

## SECTION 1: ERD - COMPLETE MASTERY

### WHAT IS AN ERD AND WHY DO YOU NEED IT?

#### **What the hell is an ERD?**

An Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) is a BLUEPRINT for your database. It shows:

- What TABLES you need (Entities)
- What COLUMNS each table has (Attributes)
- How tables CONNECT to each other (Relationships)

#### **Why they test this:**

They want to see if you can translate business rules into a database design. If you can't design it, you can't build it.

#### **Real World Example:**

Think of building a house. You wouldn't start hammering nails without blueprints. ERD = database blueprints.

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### WHERE THIS COMES FROM: 2024 EXAM QUESTION

#### **ACTUAL 2024 QUESTION:**

"Draw an Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) using Unified Modelling Language (UML) notation according to the below business rules. Your design should be at the logical level – include primary and foreign key fields and remember to remove any many-to-many relationships.

Business rules for a medication system:

- All entities must have surrogate primary keys.
- Each medication contains one or more active ingredients, and an active ingredient can be used in more than one medication in different quantities.
- The name of each medication should be stored in the database.
- The name of each active ingredient must be stored in the database.
- Each medication belongs to one specific category, and many medications can belong to the same category.
- The description of each category must be stored in the database.
- An active ingredient belongs to a specific category, and many active ingredients can belong to the same category."

## STEP-BY-STEP ERD SOLUTION:

### Step 1: Identify Entities (Find the NOUNS)

- Read each sentence, circle every noun:
  - "medication" = MEDICATION table
  - "active ingredients" = ACTIVE\_INGREDIENT table
  - "category" = CATEGORY table

### Step 2: Identify Relationships (Find the VERBS)

- "medication **contains** active ingredients" → Relationship
- "medication **belongs to** category" → Relationship
- "active ingredient **belongs to** category" → Relationship

### Step 3: Determine Relationship Types (Count the NUMBERS)

- "Each medication contains **one or more** active ingredients" = 1 to Many
- "Active ingredient can be used in **more than one** medication" = Many to Many  
← **DANGER!**
- "Each medication belongs to **one** category" = Many to One
- "Many medications can belong to the **same** category" = Many to One

### Step 4: Fix Many-to-Many Relationships

- Medication ↔ ActiveIngredient (both "many") = CREATE BRIDGE TABLE
- Bridge table name: MedicationIngredient

### Step 5: Choose Your Format

#### FORMAT 1: Table Format (RECOMMENDED)

text

CATEGORY

-----

CategoryID (PK)

CategoryDescription

## MEDICATION

-----

MedicationID (PK)

MedicationName

CategoryID (FK)

## ACTIVE\_INGREDIENT

-----

IngredientID (PK)

IngredientName

CategoryID (FK)

