

CDS Views & HANA-10 questions**Data modelling - pushed-down logic - HANA-native****Q1 CDS view vs classic DB view?**

CDS = defined in ABAP layer, compiled to DB, supports annotations + OData.
 Classic = DB only, no RAP support. All new S/4HANA development uses CDS.

Q2 CDS associations vs joins?

Association = lazy, not joined until needed-reduces runtime cost. Join = always executed. Use associations for optional navigation paths.

✓ Explain lazy evaluation-shows HANA optimisation awareness

Q3 Code pushdown in HANA?

Move computation from ABAP app server to HANA DB layer. CDS views + AMDP+ Open SQL aggregations execute in DB-less data transferred. Core S/4HANA principle.

Q4 What is AMDP?

ABAP Managed Database Procedure-SQLScript inside ABAP class methods. Use when CDS cannot express procedural logic. Runs entirely in HANA-not app server.

Q5 CDS annotation types?

@AbapCatalog (DDL settings) - @OData.publish (auto OData service) - @UI.* (Fiori layout) - @AccessControl.authorizationCheck (DCL enforcement)

Q6 What is a CDS extension view?

Extends existing CDS view adding fields/annotations without modifying the original adapt standard views for custom Fiori apps.

Q7 What is DCL in CDS?

Data Control Language-access control via PFCG roles. Defined in .del files. Conditions filter data at DB level. Replaces authority-check in traditional ABAP reports.

Q8 HANA calc view vs CDS view?

HANA calc view = HANA Studio, not transportable via ABAP TR, not clean-core. CDS = ABAP layer, transportable, cloud-ready, preferred for S/4HANA custom development.

✓ Clean-core angle makes this a senior-level answer

Q9 What is the VDM?

SAP's layered CDS architecture: Basic Interface → Composite Interface → Consumption Views. Follow VDM when building custom CDS to match SAP standard patterns.

Q10 Test CDS view performance?

Use SE16H or CDS preview in ADT. Check EXPLAIN PLAN in HANA Cockpit. ST05 SQL trace. Look for full table scans — add client-dependent filters + buffering annotations.

S/4HANA & RAP-10 questions**Modern ABAP - RESTful clean core - Fiori****Q1 Clean core-why it matters in 2026?**

Extend SAP only via released APIs, BADIs, CDS extensions. No standard object modification. Upgrade-safe. Non-negotiable for S/4HANA Cloud.

✓ Every senior interview mentions this — know it cold

Q2 RAP-how does it work?

CDS entity → BDEF → Behaviour Implementation class → Service Definition → Service Binding. Creates OData V4 service with full CRUD + actions + draft.

Q3 Managed vs unmanaged RAP?

Managed = SAP handles CRUD + draft + locking. Use for new objects. Unmanaged = you implement all save logic-needed when wrapping legacy BAPIs.

Q4 What is a BDEF in RAP?

Behaviour Definition-declares what operations a RAP business object supports: create, update, delete, actions, validations, determinations.

Q5 RAP validations vs determinations?

Validation = checks data, raises error messages. Determination = sets/derives field values automatically. Both run in save sequence.

Q6 Draft handling in RAP?

Saves edits to draft tables before final activation. Cross-session editing, collaboration, conflict detection. Requires draft-enabled BDEF + additional draft tables.

Q7 ABAP Cloud restrictions?

No direct DB table access, no classic dynpros, no function groups, no C0 unreleased APIs. Only released APIs + RAP. Forces clean-core by compiler enforcement.

Q8 What is EML in RAP?

Entity Manipulation Language - ABAP syntax to interact with RAP business objects. Used in unit tests and automation. MODIFY ENTITIES OF z_entity.

✓ Knowing EML separates S/4HANA experts from beginners

Q9 Released API principle?

@ReleaseState: Released marks safe CDS views + FMs for clean-core use. Check in ADT-red = unreleased, green = safe. Critical for upgrade safety.

Q10 Key S/4HANA simplifications?

ACDOCA universal journal (replaced many FI tables). Material ledger mandatory. Pooled/cluster tables removed. All existing code must be retested.

