# **Advanced Competency Course** | 50 QnA – Part 1

# INTERNET OF THINGS



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# Every question carries 2 marks

# What is an IoT device?

- IoT refers to Internet of Things.
- An IoT device is connected to internet (or any network).
- It has sensors and actuators. So, it can work without human interventions.
- As it is connected to internet, it can be monitored or controlled remotely.
- Examples: Digital Door Lock, Smart Traffic Lights, Production line of an industry.

### What are different elements of an IoT device?

An IoT device contains the following elements:

- **Sensors** These are collecting data from the environment such as, temperature, humidity, smoke, position, speed, colour, light-intensity, pressure, air quality, pH, etc.
- **Actuators** These are performing actions depending upon the sensor data. Examples: motor, relay-switch, pump, servo-motor, cooling fan, heater, valve, levers, hydraulic systems etc.
- **Microcontroller** This is the core part of a device. It processes the sensor data and gives command to the actuators. It also sends data to the internet and receives data from the internet. Examples: Arduino, Node-MCU, Raspberry-Pi etc.
- **Connectivity** This is used for connecting the device to the internet. Connection can be wired or wireless. Examples: Ethernet connection, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth etc.
- **User Interface** This is the set of input and output elements connected to the device for human interaction. Examples: switches, levers, touch panel, display, indicators, buzzers etc.

# 3 What are the advantages of IoT?

IoT provides the following advantages due to its automation and connectivity.

- Ease of access
- Effective time management
- Technical optimisation
- Improved customer engagement

# 4 Which are different challenges of IoT?

IoT devices may suffer from these challenges:

- Security risk on private data
- Network connectivity
- Insufficient test and outdated products
- Lack of knowledge and awareness

# What are some popular sensors used on IoT devices?

Some widely used sensors are:

- Temperature sensor DHT11 / DHT22 (both temperature and humidity)
- Humidity sensor DHT11 / DHT22
- Soil moisture sensor YL-69 / FC-28
- Smoke (CO2) sensor MQ-7
- Gas (LPG / CNG / Alcohol) sensor MQ-2
- Pressure sensor BMP180 / BMP280
- Light-intensity sensor LDR (light dependent resistor) / BH1750
- Colour (RGB) sensor TCS3200 / TCS34725
- Position sensor GPS (global positioning system)
- Speed / Velocity sensor Accelerometer ADXL345
- Vibration sensor SW-420
- Proximity sensor Infra-Red (IR) proximity sensor
- Water Flow sensor YF-S201 / FS300A

### Which industries can be benefitted from IoT?

A wide range of industries can be benefitted from IoT, such as:

- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Health-care
- Smart-city
- Public-transport

- Education
- Consumer electronics
- Home-automation
- Utilities and Energy
- Environmental benefits

# 7 What is Arduino?

- Arduino is a free electronics platform which provides easy-to-use hardware and software.
- It is used in IoT as it has a microcontroller.
- It reads input from the sensors and controls the actuators as per the C program, written in it.
- It can communicate with sensors, actuators, display, GPS, GSM, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth etc.
- It comes with different packages like, Arduino Uno, Arduino Mega, Arduino Nano etc.

Write at-least

4

sensors to get 2 marks

### 8 What is Node-MCU?

- Node-MCU is a low-cost open source IoT platform.
- It runs over ESP-12 / ESP-32 / ESP-8266 CPU and supports C program, like Arduino.
- It is associated with built-in Wi-Fi module, which makes it popular for many applications including WSP (wireless sensor network).

# 9 What is Raspberry Pi?

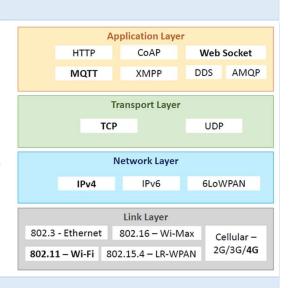
- The Raspberry Pi is a small-sized (a credit card sized), low-cost computer.
- This can be plugged into a computer monitor or TV with HDMI and used with a standard keyboard and mouse.
- It can do all the operations like a conventional computer, and runs on **Python** programs.
- The recent version of Raspberry Pi 5 has a 64-bit 2.4GHz quad-core processor and 8GB RAM.
- It provides additional features such as USB, HDMI, Ethernet, WIFI, Bluetooth and GPIO (*general purpose Input / Output*) pins to communicate with external electronic devices.
- It comes with two more compact versions such as, Raspberry Pi Zero and Raspberry Pi Pico.