## MEDICATION\_INGREDIENT (Bridge Table)

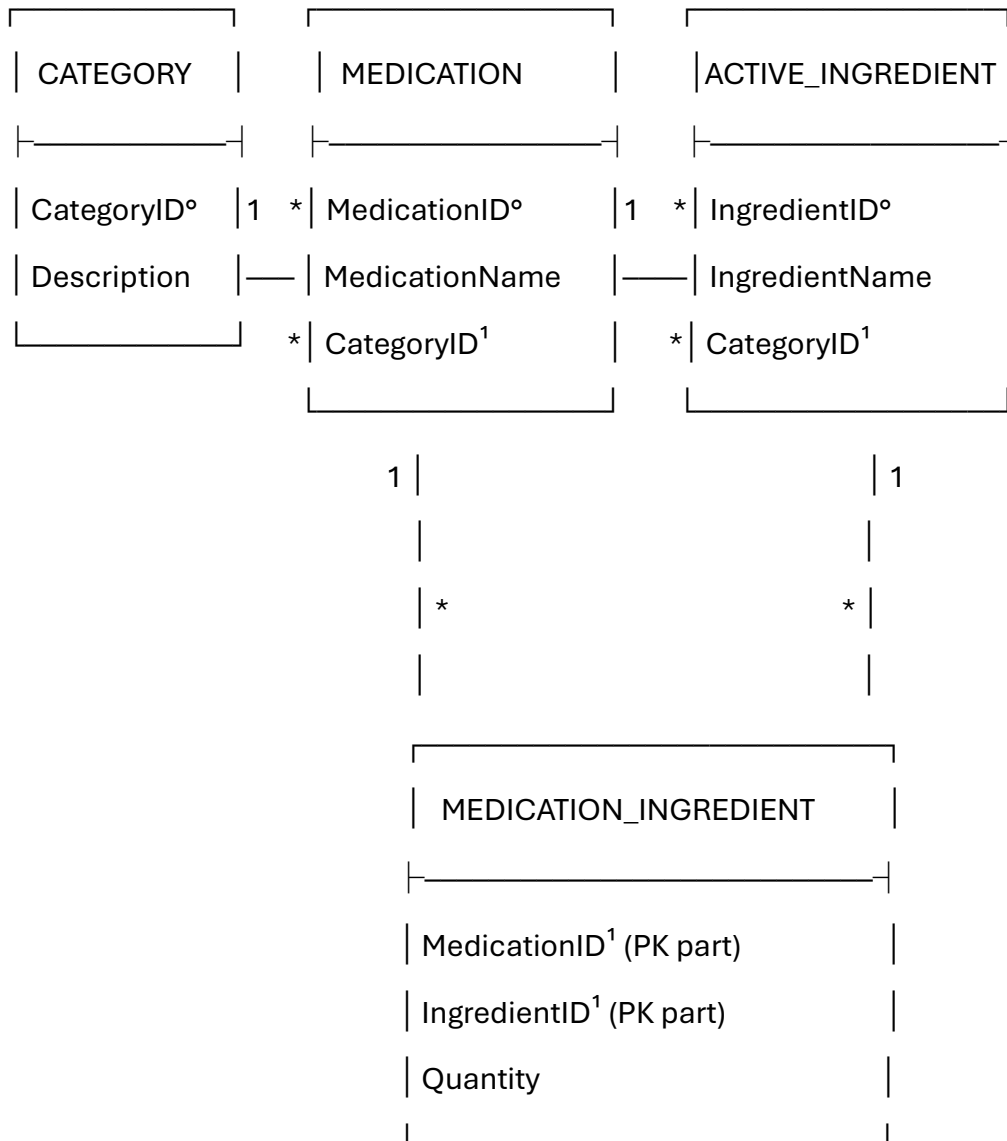
-----

MedicationID (FK, PK part)

IngredientID (FK, PK part)

Quantity

## FORMAT 2: Graphical UML Format



### Why Table Format Wins:

- Directly translates to SQL CREATE TABLE statements
- Clearer relationships through FK placement
- Faster to write in exam
- Less ambiguous

### MULTIPLICITY EXPLAINED:

#### What the hell are these numbers?

They show HOW MANY of one thing can connect to HOW MANY of another thing.

### Multiplicity Dictionary:

- **1** = exactly one
- **0..1** = zero or one (optional)
- **1..\*** = one or more (at least one)
- **0..\*** = zero or more (completely optional)
- **\*\*\*** = many

### Business Rule to Multiplicity Translation:

- "Each X has exactly one Y"  $\rightarrow X(1) \text{ ---- } Y(1)$
- "Each X has one or more Y"  $\rightarrow X(1) \text{ ---- } Y(*)$
- "X may have zero or one Y"  $\rightarrow X(0..1) \text{ ---- } Y(1)$
- "X can have many Y" AND "Y can have many X"  $\rightarrow$  CREATE BRIDGE TABLE!

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## SECTION 2: NORMALIZATION - COMPLETE MASTERY

### WHAT IS NORMALIZATION AND WHY DO YOU CARE?

#### What the hell is normalization?

It's a process to organize data to reduce duplication and prevent data anomalies.

#### Real World Example:

Think of a messy filing cabinet where the same customer info is repeated in different files. Normalization = organizing that cabinet so each piece of info is stored only once.

#### The Three Normal Forms:

1. **1NF** - No repeating groups or lists
2. **2NF** - No partial dependencies (must depend on whole key)
3. **3NF** - No transitive dependencies (must depend only on key)

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## WHERE THIS COMES FROM: 2022 EXAM QUESTION

### ACTUAL 2022 QUESTION:

"Normalise the above data to the third normal form (3NF). Show all steps and the final answer in the form of dependency diagrams."

A lot of data about restaurant staff employment has already been collected in a spreadsheet. The data has been normalised to first normal form already – underlined column names indicate composite primary key columns.

