

# PHP Interview Questions And Answers - PHP Test Quiz

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Are you looking to update your PHP programming knowledge or need to prepare for a job interview? Check out this collection of **PHP Interview Questions and Answers**.

## 1. What's the difference between include and require?

Answer: It's how they handle failures. If the file is not found by require(), it will cause a fatal error and halt the execution of the script. If the file is not found by include(), a warning will be issued, but execution will continue.

## 2. When you assign a variable the value of 0123, it keeps coming up with a different number, why?

Answer: PHP Interpreter treats numbers beginning with 0 as octal.

## 3. Would you use print "\$a dollars" or "{\$a} dollars" to print out the amount of dollars in this example?

Answer: In this example it wouldn't matter, since the variable is all by itself, but if you were to print something like "{\$a},000,000 mln dollars", then you definitely need to use the braces.

## 4. How do you define a constant?

Answer: Constants in PHP are defined using define() directive, like define("MYCONSTANT", 100);

## 5. How do you pass a variable by value in PHP?

Answer: Just like in C++, put an ampersand in front of it, like \$a = &\$b;

## 6. Will comparison of string "10" and integer 11 work in PHP?

Answer: Yes, internally PHP will cast everything to the integer type, so numbers 10 and 11 will be compared.

## 7. When are you supposed to use endif to end the conditional statement?

Answer: When the original if was followed by : and then the code block without braces.

## 8. Explain the ternary conditional operator in PHP?

Answer: Expression preceding the ? is evaluated, if it's true, then the expression preceding the : is executed, otherwise, the expression following : is executed.

## 9. How do I find out the number of parameters passed into function in PHP?

Answer: `func_num_args()` function returns the number of parameters/arguments passed to a function in PHP.

**10. If the variable \$a is equal to 5 and variable \$b is equal to character a, what's the value of \$\$b?**

Answer: 100, it's a reference to existing variable.

**11. What's the difference between accessing a class method via `->` and via `::`?**

Answer: In PHP, `::` is allowed to access methods that can perform static operations, i.e. those, which do not require object initialization.

**12. Are objects passed by value or by reference?**

Answer: Everything is passed by value. In PHP4 it's true, BUT in PHP5 absolutely not - all objects are passed by reference.

**13. How do you call a constructor for a parent class?**

Answer: `parent::constructor($value)`

**14. What's the special meaning of `__sleep` and `__wakeup`?**

Answer: `__sleep` returns the array of all the variables than need to be saved, while `__wakeup` retrieves them.

**15. Would you initialize your strings with single quotes or double quotes in PHP?**

Answer: Since the data inside the single-quoted string is not parsed for variable substitution, it's always a better idea speed-wise to initialize a string with single quotes, unless you specifically need variable substitution.

**16. I am writing an application in PHP that outputs a printable version of driving directions. It contains some long sentences, and I am a neat freak, and would like to make sure that no line exceeds 50 characters. How do I accomplish that with PHP?**

Answer: On large strings that need to be formatted according to some length specifications, use `wordwrap()` or `chunk_split()`.

**17. What's the output of the `ucwords()` function in the example below?**

```
$formatted = ucwords("THIS COLLECTION OF PHP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS");
print $formatted;
```

Answer: Output will be THIS IS COLLECTION OF PHP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS. ucwords() makes every first letter of every word capital, but it does not lower-case anything else. To avoid this, and get a properly formatted string, it's worth using strtolower() first.

**18. What's the difference between htmlentities() and htmlspecialchars()?**

Answer: htmlspecialchars only takes care of <, >, single quote ', double quote " and ampersand. htmlentities translates all occurrences of character sequences that have different meaning in HTML.

**19. What's the difference between md5(), crc32() and sha1() crypto on PHP?**

Answer: The major difference is the length of the hash generated. CRC32 is, evidently, 32 bits, while sha1() returns a 128 bit value, and md5() returns a 160 bit value. This is important when avoiding collisions.

**20. If md5() generates the most secure hash, why would you ever use the less secure crc32() and sha1()?**

Answer: Crypto usage in PHP is simple, but that doesn't mean it's free. First off, depending on the data that you're encrypting, you might have reasons to store a 32-bit value in the database instead of the 160-bit value to save on space. Second, the more secure the crypto is, the longer is the computation time to deliver the hash value. A high volume site might be significantly slowed down, if frequent md5() generation is required.

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