "echo" in PHP?

PHP echo output one or more string. It is a language construct not a function. So use of parentheses is not required. But if you want to pass more than one parameter to echo, use of parentheses is required.

Syntax:

```
void echo ( string $arg1 [, string $... ] )
```

13) What is "print" in PHP?

PHP print output a string. It is a language construct not a function. So use of parentheses is not required with the argument list. Unlike echo, it always returns 1.

Syntax:

```
int print ( string $arg)
```

14) What is the difference between "echo" and "print" in PHP?

Echo can *output one or more string* but **print** can only *output one string and always returns 1*.

Echo is *faster than print* because it does not return any value.

15) How a variable is declared in PHP?

PHP variable is a name of memory location that holds data. It is a temporary storage.

Syntax:

```
$variableName=value;
```

16) What is the difference between \$message and \$\$message?

\$message stores *variable data* while **\$\$message** is used to *store variable of variables*.

\$message stores fixed data whereas the data stored in \$\$message may be changed dynamically.

17) What are the ways to define a constant in PHP?

PHP constants are name or identifier that can't be changed during execution of the script. PHP constants are defined in two ways:

- o Using define() function
- o Using const() function

18) What are magic constants in PHP?

PHP magic constants are predefined constants which changes on the basis of their use.

They start with a double underscore (__) and end with a double underscore (__).

19) How many data types are there in PHP?

PHP data types are used to hold different types of data or values. There are 8 primitive data types which are further categorized in 3 types:

- o Scalar types
- o Compound types
- o Special types

20) How to do single and multi line comment in PHP?

PHP single line comment is done in two ways:

- o Using // (C++ style single line comment)
- o Using # (Unix Shell style single line comment)

PHP multi line comment is done by enclosing all lines within /* */.

21) What are the different loops in PHP?

For, while, do-while and for each.

22) What is the use of count() function in PHP?

The PHP count() function is used *to count total elements in the array, or something an object.*

23) What is the use of header() function in PHP?

The header() function is used to send a raw HTTP header to a client. It must be called before sending the actual output. For example, you can't print any HTML element before using this function.

24) What does isset() function?

The isset() function checks if the variable is defined and not null.

25) Explain PHP parameterized functions.

PHP parameterized functions are functions with parameters. You can pass any number of parameters inside a function. These passed parameters act as variables inside your

function. They are specified inside the parentheses, after function name. Output depends upon dynamic values passed as parameters into function.

26) Explain PHP variable length argument function

PHP supports variable length argument function. It means you can pass 0, 1 or n number of arguments in function. To do this, you need to use 3 ellipses (dots) before the argument name. The 3 dot concept is implemented for variable length argument since PHP 5.6.

27) Explain PHP variable length argument function.

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28) What is the array in PHP?

Array is used to store multiple values in single value. In PHP, it orders maps of pairs of keys and values. It stores the collection of data type.

29) How many types of array are there in PHP?

There are three types of array in PHP:

- o Indexed array
- o Associative array
- o Multidimensional array

30) Explain some of the PHP array functions?

There are many array functions in PHP:

- o `array()`
- o `array_change_key_case()`
- o `array_chunk()`
- o `count()`
- o `sort()`
- o `array_reverse()`
- o `array_search()`
- o `array_intersect()` [find same word in array](#)

31) What is the difference between indexed and associative array?

The indexed array holds elements in an indexed form which is represented by number starting from 0 and incremented by 1. For example:

```
$season=array("summer","winter","spring","autumn");
```

The associative array holds elements with name. For example:

```
$salary=array("Sonoo"=>"350000","John"=>"450000","Kartik"=>"200000");
```

32) How to get the length of string?

The strlen() function is used to get the length of string.

33) Explain some of the PHP string functions?

There are many array functions in PHP:

- o strtolower()
- o strtoupper()
- o ucfirst()
- o lcfirst()
- o ucwords()
- o strrev()
- o strlen()

34) What are the methods to submit form in PHP?

There are two methods GET and POST.

35) How can you submit a form without a submit button?

You can use JavaScript submit() function to submit the form without explicitly clicking any submit button.

36) What are the ways to include file in PHP?

PHP allows you to include file so that page content can be reused again. There are two ways to include file in PHP.

1. include

2. require

37) Differentiate between require and include?

Require and include both are used to include a file, but if file is not found *include sends warning* whereas *require sends Fatal error*.