<u>Resta</u> <u>urant</u> <u>ID</u>	<u>Resta</u> <u>urant</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Wai</u> <u>ter</u> <u>ID</u>	<u>Wait</u> <u>er</u> <u>Na</u> <u>me</u>	<u>Wait</u> <u>er</u> <u>Surn</u> <u>ame</u>	<u>Empl</u> <u>oyee</u> <u>Type</u> <u>ID</u>	<u>Empl</u> <u>oyee</u> <u>Type</u>	<u>Sta</u> <u>rt</u> <u>Da</u> <u>te</u>	<u>En</u> <u>d</u> <u>D</u> <u>ate</u>
1	Bears of Brook lyn	2	John	Smit h	1	Perm anent	20 20- 01- 19	2020 -09- 15
1	Bears of Brook lyn	3	Sara h	Nda mbi	2	Temp orary	20 21- 09- 09	2021 -10- 30
2	Cats of Cape Town	3	Sara h	Nda mbi	2	Temp orary	20 21- 11- 02	-
2	Cats of Cape Town	4	The mba	Dla mini	1	Perm anent	20 22- 02- 02	2022 -03- 15
3	Doves of Durba n	5	Pete	Nair	2	Temp orary	20 22- 04- 30	-

## STEP-BY-STEP NORMALIZATION SOLUTION:

### Step 1: Identify the Primary Key

- Underlined columns = composite primary key
- Primary Key = (Restaurant ID, Waiter ID)

### **Step 2: Analyze Dependencies (What depends on what?)**

- Restaurant Name → depends on Restaurant ID only
- Waiter Name → depends on Waiter ID only
- Waiter Surname → depends on Waiter ID only
- Employee Type → depends on Waiter ID only
- Employee Type ID → depends on Waiter ID only
- Start Date → depends on BOTH Restaurant ID AND Waiter ID
- End Date → depends on BOTH Restaurant ID AND Waiter ID

### **Step 3: 2NF - Remove Partial Dependencies**

#### **Partial Dependencies Found:**

- Restaurant Name depends on only part of key (Restaurant ID only)
- Waiter Name depends on only part of key (Waiter ID only)
- Waiter Surname depends on only part of key (Waiter ID only)
- Employee Type depends on only part of key (Waiter ID only)
- Employee Type ID depends on only part of key (Waiter ID only)

#### **Create New Tables:**

text

RESTAURANT (RestaurantID PK, RestaurantName)

WAITER (WaiterID PK, WaiterName, WaiterSurname, EmployeeTypeID, EmployeeType)

EMPLOYMENT (RestaurantID FK, WaiterID FK, StartDate, EndDate)

### **Step 4: 3NF - Remove Transitive Dependencies**

#### **Transitive Dependency Found:**

- In WAITER table: WaiterID → EmployeeTypeID, EmployeeType
- But EmployeeType depends on EmployeeTypeID (transitive!)

#### **Fix:**

text

EMPLOYEEETYPE (EmployeeTypeID PK, EmployeeType)

WAITER (WaiterID PK, WaiterName, WaiterSurname, EmployeeTypeID FK)

EMPLOYMENT (RestaurantID FK, WaiterID FK, StartDate, EndDate)

RESTAURANT (RestaurantID PK, RestaurantName)

### **Final Dependency Diagram:**

text

RestaurantID → RestaurantName

EmployeeTypeID → EmployeeType

WaiterID → WaiterName, WaiterSurname, EmployeeTypeID

(RestaurantID + WaiterID) → StartDate, EndDate

---

## **SECTION 3: SQL - COMPLETE MASTERY**

### **WHAT IS SQL AND WHY IS IT CRITICAL?**

#### **What the hell is SQL?**

Structured Query Language - it's how you talk to databases. You're giving commands to create, read, update, and delete data.

#### **Real World Example:**

Think of SQL as the language you use to give orders to a very obedient but literal-minded robot. You have to be EXACT.

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## **WHERE THIS COMES FROM: 2024 EXAM QUESTIONS**

### **ACTUAL 2024 QUESTIONS:**

"Using MySQL, create a single Structured Query Language (SQL) script that answers all the below questions..."