What senior SAP interviewers really look for**System thinking, not just syntax**

They do not want memorised docs. They want your decision-making process. Show HOW you think — not just the answer.

Trade-off awareness

Say "it depends" and explain why. Join vs FAE, managed vs unmanaged RAP weigh options against the scenario.

Production ownership mindset

Say "I check ST05 first" / "I always run ATC before transport." Shows you have shipped real code on live systems.

Clean core awareness in 2026

Every senior interview has a clean-core question. Know released vs unreleased APIs. Separates 2024 developers from 2026 ones.

Architecture decision questions — senior level**"BAPI or RAP action for this requirement?"**

BAPI = legacy integration. RAP action = modern, OData V4, Fiori-ready. For new S/4HANA development always recommend RAP.

"Custom report on ACDOCA with 50M rows — your approach?"

CDS view with HANA-pushed aggregations. No ABAP-side loop. EXPLAIN PLAN before releasing. Consider Embedded Analytics for reporting layer.

"Extend standard Fiori without modifying standard objects?"

CDS extension view + UI annotation overlay + BAdI for logic. No modification of standard. Clean-core compliant, upgrade-safe.

"Migrating to S/4HANA Public Cloud — first steps?"

Run CCA (Custom Code Analysis). Identify unreleased API usage. Recode to RAP + released APIs. Replace classic dynpros.

"400 ATC findings before go-live — how do you prioritise?"

Severity 1 first (blockers). Severity 2 next (performance). Exemptions only with justified transport note. Document every decision.

What senior SAP interviewers really look for**S1 Report runs 45 mins on 2M records. First 3 things?**

ST05 SQL trace — find full table scans + missing indexes. 2. SELECT inside LOOP — the N+1 problem. 3. SELECT * — fetch only needed fields. These three fix 80% of ABAP performance issues.

✓ Say ST05 first — shows tools knowledge

S2 FOR ALL ENTRIES vs JOIN on HANA?

JOIN preferred on HANA — pushes to DB. FAE = ABAP-side filter. Always check FAE driving table IS NOT INITIAL. On HANA, JOIN is usually preferred for pushdown optimisation.

S3 HANA-specific performance issue approach?

Move logic to DB via code pushdown. CDS-level GROUP BY replaces ABAP aggregations. AMDP for procedural logic. EXPLAIN PLAN in HANA Cockpit. Set-based not row-by-row.

✓ EXPLAIN PLAN knowledge = senior signal

S4 ATC findings — non-negotiable in S/4HANA?

Unreleased API usage (blocks cloud transport). SELECT * on HANA (performance). Missing client condition (cross-client selection). Direct access to removed pool/cluster tables. All are clean-core blockers.

S5 Table buffering — what is it and when to use?

Stores data in shared memory on app server — avoids DB round trips. Use for small, mostly-read, rarely-changed config tables. Never buffer transactional tables. 3 types: single, generic, full.

**Laeeq Siddique**

Free resource by Cremencing Solutions cremencing.com
 CSPeach-Alconsultant for SAP ABAP teams

5 extra CDS questions

Go deeper than the main card

How do you expose a CDS view as OData?

Add @OData.publish: true annotation. Activate in /IWFND/MAINT_SERVICE. V4 via RAP ServiceBinding-preferred in 2026.

"I expose CDS via OData annotation and bind through RAP Service Definition for V4."

What is a parameterised CDS view?

Accepts input parameters at runtime-like a function. DEFINE VIEW WITH PARAMETERS. Used for date-filtered analytical views and dynamic reporting.

How do you unit test a CDS view in ADT?

Use CDS Test Double Framework-inject test data without touching DB. Class CL_CDS_TEST_ENVIRONMENT. Part of ABAP Unit in ADT.

"I use CDS Test Double Framework so unit tests run without DB dependency."

What is a hierarchy CDS view?

Defines parent-child relationships-cost centre hierarchies, org structures. @ObjectModel.dataCategory: HIERARCHY. Used in S/4HANA Fiori analytical apps.

Transactional vs analytical CDS view?

Transactional = CRUD via RAP, real-time. Analytical = read-only aggregations for Fiori Overview Pages and embedded analytics. Different annotation sets entirely.