38) Explain setcookie() function in PHP?

PHP setcookie() function is used to set cookie with HTTP response. Once cookie is set, you can access it by \$_COOKIE superglobal variable.

Syntax:

```
bool setcookie ( string $name [, string $value [, int $expire = 0 [, string $path  
[, string $domain [, bool $secure = false [, bool $httponly = false ]]]]] )
```

39) How can you retrieve a cookie value?

```
echo $_COOKIE ["user"];
```

40) What is a session?

PHP Engine creates a logical object to preserve data across subsequent HTTP requests, which is known as session.

Sessions generally store temporary data to allow multiple PHP pages to offer a complete functional transaction for the same user.

Simply, it maintains data of an user (browser).

41) What is the method to register a variable into a session?

```
<?php  
Session_register($_session_var);  
?>
```

42) What is \$_SESSION in PHP?

PHP \$_SESSION is an associative array that contains all session variables. It is used to set and get session variable values.

43) What is PHP session_start() and session_destroy() function?

PHP session_start() function is used to start the session. It starts a new or resumes the existing session. It returns the existing session if session is created already. If session is not available, it creates and returns new sessions.

44) What is the difference between session and cookie?

The main difference between session and cookie is that *cookies are stored on user's computer in the text file format while sessions are stored on the server side.*

Cookies can't hold multiple variables on the other hand Session can hold multiple variables.

You can manually set an expiry for a cookie, while session only remains active as long as browser is open.

45) Write syntax to open a file in PHP?

PHP fopen() function is used to open file or URL and returns resource. It accepts two arguments: \$filename and \$mode.

Syntax:

```
resource fopen ( string $filename , string $mode [, bool $use_include_path = false [, resource $context ] ] )
```

46) How to read a file in PHP?

PHP provides various functions to read data from file. There are different functions that allow you to read all file data, read data line by line and read data character by character.

PHP file read functions are given below:

- o fread()
- o fgets()
- o fgetc()

47) How to write in a file in PHP?

PHP fwrite() and fputs() functions are used to write data into file. To write data into file, you need to use w, r+, w+, x, x+, c or c+ mode.

48) How to delete file in PHP?

The unlink() function is used to delete file in PHP.

```
bool unlink (string $filename)
```

49) What is the method to execute a PHP script from the command line?

You should just run the PHP **command line interface (CLI)** and specify the file name of the script to be executed as follows.

50) How to upload file in PHP?

The move_uploaded_file() function is used to upload file in PHP.

```
move_uploaded_file ( string $filename , string $destination )
```

51) How to download file in PHP?

The readfile() function is used to download file in PHP.

```
readfile ( string $filename )
```

52) How can you send email in PHP?

The mail() function is used to send email in PHP.

```
mail($to,$subject,$message,$header);
```

53) How do you connect MySQL database with PHP?

There are two methods to connect MySQL database with PHP. Procedural and object oriented style.

54) How to create connection in PHP?

The mysqli_connect() function is used to create connection in PHP.

`mysqli_connect (server, username, password)`

55) How to create database connection and query in PHP?

Since PHP 4.3, `mysql_relate_db()` is deprecated. Now you can use following 2 alternatives.

- o `mysqli_query()`
- o `PDO::_query()`

56) How can we increase execution time of a PHP script?

By default, maximum execution time for PHP scripts is set to 30 seconds. If a script takes more than 30 seconds, PHP stops the script and returns an error.

You can change the script run time by changing the `max_execution_time` directive in `php.ini` file.

When a script is called, `set_time_limit` function restarts the timeout counter from zero. It means, if default timer is set to 30 sec, and 20 sec is specified in function `set_time_limit()`, then script will run for 45 seconds. If 0sec is specified in this function, script takes unlimited time.

57) What are the different types of errors in PHP?

There are 3 types of error in PHP.

Notices: These are non-critical errors. These errors are not displayed to the users.

Warnings: These are more serious errors but they do not result in script termination. By default, these errors are displayed to the user.

Fatal Errors: These are the most critical errors. These errors may cause due to immediate termination of script.

58) How to stop the execution of PHP script?

The `exit()` function is used to stop the execution of PHP script.

59) What are the encryption functions in PHP?

`CRYPT()` and `MD5()`

60) What is htaccess in PHP?

The .htaccess is a configuration file on Apache server. You can change configuration settings using directives in Apache configuration files like .htaccess and httpd.conf.