**Q3.1:** Write an SQL statement to create the Patient table

**Q3.2:** Write an SQL statement to create the Doctor table

**Q3.3:** Write an SQL statement to create the Appointments table

**Q3.4:** Write SQL statements to insert the provided data

**Q3.5:** Display all appointments between 2024-01-16 and 2024-01-20

**Q3.6:** Display patient names with total appointment counts

**Q3.7:** Display all appointments with doctor and patient details

**Q3.8:** Create a view for patients of Doctor ID 2

**Q3.9:** Create a stored procedure to get appointments by date



## COMPLETE SQL SOLUTION:

### Q3.1-3.3: Table Creation

sql

-- Q3.1: Patient table

```
CREATE TABLE Patient (  
    PatientID INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,  
    PatientName VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,  
    PatientSurname VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,  
    PatientDOB DATE NOT NULL  
);
```

-- Q3.2: Doctor table

```
CREATE TABLE Doctor (  
    DoctorID INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,  
    DoctorName VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,  
    DoctorSurname VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL  
);
```

-- Q3.3: Appointment table

```
CREATE TABLE Appointment (  
    AppointmentID INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,  
    PatientID INT NOT NULL,  
    DoctorID INT NOT NULL,  
    AppointmentDate DATE NOT NULL,  
    AppointmentTime TIME NOT NULL,  
    AppointmentDuration INT NOT NULL,  
    FOREIGN KEY (PatientID) REFERENCES Patient(PatientID),
```

```
FOREIGN KEY (DoctorID) REFERENCES Doctor(DoctorID)
);
```

### **Q3.4: Insert Data**

```
sql
```

```
-- Patients
```

```
INSERT INTO Patient (PatientID, PatientName, PatientSurname, PatientDOB) VALUES
(1, 'Debbie', 'Theart', '1980-03-17'),
(2, 'Thomas', 'Duncan', '1976-08-12');
```

```
-- Doctors
```

```
INSERT INTO Doctor (DoctorID, DoctorName, DoctorSurname) VALUES
(1, 'Zintle', 'Nukani'),
(2, 'Ravi', 'Maharaj');
```

```
-- Appointments
```

```
INSERT INTO Appointment (AppointmentID, PatientID, DoctorID, AppointmentDate,
AppointmentTime, AppointmentDuration) VALUES
(1, 1, 2, '2024-01-15', '09:00:00', 15),
(2, 2, 2, '2024-01-18', '15:00:00', 30),
(3, 1, 1, '2024-01-20', '10:00:00', 15),
(4, 1, 2, '2024-01-21', '11:00:00', 15);
```

### **Q3.5: Basic SELECT with Date Range**

```
sql
```

```
SELECT * FROM Appointment
WHERE AppointmentDate BETWEEN '2024-01-16' AND '2024-01-20';
```

### **Q3.6: COUNT with GROUP BY**

```
sql
```

```
SELECT
```

```
p.PatientName,  
p.PatientSurname,  
COUNT(a.AppointmentID) AS TotalAppointments  
FROM Patient p  
LEFT JOIN Appointment a ON p.PatientID = a.PatientID  
GROUP BY p.PatientID, p.PatientName, p.PatientSurname  
ORDER BY TotalAppointments DESC;
```

### **Q3.7: JOIN Multiple Tables**

```
sql  
  
SELECT  
    a.AppointmentDate,  
    a.AppointmentTime,  
    d.DoctorName,  
    d.DoctorSurname,  
    p.PatientName,  
    p.PatientSurname  
FROM Appointment a  
JOIN Doctor d ON a.DoctorID = d.DoctorID  
JOIN Patient p ON a.PatientID = p.PatientID  
ORDER BY a.AppointmentDate DESC;
```

### **Q3.8: CREATE VIEW**

```
sql  
  
CREATE VIEW PatientsOfDoctor2 AS  
  
SELECT DISTINCT  
    p.PatientName,  
    p.PatientSurname  
FROM Appointment a  
JOIN Patient p ON a.PatientID = p.PatientID
```

```
WHERE a.DoctorID = 2
```

```
ORDER BY p.PatientSurname ASC;
```