# 10 What are different layers of IoT protocols?

The IoT protocol stack contains 4 layers, such as:

- Application layer HTTP / MQTT / Web-Socket / CoAP / XMPP / DDS / AMQP
- Transport Layer TCP / UDP
- Network Layer IPv4 / IPv6 / 6LoWPAN
- Link Layer IEEE 802.3 (Ethernet) / IEEE 802.11 (Wi-Fi)
   / IEEE 802.15 (Bluetooth) / IEEE 802.15.4 (LR-WPAN) /
   IEEE 802.16 (Wi-Max) / Cellular 2G/3G/4G (GSM)

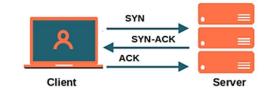
<sup>\*</sup> You can give one or two examples from each Layer for 2 marks.



### 11 What is difference between TCP and UDP?

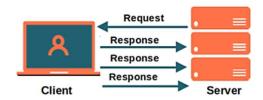
### **TCP** – Transmission Control Protocol

- It is connected
- It has state memory
- Point to point
- Slower
- Reliable
- Useful for secured data transmission



### **UDP** – User Datagram Protocol

- It is connectionless
- It is stateless
- Broadcast / multicast
- Faster
- Lossy
- Useful for online gaming / video streaming



### 12 What is difference between HTTP and Web-Socket?

	HTTP – Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol	Web Socket
Nature	Stateless	Stateful
<b>Communication Pattern</b>	Client-Server	Full-Duplex
Connection Time	Short-lived	Persistent
Usage	Resource Retrieval	Real-time data transfer
Protocol	Text based	Binary and text based
Overhead	High overhead (due to header)	Low (after initial handshake)
Use-Case	Best for traditional web pages, API requests and resource fetching.  (where the interaction is <i>request-response</i> based)	Best for real-time applications like chat-apps, live-sports update, online gaming. (where continuous data exchange is necessary)

### 13 What are different communication models in IoT?

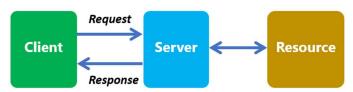
There are 4 commonly used communication models in IoT, such as:

- Request-Response Model
- Publisher-Subscriber Model
- Push-Pull Model
- Exclusive-Pair Model

The 1st and 2nd model are mostly used in many IoT architecture

# 14 What is Request-Response Model?

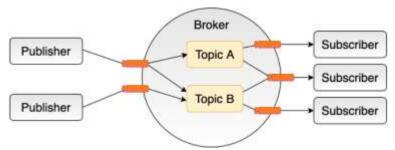
- The Request-Response Model is a communication pattern where a client sends a request to a server, and the server processes the request and sends back a response.
- It is commonly used in network communications and web services.
- The client initiates the request, and the server responds with the requested data or action result.
- It is **synchronous**. The client typically waits for the server's response before continuing its process.
- This model is widely used in HTTP web communications, where browsers (clients) request web
  pages or data from servers.



### 15 What is Publisher-Subscriber Model?

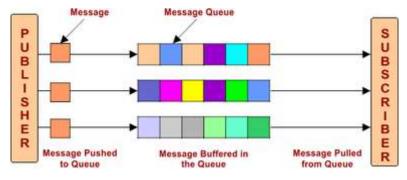
- This model has 3 elements: **Publisher**, **Subscriber** and **Broker**.
- The broker keeps record of all publishers and subscribers.
- The senders are publishers and the interested receivers are subscribers.
- When a publisher sends messages to the broker, then the broker sends that to its subscribers.

- Publishers and subscribers do **not** communicate directly. The publisher sends messages to topics or channels, and subscribers receive messages based on their subscriptions to specific topics.
- It is **asynchronous**. Subscribers receive updates only when a message is published to their subscribed topics, promoting efficiency in distributed systems.
- This model is commonly used in IoT, messaging systems, and event-driven architectures.



### 16 What is Push-Pull Model?

- The push-pull communication model ensures that data **publishers push** the data into **queues** while **consumers pull** the data from the queues.
- In this model, neither producer nor consumer knows about each other, and it is the responsibility of the queue to decouple the messages between the consumers and the producers.
- Here, queues also act as a buffer if any mismatch is found between the rate at which producers push data and the rate at which consumers receive it.



### 17 What is Exclusive-Pair Model?

- This is an efficient model for quick communication.
- This is a full-duplex, bidirectional communication model developed for constant/continuous connections between a client and server.
- Once a connection is established, the clients and the servers can send and receive messages.
- As long as a client doesn't send a request to close the connection, the connection remains open and the server takes care of every open connection.



