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# Power BI Interview Checklist: 50+ Questions, Answers, Evaluation Framework & Hiring Scorecard

A Complete Guide for Recruiters, Hiring Managers & Candidates

## How to Use This Checklist

- Use sections by experience level
- Ask 6–10 questions per interview
- Score using rubric (Section 6)

## Suggested Flow (60 mins)

- 0–10: Basics
- 10–25: Core concepts
- 25–45: DAX + scenarios
- 45–60: Discussion

## SECTION 1: BEGINNER QUESTIONS (0–2 YEARS)

### 1. What is Power BI?

A business analytics tool to visualize data and share insights via dashboards and reports.

### 2. Components of Power BI?

Power BI Desktop (development), Service (cloud), Mobile apps, Gateway.

### 3. What is Power BI Desktop?

Tool to build data models and reports locally.

### 4. What is Power BI Service?

Cloud platform to publish, share, and collaborate on reports.

### 5. What is Power Query?

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Data transformation engine for cleaning and shaping data.

## **6. What is a dashboard?**

Single-page view with visuals from multiple reports.

## **7. What is a report?**

Multi-page interactive visualization built on a dataset.

## **8. Dashboard vs Report?**

Dashboard = summary (1 page), Report = detailed (multiple pages).

## **9. What are data sources?**

Databases, Excel, APIs, cloud services.

## **10. What is a dataset?**

Collection of data used to create reports.

## **SECTION 2: INTERMEDIATE QUESTIONS (2–5 YEARS)**

## **11. What is DAX?**

Data Analysis Expressions language used for calculations.

## **12. Calculated column vs Measure?**

Column = row-level, stored; Measure = aggregated, calculated on demand.

## **13. What are relationships?**

Links between tables using keys.

## **14. What is star schema?**

Fact table connected to dimension tables.

## **15. Filter context?**

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Filters applied to visuals affecting calculations.

### **16. Row context?**

Calculation per row.

### **17. What are visuals?**

Charts, tables, KPIs used for data display.

### **18. What is slicer?**

Interactive filter for reports.

### **19. What is drill-through?**

Navigate to detailed report page.

### **20. What is Power BI Gateway?**

Connects on-premise data to cloud.

## **SECTION 3: ADVANCED QUESTIONS (5+ YEARS)**

### **21. What is data modeling?**

Structuring data for efficient querying and analysis.

### **22. How to optimize performance?**

Reduce columns, optimize DAX, use aggregations.

### **23. What are aggregations?**

Precomputed summaries to speed queries.

### **24. What is incremental refresh?**

Loads only new/changed data.

### **25. DirectQuery vs Import?**

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DirectQuery = live query; Import = cached data.

## **26. Handling large datasets?**

Use aggregations, incremental refresh, DirectQuery.

## **27. What is RLS?**

Restricts data access by user roles.

## **28. What is composite model?**

Combines Import + DirectQuery.

## **29. DAX best practices?**

Use measures, avoid complex nested formulas, optimize context.

## **30. Debug performance issues?**

Use Performance Analyzer, optimize visuals and queries.

## **SECTION 4: PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**

## **31. Design a sales dashboard?**

Include KPIs (revenue, growth), filters, trends, region breakdown.

## **32. Clean messy data?**

Use Power Query (remove nulls, transform types).

## **33. Handle missing values?**

Replace, remove, or impute.

## **34. Track KPIs?**

Use measures and KPI visuals.

## **35. Executive dashboard?**

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High-level metrics, minimal visuals, clarity.

### **36. Improve slow reports?**

Optimize model, reduce visuals, improve DAX.

### **37. Ensure data accuracy?**

Validate sources, cross-check metrics.

### **38. Automate reporting?**

Schedule refresh, use Power BI Service.

### **39. Multiple data sources?**

Use Power Query to merge/append.

### **40. Secure data?**

Use RLS and permissions.

## **SECTION 5: SCENARIO QUESTIONS**

### **41. Low dashboard adoption?**

Improve UX, simplify visuals, align with user needs.

### **42. Data mismatch?**

Check transformations and sources.

### **43. Real-time insights?**

Use DirectQuery or streaming datasets.

### **44. Scale BI?**

Centralized models, governance.

### **45. Poor performance?**

Optimize queries, reduce data size.

## SECTION 6: EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Skills	5/5	3/5	1/5
Basics	Strong	Avg	Weak
DAX	Advanced	Basic	Poor
Modeling	Scalable	Limited	None
Problem Solving	Structured	Avg	Weak
Communication	Clear	Avg	Poor

## SECTION 7: SCORECARD

Criteria	Scorecard ( __ / 10)
Technical	
DAX	
Visualization	
Business Thinking	
Communication	

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