Linux Shell Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

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Linux Shell Job Interview Preparation Guide.

Question # 1

The statement z = 'expr 5 / 2' would store which of the following values in z?
a) 0
b) 1
c) 2
d) 2.5
e) 3

Answer:-

c) 2

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Question # 2

What is the output of the following program?

```
[ -n $HOME ]
echo $?
[ -z $HOME ]
echo $?
```

```
a) 0
   1
b) 1
   0
c) 0
   0
d) 1
   1
```

Answer:-

```
a) 0
   1
```

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Question # 3

What is the output of the following program?

```
x = 3; y = 5; z = 10;
if [( $x -eq 3 ) -a ( $y -eq 5 -o  $z -eq 10 )]
then
    echo $x
else
    echo $y
fi
```

a) 1
b) 3
c) 5
d) Error

Answer:-

b) 3

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Question # 4

The expression expr -9 % 2 evaluates to:
a) 0
b) 1
c) -1
d) 2

Answer:-

c) -1

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Question # 5

What is the output of the following program?

```
b =
[ -n $b ]
    echo $?
[ -z $b ]
    echo $?
```

```
a) 1
   1
b) 2
   2
c) 0
   0
d) 0
   1
```

Answer:-

```
c) 0
   0
```

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Question # 6

What is the output of the following code:

```
os=Unix
echo 1.$os 2."$os" 3.'$os' 4.$os
```

a) 1.Unix 2.Unix 3.Unix 4.Unix

b) 1.Unix 2.Unix 3.$os 4.Unix

c) 1.Unix 2.Unix 3.Unix 4.$os

d) 1.Unix 2.$os 3.$os 4.$os

Answer:-

b) 1.Unix 2.Unix 3.$os 4.Unix

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Question # 7

Create a new file "new.txt" that is a concatenation of "file1.txt" and "file2.txt"?

a) cp file.txt file2.txt new.txt

b) cat file1.txt file2.txt > new.txt

c) mv file[12].txt new.txt

d) ls file1.txt file2.txt | new.txt

Answer:-

b) cat file1.txt file2.txt > new.txt

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Question # 8

What will be output of following command:

```
$ echo "The process id is" $$$$
```

a) The process id is $$

b) The process id is $<pid>$<pid>

c) The process id is <pid><pid>

d) The process id is $$$$

Answer:-

c) The process id is <pid><pid>

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Question # 9

What is the return value ($?) of this code:

```
os = Unix
[$osName = UnixName] && exit 2
[${os}Name = UnixName] && exit 3
```

a) 0

b) 1

c) 2

d) 3

Answer:-

d) 3

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Question # 10

Which of these is not a valid variable in bash:
a) __ (double underscore)
b) _1var (underscore 1 var)
c) _var_ (underscore var underscore)
d) some-var (some hyphen var)

Answer:-

d) some-var (some hyphen var)

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Question # 11

How do you print the lines between 5 and 10, both inclusive?
a) cat filename | head | tail -6
b) cat filename | head | tail -5
c) cat filename | tail +5 | head
d) cat filename | tail -5 | head -10

Answer:-

a) cat filename | head | tail -6

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Question # 12

What would be the current working directory at the end of the following command sequence?

```
 $ pwd
 /home/user1/proj
 $ cd  src
 $ cd  generic
 $ cd  .
 $ pwd
```

a) /home/user1/proj
b) /home/user1/proj/src
c) /home/user1
d) /home/user1/proj/src/generic

Answer:-

d) /home/user1/proj/src/generic

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Question # 13

Tell me which of the following commands allows definition and assignment of environment variables under bash:
a) env
b) export
c) environ
d) setenviron

Answer:-

a) env

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Question # 14

How to feed standard output of one command to standard input of another in a single shell session?
a) IO redirection can be used
b) Named pipes can be used
c) The pipe operator provided by the shell can be used
d) It can not be done

Answer:-

c) The pipe operator provided by the shell can be used

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Question # 15

The redirection 2> abc implies:
a) Write file 2 to file abc
b) Write standard output to abc
c) Write standard error to abc
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

c) Write standard error to abc

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Question # 16

cmd > abc 2>&1 will:
a) Write file2 to file1
b) Write standard output and standard error to abc
c) Write standard error to abc
d) Write standard output to abc & standard error to monitor

Answer:-

b) Write standard output and standard error to abc

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Question # 17

cmd 2>&1 > abc will:
a) Write file2 to file1
b) Write standard output and standard error to abc
c) Write standard error to abc
d) Write standard output to abc & standard error to monitor

Answer:-

d) Write standard output to abc & standard error to monitor

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Question # 18

The following commands gives the output like this:
#cat file1 file2
#cat: file1: No such file or directory
hello
If we execute the command "cat file1 file2 1>2 2>&1" the output would be
a) cat: file1: No such file or directory hello
b) No output is displayed
c) Cat: 1>2: No such file or directory
d) hello