### 18 What is IIoT?

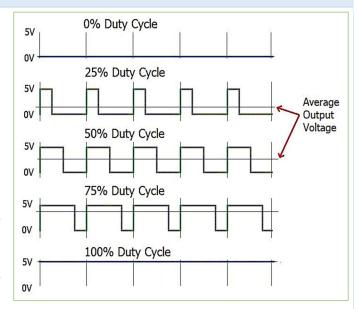
- IIoT stands for **Industrial** Internet of Things.
- This is generally used in industry for manufacturing / production line.
- So, its service model is machine-centric.
- It uses both wired and wireless devices for communication of data.
- The quality and amount of data in IIoT is very high.

### 19 What are the characteristics of IoT?

- **Dynamic and self-adaptive** it can dynamically adapt with the changing context. For example, a surveillance camera can switch to HD mode if any motion is detected.
- **Self-configuring** Setup network and software upgrade with minimal user intervention.
- Inter-operable communication protocol IoT devices should support multiple protocols (TCP / UDP) in order to be adaptive with the system.
- **Unique identity** Every IoT device should have a unique IP address or URI (*universal resource Identifier*) for end-to-end communication.
- **Integrated into information network** Every IoT device can be discoverable by other IoT devices in the same network. So, the data can be aggregated and analysed effectively.

# 20 What is PWM and why it is used in IoT?

- Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) is a technique used to generate an analog-like signal from a digital source by varying the duty cycle of a digital signal.
- Duty cycle refers to the proportion of "on" time to the total time period.
- By adjusting the duty cycle, we can control the power delivered to devices like motors, LEDs etc.
- In IoT, PWM is commonly used for controlling actuators (e.g., motor speed control, dimming LEDs) and sensors in a power-efficient way, making it ideal for low-power IoT applications.



• PWM allows fine control of hardware elements in IoT devices without requiring true analog output.

### 21 What is GPIO?

- GPIO = General Purpose input / output
- It is a standard interface using which Arduino, Raspberry Pi and other microcontrollers can connect to external electronic components/devices.
- These are basically programmable pins on an integrated circuit or board that allow digital input or output signals to be controlled programmatically.
- The Raspberry Pi has 26 GPIO pins and the Arduino Uno has 20 GPIO pins (6 analog, 14 digital).

### 22 What is CAN bus?

- The CAN Bus (**Controller Area Network**) is a robust, standardized communication protocol designed to allow multiple microcontrollers and devices to communicate with each other without the need for a host computer.
- The key features are: Multiple Master and Slaves, Easy Error Detection and Broadcasting.
- CAN Bus is widely used in vehicles for communication between various components like engine control units (ECUs), sensors and actuators.
- It is also used in IoT for reliable and efficient data transmission between devices in harsh environments, such as industrial automation and robotics.
- It has an **ability** to **operate** in noisy environments, which make it ideal for these applications.

# 23 What is I2C?

- I2C = I<sup>2</sup>C = IIC = Inter-Integrated Circuit
- It is a serial communication protocol used to connect multiple peripherals to a microcontroller
- It is a 2 wire system for synchronization.
  - ► SDA = Serial data
  - ► SLC = Serial Clock
- Multiple master and slave devices can communicate on the same bus, with devices identified by unique addresses.
- It is widely used in IoT for communication with sensors, displays, and other low-speed peripherals due to its simplicity and efficiency.

### 24 What is SPI?

- SPI = Serial Peripheral Interface.
- This is a high-speed, full-duplex communication protocol used to connect microcontrollers to peripherals such as sensors, memory devices, and displays.
- It has Four-Wire System:
  - ► MOSI = Master Out Slave In
  - ▶ MISO = Master In Slave Out
  - ► SCLK = Serial Clock
  - ► SS/CS = Slave Select or Chip Select
- Data can be sent and received simultaneously between the master and slave (Full Duplex).
- SPI supports higher data transfer rates compared to I<sup>2</sup>C.
- SPI is widely used in IoT applications where high-speed, real-time communication is required.

### 25 What is MQTT?

- MQTT = Message Queuing Telemetry Transport
- It is a lightweight, publisher-subscriber messaging protocol.
- MQTT uses a broker to manage message distribution between publishers (who send data) and subscribers (who receive it).

- It is designed for low-bandwidth networks.
- It minimizes overhead, which makes it ideal for IoT devices with limited resources.
- MQTT is widely used in IoT applications for real-time communication between sensors, actuators and cloud platforms.

