

## 46 COBOL interview questions to ask your applicants

### Questions

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1. Can you explain the structure of a COBOL program and its key divisions?
2. What is the difference between a COPY and a INCLUDE statement in COBOL?
3. How do you handle data types in COBOL, and what are some common examples?
4. Can you describe the purpose of the PERFORM statement and provide an example of its use?
5. What are COBOL's main file handling methods, and when would you use each one?
6. How do you implement error handling in COBOL programs?
7. Can you explain the concept of indexes and how they are utilized in COBOL?
8. What is the significance of the WORKING-STORAGE section in a COBOL program?
9. How do you debug a COBOL program? What tools or techniques do you use?
10. Can you discuss your experience with COBOL in a modern development environment, such as integration with databases or web services?
11. How would you explain COBOL to someone who has never heard of it before?
12. Can you describe a situation where you had to modify existing COBOL code? What challenges did you face?
13. How do you ensure data integrity when working with COBOL programs?
14. What strategies would you use to optimize the performance of a COBOL program?
15. How do you approach integrating COBOL with modern systems or technologies?
16. Can you explain the use and benefits of the EVALUATE statement in COBOL?
17. Describe how you would handle dynamic memory allocation in COBOL.
18. How would you implement multi-threading in a COBOL environment?
19. What are your strategies for optimizing COBOL batch processing jobs?
20. Can you discuss the impact of variable-length records on COBOL program performance?
21. How do you manage version control for COBOL programs?
22. Describe a complex problem you solved using COBOL. What was your approach?
23. What are the best practices for maintaining COBOL legacy systems?
24. How do you ensure COBOL code is compliant with modern security standards?
25. Can you explain the role of the LINKAGE SECTION in COBOL? Provide an example.
26. Describe your experience with COBOL in cloud computing environments.
27. How do you handle migration of COBOL applications to new platforms?
28. What methods do you use to ensure efficient input/output operations in COBOL?
29. How do you implement and manage transaction processing in COBOL?
30. Can you describe how you handle COBOL program modifications for regulatory compliance?
31. How do you handle large volumes of data in COBOL programs?
32. Can you explain the concept of table handling in COBOL and its importance?
33. How do you ensure data integrity when working with external files in COBOL?
34. Describe how you would handle currency calculations in COBOL to ensure accuracy.
35. How would you approach data validation in a COBOL program?
36. Explain the process of sorting data in COBOL and when you might use it.
37. How do you handle null or missing values in COBOL data processing?
38. How would you approach integrating a COBOL application with a modern REST API?
39. Can you explain the process of connecting a COBOL program to a relational database like Oracle or SQL Server?
40. What challenges might you face when migrating a COBOL application to a cloud environment, and how would you address them?
41. How would you implement data exchange between a COBOL program and a Java application?
42. Can you describe a method for exposing COBOL functionality as a web service?
43. What strategies would you use to ensure data consistency when integrating COBOL with real-time systems?
44. How would you handle character encoding issues when integrating COBOL with modern systems that use Unicode?
45. Can you explain how you would use middleware to facilitate communication between COBOL and newer applications?