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# 35 DevOps Interview Questions with Answers + Recruiter Evaluation Guide

A Complete Guide for Recruiters, Hiring Managers & Candidates

## BASIC DEVOPS QUESTIONS (0–2 YEARS)

### 1. What is DevOps?

**Answer:** DevOps is a set of practices that combines software development (Dev) and IT operations (Ops) to enable faster, more reliable software delivery. It focuses on automation, collaboration, continuous integration, and continuous delivery (CI/CD).

### 2. What are the key principles of DevOps?

**Answer:**

- Continuous Integration (CI)
- Continuous Delivery/Deployment (CD)
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC)
- Monitoring & Logging
- Collaboration & Automation

### 3. What is CI/CD?

**Answer:** CI/CD is a pipeline that automates code integration, testing, and deployment.

- CI → Code is merged and tested automatically
- CD → Code is deployed automatically

**Recruiter Insight:** Strong candidates explain pipeline stages

### 4. What is version control?

**Answer:** A system that tracks changes in code over time, enabling collaboration and rollback.  
Example: Git

### 5. What is Git?

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**Answer:** A distributed version control system used to track code changes and collaborate efficiently.

## 6. What is a repository?

**Answer:** A storage location where code and its history are maintained.

## 7. What is branching in Git?

**Answer:** Creating separate lines of development for features or bug fixes.

## 8. What is merging?

**Answer:** Combining changes from one branch into another.

## 9. What is a build?

**Answer:** The process of compiling code and packaging it into an executable artifact.

## 10. What is deployment?

**Answer:** The process of releasing an application to a production environment.

# CORE DEVOPS QUESTIONS (2–5 YEARS)

## 11. What is Docker?

**Answer:** Docker is a containerization platform that packages applications and dependencies into lightweight containers for consistent deployment.

### Recruiter Check:

- Mentions portability + consistency
- Only says “tool to run containers”

## 12. What is a container?

**Answer:** A lightweight, standalone unit that includes an application and its dependencies.

## 13. Docker vs Virtual Machines?

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**Answer:**

- Docker: Lightweight, shares OS
- VM: Heavy, separate OS

#### **14. What is Kubernetes?**

**Answer:** An orchestration tool that manages container deployment, scaling, and networking.

#### **15. What is a pod in Kubernetes?**

**Answer:** The smallest deployable unit containing one or more containers.

#### **16. What is Infrastructure as Code (IaC)?**

**Answer:** Managing infrastructure using code instead of manual setup (e.g., Terraform).

#### **17. What is Terraform?**

**Answer:** An IaC tool used to provision infrastructure across cloud platforms.

#### **18. What is configuration management?**

**Answer:** Maintaining system consistency using tools like Ansible, Puppet, or Chef.

#### **19. What is Ansible?**

**Answer:** An automation tool for configuration management and deployment using YAML-based playbooks.

#### **20. What is a CI/CD pipeline?**

**Answer:** A sequence of automated steps: build → test → deploy → monitor.

### **ADVANCED DEVOPS QUESTIONS (5+ YEARS)**

#### **21. What is blue-green deployment?**

**Answer:** A deployment strategy where two environments exist (blue & green), and traffic is switched to the new version without downtime.

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## 22. What is canary deployment?

**Answer:** Releasing a new version to a small subset of users before full rollout.

## 23. What is load balancing?

**Answer:** Distributing traffic across servers to improve availability and performance.

## 24. What is monitoring in DevOps?

**Answer:** Tracking system performance using tools like Prometheus, Grafana, or CloudWatch.

## 25. What is logging?

**Answer:** Capturing application/system logs for debugging and analysis.

## 26. What is observability?

**Answer:** Ability to understand system behavior using logs, metrics, and traces.

## 27. What is microservices architecture?

**Answer:** Breaking applications into small, independent services.

## 28. What is API Gateway?

**Answer:** Manages API requests, routing, authentication, and rate limiting.

## 29. What is scalability?

**Answer:** Ability of a system to handle increased load by adding resources.

## 30. What is fault tolerance?

**Answer:** System's ability to continue working despite failures.

## SCENARIO-BASED QUESTIONS (HIGH SIGNAL)

### 31. How would you design a CI/CD pipeline?

**Answer:**

- Code commit triggers pipeline
- Build & test
- Deploy to staging
- Run automated tests
- Deploy to production

**Recruiter Insight:** Look for structured thinking + tools

### 32. How do you handle deployment failures?

**Answer:** Rollback using previous stable version, analyze logs, fix issue.

### 33. How do you reduce downtime?

**Answer:** Use blue-green deployment, load balancing, and auto scaling.

### 34. How do you secure a DevOps pipeline?

**Answer:**

- Use secrets management
- Role-based access
- Secure APIs
- Encryption

### 35. How do you improve system performance?

**Answer:** Optimize infrastructure, use caching, scale resources, monitor metrics.

## RECRUITER EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

### 5–3–1 Scoring Model

Skill	5/5 (Strong)	3/5 (Average)	1/5 (Weak)
DevOps Concepts	Clear + applied	Basic	Weak

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Tools Knowledge	Hands-on (Docker, K8s)	Theoretical	None
CI/CD	End-to-end understanding	Partial	Weak
Problem Solving	Structured	Average	Poor
System Thinking	Scalable	Limited	None

## Final Hiring Decision

- **40+ → Strong Hire**
- **30–39 → Consider**
- **<30 → Reject**

Standardize and scale your DevOps hiring with this checklist. [Talk to our experts today.](#)

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*End of Guide*