### 26 What is LR-WPAN?

- LR-WPAN = Low-Rate Wireless Personal Area Network.
- It is a wireless communication protocol designed for low-power, low-cost and short-range communications between devices.
- Standard = IEEE 802.15.4
- Data rate = up to 250 kbps.
- Carrier Frequency = 2.4 GHz.
- It is designed for communication over short distances, typically within **10**-100 meters.
- It consumes minimal power, which makes it ideal for **battery-powered** IoT devices.
- LR-WPAN is used in applications such as smart homes and indoor sensor networks.

# 27 What is IPv4?

- IPv4 = Internet Protocol version 4.
- This is used to identify devices on a network using a unique 32-bit address.
- Its format: Four numbers (with 8 bits each), separated by dots (e.g., 104.21.82.220).
- As the IPv4 uses 32-bit addresses, it allows for about 4.3 billion unique IP addresses
- It provides a system for routing data packets between devices across different networks.

### 28 What is RTOS?

- RTOS = Real-Time Operating System.
- These operating systems are designed to process data and execute tasks within a strict time constraint for timely responses.
- It is commonly used in embedded systems, such as IoT devices, robotics, and automotive systems, where real-time performance is essential.
- Examples: FreeRTOS, VxWorks, RTEMS, QNX, TI-RTOS

# 29 Which OS are used on Raspberry Pi?

- Raspberry Pi OS (formerly Raspbian)
- Linux Ubuntu
- Kali Linux
- Arc Linux ARM
- Windows 10 IoT Core
- PiCore
- Fedora
- RetroPie
- OpenMediaVault

Except Windows 10 IoT Core,

all are Open Source

### 30 What is Salesforce IoT Cloud?

- The Salesforce IoT Cloud is an online platform for storing and processing IoT information.
- It is a **collection of** various application development elements, which are called **lightning**.
- This program gathers information from websites, devices, customers and partners. It then triggers actions for period responses.

# 31 List out Some popular companies which are working on IoT.

Popular companies working on IoT are:

Philips

LG

Samsung

- Google
- Apple
- Amazon

# 32 Mention suitable databases for IoT.

The following databases are suitable for IoT applications

- Apache Cassendra
- MongoDB
- SQLite

- influxDB
- RethinkDB

### **33** What is M2M ?

- M2M = Machine-to-Machine communication.
- It refers to direct communication between devices or machines without human intervention.
- It is widely used in smart meters, industrial automation and connected vehicles, which allows seamless communication between devices.

# 34 What is Thingful?

- Thingful is a search engine for the Internet of Things.
- This allows users to search for real-time IoT data generated by devices, such as environmental sensors, weather stations, and smart cities.

# 35 What is ThingSpeak?

- ThingSpeak is an open-source IoT platform which allows users to collect, store, analyze, and visualize sensor data in real time.
- It uses HTTP or MQTT protocols.
- It operates as a cloud service for remote monitoring and control of IoT devices.

# 36 Which clouds are used for IoT projects?

Some of the popular clouds for IoT are:

- Amazon Web Service AWS
- Microsoft Azure IoT
- Oracle IoT
- Samsung Artik
- Siemens MindSphere

- Google Cloud IoT
- IBM Watson IoT
- ThingSpeak
- Bosch IoT
- Kaa loT

### 37 What is 6LoWPAN?

- 6LoWPAN = IPv6 over Low-Power Wireless Personal Area Networks
- It is a communication protocol which allows IPv6 packets to be transmitted over low-power, low-bandwidth wireless networks.
- Operating Frequency = 2.4 GHz
- Data Rate = 250 kbps (max)
- Addressing = IPv6
- Standard = IEEE 802.15.4
- 6LoWPAN is widely used in IoT applications such as, smart homes, industrial automation and sensor networks, where energy efficiency and scalability are important.

# **38** Mention some examples of MEMS sensor.

- MEMS = Micro Electro Mechanical Systems
- These are used in small smart devices like phones, wristbands etc.