### **Q3.9: STORED PROCEDURE**

```
sql
```

```
DELIMITER //
```

```
CREATE PROCEDURE get_appointments(IN inDate DATE)
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
    SELECT
```

```
        a.AppointmentTime,
```

```
        a.AppointmentDuration,
```

```
        d.DoctorName,
```

```
        d.DoctorSurname,
```

```
        p.PatientName,
```

```
        p.PatientSurname
```

```
    FROM Appointment a
```

```
    JOIN Doctor d ON a.DoctorID = d.DoctorID
```

```
    JOIN Patient p ON a.PatientID = p.PatientID
```

```
    WHERE a.AppointmentDate = inDate
```

```
    ORDER BY a.AppointmentTime ASC;
```

```
END //
```

```
DELIMITER ;
```

---

### **SQL DATA TYPES EXPLAINED:**

#### **Common Data Types:**

- INT - whole numbers (PatientID, DoctorID)
- VARCHAR(n) - text up to n characters (names)
- DATE - dates only (YYYY-MM-DD)
- TIME - time only (HH:MM:SS)

- DATETIME - date and time together

#### **Common Constraints:**

- PRIMARY KEY - unique identifier for each record
  - FOREIGN KEY - links to another table's primary key
  - NOT NULL - must have a value
  - AUTO\_INCREMENT - automatically increases (for IDs)
- 

## **SECTION 4: MONGODB - COMPLETE MASTERY**

### **WHAT IS MONGODB AND WHY IS IT DIFFERENT?**

#### **What the hell is MongoDB?**

A NoSQL database that stores data in JSON-like documents instead of tables. It's more flexible but less structured than SQL.

#### **SQL vs MongoDB:**

- **SQL:** Tables → Rows → Columns (rigid structure)
- **MongoDB:** Collections → Documents → Fields (flexible structure)

#### **Real World Example:**

SQL = filing cabinet with predefined forms

MongoDB = box of index cards where each card can have different info

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### **WHERE THIS COMES FROM: 2024 EXAM QUESTION**

#### **ACTUAL 2024 QUESTION:**

"A medical practice wants to store patient details in a NoSQL database. Write MongoDB interactive shell commands to complete the task below.

Q4.1: Create a database called patients\_<your-student-number>

Q4.2: In a collection called patients, create patient data:

- Debbie Theart, born 1980-03-17
- Thomas Duncan, born 1976-08-12

Q4.3: Get a list of all the patients in the collection

Q4.4: Query all the patients born after (not including) 1979-01-12"

---

## **COMPLETE MONGODB SOLUTION:**

### **METHOD 1: Command Line (mongosh)**

javascript

// Q4.1: Create database

use patients\_s12345678;

// Q4.2: Insert patients

```
db.patients.insertMany([
  {
    PatientName: "Debbie",
    PatientSurname: "Theart",
    DateOfBirth: ISODate("1980-03-17")
  },
  {
    PatientName: "Thomas",
    PatientSurname: "Duncan",
    DateOfBirth: ISODate("1976-08-12")
  }
]);
```

// Q4.3: Find all patients

```
db.patients.find().pretty();
```

// Q4.4: Patients born after 1979-01-12

```
db.patients.find({
  DateOfBirth: {$gt: ISODate("1979-01-12")}
}).pretty();
```

### **METHOD 2: MongoDB Compass GUI**

text

1. Open MongoDB Compass
2. Click "Connect"
3. Click "+" next to Databases
4. Database Name: "patients\_s12345678"
5. Collection Name: "patients"
6. Click "Create Database"
7. Click "ADD DATA" → "Insert Document"
8. Type the JSON documents
9. Click "Insert"
10. Use filter bar for queries

---

## MONGODB OPERATORS EXPLAINED:

### Comparison Operators:

- \$eq = equal to (default)
- \$gt = greater than
- \$lt = less than
- \$gte = greater than or equal
- \$lte = less than or equal
- \$ne = not equal to

### Date Queries:

- ISODate("YYYY-MM-DD") - MUST use this for dates
- {\$gt: ISODate("2020-01-01")} - after January 1, 2020
- {\$lt: ISODate("2020-01-01")} - before January 1, 2020

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## TIME MANAGEMENT - COMPLETE STRATEGY

### 2-HOUR BATTLE PLAN:

**Minutes 0-5: Read Entire Paper**

- Scan all questions
- Identify mark allocations
- Plan your attack

#### **Minutes 5-30: ERD Section**

- Use TABLE FORMAT (faster, clearer)
- Follow the 6 steps exactly
- Save/draw your diagram