What to say in performance scenarios

Exact scripts-say these out loud

They ask: "How would you tune this slow report?"

"First I run ST05 to see the SQL trace-identify full table scans and N+1 SELECT patterns. Then check if logic can be pushed to HANA via CDS aggregations. Only then I touch the code."

They ask: "JOIN or FOR ALL ENTRIES here?"

"It depends on data ratio and system. On HANA, JOIN is preferred because it pushes to DB. I always protect FOR ALL ENTRIES with IS NOT INITIAL - that is non-negotiable."

They ask: "What ATC findings block a transport?"

"Severity 1 findings block transport in cloud systems-unreleased API usage and missing client conditions. These are not negotiable. I fix those before anything moves to QAS."

They ask: "400 ATC findings - how do you prioritise?"

"Severity 1 blockers first- unreleased APIs and missing client. Then severity 2 performance. Exemptions only where justified with documented reason in the transport note."

They ask: "Performance issue on ACDOCA with 50M rows?"

"I never query ACDOCA directly in ABAP. I build a CDS view with pushed-down aggregations and check EXPLAIN PLAN in HANA Cockpit before releasing."

Smart questions to ask them

Senior candidates always ask one of these

About the SAP landscape

"Are you on S/4HANA Public Cloud, Private Cloud, or on-premise? And what release?" Shows you know deployment matters for ABAP restrictions.

About clean core maturity

"What is your current ATC compliance level and how are you handling the clean-core transition?" Signals you have done this before.

About the team

"How many senior ABAP developers and what is the balance between new development and maintenance?" Shows you think about team dynamics.

About technology direction

"Is the team actively moving to RAP for new development, or is classic ABAP still the standard?" Shows 2026 strategic thinking.

The best closing question

"What is the biggest technical challenge the ABAP team faces right now and what would success look like in 6 months?" Makes you memorable.

3 THINGS THAT MAKE SENIOR CANDIDATES MEMORABLE

• Mention a mistake

"I once deployed without ATC check-here is what I changed after that." Ownership impresses more than perfection.

• Say "it depends"

and then explain why. Juniors give one answer. Seniors weigh trade-offs against the scenario.

• Name the tool

not "I optimised the query." Say "Iran ST05, found a missing index, added it to secondary index." Specific always wins.

5 extra RAP questions

The ones that trip up experienced devs

What is the save sequence in RAP?

Validation → Determination → On Save (adjust_numbers, finalize, check_before_save) → Commit. Know this order - interviewers test it specifically.

"Save sequence runs validations, then determinations, then on-save phase before commit."

How do you implement a custom action?

Declare in BDEF: action approve. Implement in behaviour class: METHOD approve. Expose via Service Binding. Called from Fiori button or EML.

What is RAP feature control?

Controls which fields/operations are enabled, disabled, or mandatory per instance at runtime.GET FEATURES method in behaviour class.

"I use feature controls to make fields read-only based on document status - dynamic field control."

How is RAP different from BOPF?

BOPF = older, complex setup, not cloud-ready. RAP = modern, OData V4, cloud-native, ABAP Cloud compatible. SAP committed to RAP-BOPF is legacy.

What is late numbering in RAP?

Primary key assigned during save sequence-not on create. Used when key comes from number range object. Avoids draft-to-active key conflicts.

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NIGHT-BEFORE CHECKLIST

- Read the main card once-CDS, RAP, Performance sections

- Say all 5 performance scripts out loud-column 3 of this card

- Pick one smart question from column 4 to ask at the end

- Prepare your ATC story-one real severity 1 fix example

- Prepare your RAP story-one real project using managed RAP

2026 TOPICS - KNOW AT LEAST 1 BEFORE YOU GO IN

SAP Build-

low-code extension platform. Know what it is and when SAP recommends over ABAP development.

ABAP for Cloud (Steampunk)

BTP ABAP Environment. Only tier 1 released APIs. Different from on-premise classic ABAP.

SAP Joule for Developers

-AI code assistant in ADT. Know what it does and what it does NOT cover (hint: CSPeach covers the rest).

Embedded Analytics

CDS-based reporting inside S/4HANA Fiori. No BW needed. Every senior dev must know the basics in 2026.



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