

COMP2714 - RELATIONAL DATABASE SYSTEMS
Assignment 03 – SQL DML Subqueries, Aggregates, Views
Frequently Asked Questions

Some Frequently Asked Questions and clarification on the assignment questions - asked by students in previous terms:

Q.2 How many **different guests** have made bookings for 2018-02 for each hotel?

For this question, do we need to worry about same guest making multiple booking in a hotel in October?

A. different guests – means that each guest could have made multiple bookings during 2018-02, so that duplicate instances of that one guest should be counted as one.

Q.3 List the details of all rooms for all 'Grosvenor' hotels, including the name of the guest staying in the room, if the room is occupied.

How should this question be interpreted?

A. The question meant to list ALL hotels with 'Grosvenor' in name, and for each 'Grosvenor' named hotel list ALL rooms and details, and then include also the name of each guest currently staying in the room if it is occupied, NULL if unoccupied.

Q.8 What is the average number of booking for **each** hotel in 2018-02?

I'm very confused by this question.

- *It doesn't sound right to ask for average of EACH hotel's booking in 2018-02, since that's averaging only 1 number - each hotel's booking in 2018-02 will produce only 1 number.*
- *Is it asking for # of booking in each hotel in 2018-02?*
- *Or is it asking for average of booking for all hotels in 2018-02?*
- *Or something else?*

A. Another question with similar logic is this – what is the average number of courses taken by each student this academic term? So, the third point above is very close: [Or is it asking for average of booking for all hotels in 2018-02?]

In order words, asking for # of bookings in each hotel in 2018-02, and then ask: what is the average of those numbers among all the hotels.

Q.10 Create a view containing the account for each guest at the Grosvenor Hotel

Use 2018-02-05 as today, and guestAccount as view name. [The account info for each guest means: Room (roomNo), Name (guestName), Check-in (dateFrom), **Check-out (dateTo=today)**, Rate (price), #Days (calculate from dateTo and dateFrom), and Total (calculate from dateTo, dateFrom and price).] Add a query to test the view.

*I'm very confused about the part on **dateTo=today**. What does this mean?*

Is this question asking us to create a view based on query for booking at Grosvenor where guests stayed during 2018-02-05?

A. The purpose of the question is to create a view that can be run on any date so that it can calculate the guest account balance owing from dateFrom up to the date on which it is run, making **dateTo=today** as an assumption.

In this sense, today's date is used in the view definition in place of the dateTo value, because the guest is not owing anything on future days. Or if the guest checks out today, then the guest only has to pay up to today, the checkout date.

In order to make the view runnable in an assignment, we need to use a specific date value to replace the "today's date" value – in this specific instance, we are using 2018-02-05 as today's date (i.e. instead of using SYSDATE or CURRENT_DATE) for all places where today's date is needed to be specified.

Is this question asking us to create a view based on query for booking at Grosvenor where guests stayed during 2018-02-05?

This is kind of correct, assuming that 2018-02-05 is the inquiry or actual check-out date on which the view is run, and that dateFrom contains an earlier date.

In coding the view for this assignment, then we need to hardcode today's date (2018-02-05) in place of SYSDATE, which is used in place of dateTo.

There is no need to + 1 in the subtraction: DATE '2018-02-05' – DATE '2018-02-04' gives one elapsed day for calculation. We are simplifying the question without considering check-in and check-out being on the same date, and ignoring time stamps – otherwise it will get quite complicated.

Of course, in the view definition, it is necessary to code the WHERE clause so that only booking rows that contain the current date of 2018-02-05 will be picked when running the view.