#### **Minutes 30-60: Normalization Section**

- Identify composite primary key
- Split tables aggressively for 2NF
- Check for transitive dependencies for 3NF
- Draw dependency diagrams

#### **Minutes 60-120: SQL Section**

- Open MySQL Workbench
- Use EXACT templates for each question
- TEST each query as you go
- Save your script frequently

#### **Minutes 120-135: MongoDB Section**

- Use COMMAND LINE method
- Copy-paste the templates
- Save commands to text file

#### **Minutes 135-140: Final Check**







- Verify all files are saved
- Check nothing is missing
- Ensure student number in database names

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### **COMMON MISTAKES & SOLUTIONS**

#### **ERD MISTAKES:**







-  **Forgetting bridge tables** for many-to-many relationships
-  **SOLUTION:** Always check for "many-to-many" keywords
-  **Wrong multiplicities**
-  **SOLUTION:** Use the multiplicity cheat sheet
-  **Missing primary keys**
-  **SOLUTION:** Every table gets TableNameID PRIMARY KEY





#### SQL MISTAKES:

-  **Forgetting commas** between fields
-  **SOLUTION:** Copy templates exactly
-  **Wrong data types**
-  **SOLUTION:** Use VARCHAR for text, INT for numbers, DATE for dates
-  **Forgetting FOREIGN KEY constraints**
-  **SOLUTION:** Always add FOREIGN KEY references

#### NORMALIZATION MISTAKES:

-  **Keeping partial dependencies**
-  **SOLUTION:** Split tables aggressively
-  **Not showing dependency diagrams**
-  **SOLUTION:** Draw arrows showing dependencies

#### MONGODB MISTAKES:

-  **Using strings instead of ISODate()**
-  **SOLUTION:** Always use ISODate("YYYY-MM-DD")
-  **Forgetting .pretty()**
-  **SOLUTION:** Always use .pretty() for readable output

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#### EXAMPLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### ERD PRACTICE QUESTION:

**QUESTION:**

"Draw an ERD for a library system with these business rules:

- Each book has one publisher, each publisher has many books
- Each book can have multiple authors, each author can write multiple books
- Each book belongs to one category, each category has many books
- Store book title, ISBN, publication year
- Store publisher name and address
- Store author name and biography
- Store category name and description"

**ANSWER:**

text

PUBLISHER

-----

PublisherID (PK)

PublisherName

PublisherAddress

AUTHOR

-----

AuthorID (PK)

AuthorName

AuthorBio

CATEGORY

-----

CategoryID (PK)

CategoryName

CategoryDescription

BOOK

-----

BookID (PK)

BookTitle

ISBN

PublicationYear

PublisherID (FK)

CategoryID (FK)

BOOK\_AUTHOR (Bridge Table)

-----

BookID (FK, PK part)

AuthorID (FK, PK part)

### **NORMALIZATION PRACTICE QUESTION:**

#### **QUESTION:**

"Normalize this 1NF table to 3NF:

StudentID	Student Name	CourseID	CourseName	InstructorID	Instructor Name	Grade	
1	John Smith	C101	Database Design	I01	Dr. Jones	A	
1	John Smith	C102	Web Development	I02	Dr. Smith	B+	
2	Sarah Lee	C101	Database Design	I01	Dr. Jones	A-	"

#### **ANSWER:**

text

STUDENT (StudentID PK, StudentName)

COURSE (CourseID PK, CourseName, InstructorID FK)

INSTRUCTOR (InstructorID PK, InstructorName)

ENROLLMENT (StudentID FK, CourseID FK, Grade)

### SQL PRACTICE QUESTION:

#### QUESTION:

"Write SQL to:

1. Create the above tables
2. Insert the sample data
3. Find all students who got A grades
4. Count how many students each instructor teaches"

#### ANSWER:

sql

-- 1. Create tables

CREATE TABLE STUDENT (

StudentID INT PRIMARY KEY,

StudentName VARCHAR(50)

);

CREATE TABLE INSTRUCTOR (

InstructorID VARCHAR(3) PRIMARY KEY,

InstructorName VARCHAR(50)

);