[1] Accelerometer – ADXL345

[2] Piezoelectric sensor – SPH0645LM4H

[3] Gyroscope – MPU6050

[4] Magnetometers – HMC5883L

# 39 Name some sensors, which are used to check water quality.

- pH sensor
- Turbidity sensor
- Nitrate Sensor
- Chlorine Sensor

- Temperature sensor
- Dissolved Oxygen sensor
- TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) Sensor
- ORP (Oxidation-Reduction Potential) Sensor

# 40 Name some sensors, which are used to check air quality.

- Smoke sensor MQ135 / MQ7
- CO2 sensor MQ2 / MHZ19
- NO2 sensor MiCS 2714
- Ozone sensor MQ131

# 41 Name some day-to-day commercial items which use IoT.

- Smart Lighting (Philips Hue, LIFX)
- Smart Speakers (Amazon Echo, Google Nest)
- Wearable Fitness Trackers (Fitbit, Apple Watch)
- Smart Refrigerators (Samsung Family Hub)
- Smart TVs (Samsung Smart TV, LG Smart TV)
- Smart Locks (August Smart Lock, Yale)
- Connected Cars (Tesla, BMW ConnectedDrive)
- Smart Security Cameras (Ring, Arlo)

# What are the various types of antennas designed for IoT devices?

- Chip Antenna
- PCB Antenna
- Wire Antenna
- Dielectric-resonator antenna

### What is WSN?

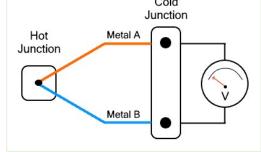
- WSN = Wireless Sensor Network
- This network consists of spatially distributed sensors which communicate wirelessly to monitor and collect data, such as temperature, humidity, pressure or motion.
- It is commonly used environmental monitoring, industrial automation, healthcare and smart cities.
- WSNs is useful for gathering real-time data in remote or hard-to-reach areas.

### What is LoRa?

- LoRa = Long Range.
- LoRa is a wireless communication technology designed for long-distance, low-power data transmission, primarily used in IoT networks.
- Operating Frequency = 868 MHz (Europe) / 915 MHz (North America) / 433 MHz (Asia)
- Range = up to 15 km (ideal condition) / up to 5 km (urban area)
- Data Rate = 0.3 kbps to 50 kbps (max)
- It is commonly used in smart cities, agriculture, industrial monitoring and environmental sensing for applications that require low data rates over long distances.

# What is Thermocouple?

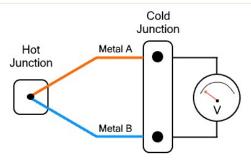
- Thermocouple is a temperature sensor that consists of two different metal wires joined at one end.
- When the junction of these metals is exposed to heat, it generates a voltage, which is proportional to the temperature difference between the hot junction and the reference point.
- These are widely used in industrial and scientific applications to measure a broad range of temperatures.



- There are different thermocouples like, K-Type, J-Type, T-Type etc. depending upon the materials used, and their temperature ranges.
- Example: K-Type consists of Chromel and Alumel. It's temperature range is -200°C to +1350°C

### How does the moisture sensor work?

- The moisture sensor consists of two metal probes, and inserted into soil.
- It works on the principle of electrical resistance, as water increases electrical conductivity.
- If the soil is **dry**, then electrical **resistance** between the probes is **high** => **low moisture** levels.
- If the soil is wet, the resistance decreases => higher moisture levels.



# 47 How does the smoke sensor MQ-7 work?

- The MQ-7 is a carbon monoxide (CO) gas sensor.
- The sensor has a heated layer of tin dioxide (SnO<sub>2</sub>), which has low conductivity in clean air.
- Due to smoke, when the amount of carbon monoxide (CO) increases, then the conductivity of the tin dioxide layer increases.
- It can detect the concentration of CO from 20 ppm to 2000 ppm. (ppm = parts per million)

# What are the features of an IoT based smart city?

- IoT enabled traffic management system
- Smart parking
- IoT enabled infrastructures (buildings, roads, bridges, etc.) to monitor their condition.
- Weather monitoring system
- Smart electric grids for efficient power distribution
- Emergency response system

# 49 Can we say "Amazon Echo" is an IoT device? If yes, explore its components.

Yes, "Amazon Echo" is an IoT device.

It consists of the following components in context to IoT.

- **Sensors**: Microphones, temperature sensors.
- Actuators: Speakers, LED indicators.
- **Connectivity**: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee (in some models).
- **Cloud Services**: AWS Amazon Web Services.
- User Interface (input): Volume buttons, Action button, Microphone Mute button
- **User Interface** (**output**): Speakers (Music, Alarm, Notification)

LED Ring (Listing, Notifications, Volume Levels)

# **50** Which types of testing are done for an IoT system?

- **Usability** Testing *if it is user friendly or not*
- **Compatibility** Testing if it can be implemented for different networks / software
- **Reliability** and **Scalability** Testing if it can work for long time / if it can increase the users
- **Data Integrity** Testing *if it can handle huge amount of data*
- **Security** Testing *if the data handled are validated or not*
- Performance Testing how efficiently does the system work