Here are a few most commonly asked phonegap interview questions and answers for mobile apps developers.

1) What is PhoneGap?

PhoneGap is an application framework that allows developers to use HTML, JavaScript and CSS to create apps that are present as first-class applications on the phone. That means the apps have their own icons and operate similarly to native applications without a browser frame around them. They are distributed via the application stores, such as the Android Market and the Apple App Store, and they have access to a set of native functions to further make them work like native apps.

2) Why developers use PhoneGap for cross-platform mobile apps?

Developers use PhoneGap because it allows them to have a common codebase for all their application code. It doesn't force developers to reinvent the wheel every time they move from platform to platform.

3) What Platforms are supported by PhoneGap?

Phonegap supports the following platforms:
- iPhone/iPhone 3G and Higher
- Android
- Blackberry OS 5.X and above
- Web OS
- Windows Phone 7
- Symbian
- Bada
- Tizen

4) What is a hybrid app?

A hybrid application is one that has features of both a web application and a native application. Certain features, such as Image Capture, NFC or Android OpenAccessory, may be implemented natively since there is currently no way to do this in JavaScript. But the application logic and the UI are implemented using web technologies to allow for a consistent and unique user experience across devices.

5) Describe the architecture of PhoneGap.

PhoneGap has a plugin-based architecture. Each device-specific feature is a plugin, which consists of javascript and native sides. Javascript side should be as cross-platform as possible, whereas native side can be implemented only once, for one device. Nevertheless built-in plugins are developed for all of the most popular platforms, so no need to reinvent the wheel. This architecture, together with open source code, not only allows a developer to fix their bugs, but also allows them to tweak their plugins for as per requirements. Also, a developer can build his own plugin, and support any platform of his choice.

The image below gives an overview of how PhoneGap works:

6) What is the current version of PhoneGap?

PhoneGap 3.2.0 has been released around November, 2013.

7) What are the limitations of PhoneGap?

Since the front end of the application is built in JavaScript, it causes a number of limitations.

Data Processing: Native languages are much faster than JavaScript for data processing on the device.

Background Processing: A large number of applications rely on background threads to provide a smooth user experience: calculating the GPS positions in the background, for example. PhoneGap APIs are built using JavaScript which is not multi-threaded and hence do not support background processing.

Access advanced native functionality: A number of native APIs are not yet supported by PhoneGap's APIs.

Complex Business Logic: A number of applications such as enterprise applications are quite complex. In this scenario it is simply better to have a certain amount of native code.

Advanced Graphics: Apps that use advanced graphics which can only be accessed using third-party libraries are best done natively.

8) What are the various PhoneGap Events?

- deviceready
- pause
- resume
- online
- offline
- backbutton
- batterycritical
- batterylow
- batterystatus
- menubutton
- searchbutton
- startcallbutton
- endcallbutton
- volumedownbutton
- volumeupbutton

9) What is the difference between ChildBrowser and InAppBrowser in PhoneGap ?

Child Browser is a plugin that can be integrated in any phonegap application. Whereas, InAppBrowser is a phonegap API that provides the ability to spawn a browser instance from a Cordova (2.3.0) application. The API is based on standard browser capability. In a nutshell, this has the same functionality as the ChildBrowser, and has events support as well.

10) What are CDNs in jQuery? Why do we use it?

CDNs (Content Delivery Networks) can offer a performance benefit by hosting jQuery on servers spread across the globe. There are three CDNs available that host the jQuery library free of charge: 1. Google's Libraries API CDN 2. Microsoft's CDN 3. The official jQuery CDN

11) What are the benefits of using CDNs?

CDN stands for Content Delivery Network or Content Distribution Network. Instead of keeping the libraries inside our application, we can provide a reference of it and load it directly from the CDNs. The benefits of using CDNs include:

- The file will normally load faster than it would if self hosted.
- Odds are better that the site visitor will have a cached copy of the file since other sites will also be linking to the same file.
- It saves the site owner some bandwidth since the file is externally hosted.

12) Which framework is the Phonegap built upon?

Phonegap is built upon Cordova. Apache Cordova is a set of device APIs that allow a mobile app developer to access native device function such as the camera or accelerometer from JavaScript. Combined with a UI framework such as jQuery Mobile or Dojo Mobile or Sencha Touch, this allows a smartphone app to be developed with just HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

13) What's the difference between PhoneGap and Cordova?

In October 2011, PhoneGap was donated to the Apache Software Foundation (ASF) under the name Apache Cordova. Through the ASF, future PhoneGap development will ensure open stewardship of the project. It will remain free and open source under the Apache License, Version 2.0.

PhoneGap is an open source distribution of Cordova. The references to both PhoneGap and Cordova and their names are used interchangeably. Think about Cordova's relationship to PhoneGap like WebKit's relationship to Safari or Chrome