Answer:-

b) No output is displayed

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Question # 19

From where would the read statement read if the following statements were executed?
exec < file1
exec < file2
exec < file3
read line
a) It would read all the files
b) It would not read any files
c) It would read all the files in reverse order
d) It would read only file3

Answer:-

b) It would not read any files

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Question # 20

Which of these is the correct method for appending "foo" in /tmp/bar file?
a) echo foo > /tmp/bar
b) echo foo >> /tmp/bar
c) echo foo | /tmp/var
d) /tmp/bar < echo foo

Answer:-

b) echo foo >> /tmp/bar

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Question # 21

cat < file1 >> file2 | file3:
a) file1 content will be appended to file2 and finally stored in file3
b) file1 content will be appended to file2 and file3 will be ignored
c) file2 and file3 will have same content
d) syntax error

Answer:-

d) syntax error

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Question # 22

Executing cat /etc/password > /dev/sda as superuser will:
a) Write data into a regular file called /dev/sda
b) Write data to the physical device sda
c) Create a temporary file /dev/sda and write data to it
d) None of the above

Answer:-

b) Write data to the physical device sda

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Question # 23

Which variable is used to display number of arguments specified in command line:
a) $0
b) $#
c) $*
d) $?

Answer:-

b) $#

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Question # 24

Which variable contains last background job process id:
a) $*
b) $?
c) $$
d) $!

Answer:-

d) $!

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Question # 25

Syntax to suppress the display of command error to monitor?
a) command > &2
b) command 2> &1
c) command 2> &2
d) command 2> /dev/null

Answer:-

d) command 2> /dev/null

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Question # 26

The $ variables in a shell script context designates:
a) The runtime of the script
b) Number of command line arguments
c) PID of the shell running the script
d) The exit status of the shell script

Answer:-

c) PID of the shell running the script

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Question # 27

Which command can be used to test various file attributes:
a) if
b) file
c) test
d) type

Answer:-

c) test

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Question # 28

Which of the following file set in the current directory are identified by the regular expression a?b*?
a) afcc, aabb
b) aabb, axbc
c) abbb, abxy
d) abcd, axbb

Answer:-

b) aabb, axbc

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Question # 29

What is the output of the following command for bash shell:
echo linux $0
a) linux echo
b) linux linux
c) linux bash
d) linux

Answer:-

c) linux bash

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Question # 30

When the return value of any function is not specified within the function, what function returns?
a) nothing
b) exit status of the last command executed
c) 0
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

b) exit status of the last command executed

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Question # 31

* Specifies:
a) one or more character
b) zero or more charecter
c) nothing
d) None of the above

Answer:-

b) zero or more charecter

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Question # 32

? Specifies:
a) one or more character
b) zero or more charecter
c) one character
d) None of the above

Answer:-

c) one character

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Question # 33

Which variable will display the list of the positional parameters?
a) $#
b) $*
c) $?
d) $$

Answer:-

b) $*

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Question # 34

Which of the following command provides the list of the functions defined in the login session?
a) declare -f
b) declare -F
c) both (a) and (b)
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

c) both (a) and (b)
Explanation:
'declare -F' provides just the name of the functions and 'declare -f' provides their definitions also.

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Question # 35

The keyword 'local' is used:

a) to define a variable within a function for its local scope
b) to redefine any global variable
c) this is not a valid keyword
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

a) to define a variable within a function for its local scope

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Question # 36

Functions improves the shell's program-ability significantly, because:
a) when we invoke a function, it is already in the shell's memory, therefore a function runs faster than seperate scripts
b) function provides a piece of code for repetative tasks
c) both (a) and (b)
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

c) both (a) and (b)

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Question # 37

What command would send the output of cmd1 to the input of cmd2?
a) cmd1 | cmd2
b) cmd1 || cmd2
c) cmd1 && cmd2
d) cmd1 ; cmd2
e) cmd1 cmd2

Answer:-

a) cmd1 | cmd2

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Question # 38

Parameters can be passed to a function:
a) by using the parameter variables $1, $2, $3.......
b) by using the environment variables
c) both (a) and (b)
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

a) by using the parameter variables $1, $2, $3.......

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Question # 39

What is the output of this program?

```
#!/bin/sh
san_function() {
    echo "Welcome to the google"
    printf "World of Linuxn"
}
unset -f san_function
san_function
exit 0
```

a) Welcome to the google
b) World of Linux
c) both (a) and (b)
d) nothing will print

Answer:-

d) nothing will print
Explanation:
Function definition was deleted before calling the function. command 'unset -f function_name' deletes the function definition.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
./test.sh: 6: san_function: not found
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 40

What is the output of this program?

```
#!/bin/sh
var="google"
san_function() {
    var="Linux"
    echo $var
}
```

```
  san_function
  exit 0
```

a) google
b) Linux
c) command not found
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

b) Linux
Explanation:
If local variable name is same as the global variable, it overlays the variable, but only within the function.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
Linux
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 41

What is the output of this program?

```
  #!/bin/bash
  function san_function1 {
     echo "This is first function"
  }
  san_function2() {
     echo "This is second function"
  }
  san_function1
  san_function2
  exit 0
```

a) This is the first function
b) This is the second function
c) This is the first function
This is the second function
d) program will generate error because first function definition is not correct

Answer:-

c) This is the first function
This is the second function

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Question # 42

What is the output of this program?

```
  #!/bin/sh
  echo "Just call the function"
  san_function
  san_function() {
    echo "This is a function"
  }
  exit 0
```

a) only first string will print without any error
b) only second string will print without any error
c) both strings will print
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

d) none of the mentioned
Explanation:
Function must be defined prior to call. Hence only first string will print and program will generate an error also.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/globalguideline# ./test.sh
Just call the function
./test.sh: 3: san_function: not found
root@ubuntu:/home/globalguideline#
```

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Question # 43

What is the output of this program?

```
  #!/bin/sh
  san_function1() {
     a=5
     echo "This is the first function"
     san_function2
  }
  san_function2() {
     echo "This is the second function"
     san_function3
  }
  san_function3() {
     echo "This is the third function"
  }
  san_function1
  exit 0
```

a) This is the first function
This is the second function
This is the third function
b) This is the first function
This is the third function
This is the second function
c) This is the second function
This is the first function
This is the third function
d) This is the third function
This is the first function
This is the second function

Answer:-

a) This is the first function
This is the second function
This is the third function
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
This is the first function
This is the second function
This is the third function
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 44

Which command reads user input from the terminal and assign this value to a variable name?
a) read
b) get
c) declare
d) set

Answer:-

a) read

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Question # 45

Which one of the following statement is true about variables in shell?
a) variables do not require declaration before assigning value to them
b) variables are case sensitive
c) to extract the contents of a variable, we have to provide the variable a preceding $
d) all of the mentioned

Answer:-

d) all of the mentioned

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Question # 46

Which one of the following is not a valid shell variable?
a) _san
b) san_2
c) _san_2
d) 2_san

Answer:-

d) 2_san
Explanation:
The shell variable can contain only letters(a to z or A to Z), numbers(0 to 9), or a underscore character(_) and a variable can not start with a number.

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Question # 47

In the shell, by default, all variables are considered and stored as:
a) string
b) integer
c) character
f) float

Answer:-

a) string

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Question # 48

What is the output of this program?

```
   #!/bin/bash
   san_var="google"
   echo "$san_var"
   echo '$san_var'
   echo '"$san_var"'
   echo "'$san_var'"
   echo $san_var
   exit 0
```

a) google
$san_var
"$san_var"
'google'
$san_var
b) google
google
"google"
'google'
google
c) program will generate an error message
d) program will print nothing

Answer:-

a) google
$san_var
"$san_var"
'google'
$san_var
Explanation:
Using double quotes does not affect the substitution of the variable, while single quotes and backslash do.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
google
$san_var
"$san_var"
'google'
$san_var
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 49

What is the output of this program?

```
   #!/bin/bash
   var1=10
   $var1=20
   echo $var1
   exit 0
```

a) program will print 10
b) program will generate a warning message
c) program will print 20
d) both (a) and (b)

Answer:-

d) both (a) and (b)
Explanation:
The doller sign ($) is used to access a variable's value, not to define it.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
./test.sh: line 3: 10=20: command not found
10
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 50

What is the output of this program?

```
   #!/bin/bash
   var[1]=san_1
   var[2]=san_2
   var[3]=san_3
   echo ${var[*]}
   exit 0
```

a) san_1
b) san_2
c) san_3
d) san_1 san_2 san_3

Answer:-

d) san_1 san_2 san_3
Explanation:
All items of an array can be accessed by using ${[*]} or ${[@]}.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
san_1 san_2 san_3
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 51

What is the output of this program?

```
  #!/bin/bash
  san_var=hello
  readonly san_var
  san_var=hi
  echo $san_var
  exit 0
```

a) hello
b) hi
c) nothing will print
d) none of the mentioned

Answer:-

a) hello
Explanation:
After the execution of the 'readonly' command, shell will not provide the permission to overwrite the value stored in variable 'san_var'.
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
./test.sh: line 4: san_var: readonly variable
hello
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 52

What is the output of this program?

```
   #!/bin/bash
   san_var=10
   echo "the value of "san_var" is $san_var"
   exit 0
```

a) the value of "san_var" is 10
b) the value of is 10
c) the value of san_var is $san_var
d) the value of "san_var" is $san_var

Answer:-

a) the value of "san_var" is 10
Output:

```
root@ubuntu:/home/google# ./test.sh
the value of "san_var" is 10
root@ubuntu:/home/google#
```

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Question # 53

To redefine a variable, it can be removed from the list of variables by using the command:
a) unset
b) delete
c) remove
d) clear

Answer:-

a) unset

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