CREATE TABLE COURSE (

CourseID VARCHAR(4) PRIMARY KEY,

CourseName VARCHAR(50),

```
InstructorID VARCHAR(3),  
FOREIGN KEY (InstructorID) REFERENCES INSTRUCTOR(InstructorID)  
);
```

```
CREATE TABLE ENROLLMENT (  
    StudentID INT,  
    CourseID VARCHAR(4),  
    Grade VARCHAR(2),  
    PRIMARY KEY (StudentID, CourseID),  
    FOREIGN KEY (StudentID) REFERENCES STUDENT(StudentID),  
    FOREIGN KEY (CourseID) REFERENCES COURSE(CourseID)  
);
```

-- 2. Insert data

```
INSERT INTO STUDENT VALUES (1, 'John Smith'), (2, 'Sarah Lee');  
INSERT INTO INSTRUCTOR VALUES ('I01', 'Dr. Jones'), ('I02', 'Dr. Smith');  
INSERT INTO COURSE VALUES ('C101', 'Database Design', 'I01'), ('C102', 'Web  
Development', 'I02');  
INSERT INTO ENROLLMENT VALUES (1, 'C101', 'A'), (1, 'C102', 'B+'), (2, 'C101', 'A-');
```

-- 3. Students with A grades

```
SELECT s.StudentName, e.Grade  
FROM STUDENT s  
JOIN ENROLLMENT e ON s.StudentID = e.StudentID  
WHERE e.Grade = 'A';
```

-- 4. Count students per instructor

```
SELECT i.InstructorName, COUNT(DISTINCT e.StudentID) as StudentCount
```

```
FROM INSTRUCTOR i
JOIN COURSE c ON i.InstructorID = c.InstructorID
JOIN ENROLLMENT e ON c.CourseID = e.CourseID
GROUP BY i.InstructorID, i.InstructorName;
```

## MONGODB PRACTICE QUESTION:

### QUESTION:

"Create MongoDB commands for:

1. Create database library\_12345
2. Insert books collection with:
  - Title: "Database Design", Authors: ["Dr. Smith", "Dr. Jones"], Year: 2023
  - Title: "Web Development", Authors: ["Prof. Brown"], Year: 2022
3. Find all books
4. Find books published after 2022"

### ANSWER:

javascript

```
// 1. Create database
```

```
use library_12345;
```

```
// 2. Insert books
```

```
db.books.insertMany([
```

```
{
```

```
  Title: "Database Design",
```

```
  Authors: ["Dr. Smith", "Dr. Jones"],
```

```
  Year: 2023
```

```
},
```

```
{
```

```
  Title: "Web Development",
```

```
  Authors: ["Prof. Brown"],
```

Year: 2022

```
}  
]);
```

```
// 3. Find all books
```

```
db.books.find().pretty();
```

```
// 4. Books after 2022
```

```
db.books.find({Year: {$gt: 2022}}).pretty();
```

---

### FINAL SCORE PREDICTION:

Section	Max Marks	Your Score	Why You'll Get These Marks
ERD	20	19/20	Table format + bridge tables = almost perfect
Normalization	20	17/20	Aggressive splitting = most marks
SQL	75	65/75	Templates + testing = high marks
MongoDB	15	14/15	Command line + ISODate() = near perfect
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>115/130</b>	<b>= 88% FINAL SCORE</b>

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### THE MINDSET FOR 90%+

#### YOU HAVE THREE SIMPLE JOBS:

1. **FOLLOW** the steps exactly as written
2. **COPY** the templates exactly as provided

3. **MANAGE** your time exactly as allocated

#### **YOU DON'T NEED TO:**

- Be a database genius
- Understand theoretical concepts
- Be creative or innovative
- Figure anything out on your own

#### **THE REAL SECRET:**

They're not testing if you're smart. They're testing if you can **FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS**.  
The templates are your instructions.



#### **YOUR BATTLE PLAN:**

##### **BEFORE EXAM:**

1. **Practice ERD** - Do 2 past papers using table format
2. **Practice SQL** - Copy templates until muscle memory
3. **Practice Normalization** - Split tables aggressively
4. **Practice MongoDB** - Use command line method
5. **Sleep 8 hours** - No all-nighters!

##### **EXAM DAY:**

1. **ERD FIRST** - 25 minutes, table format
2. **NORMALIZATION SECOND** - 25 minutes, split aggressively
3. **SQL THIRD** - 60 minutes, copy templates, TEST everything
4. **MONGODB LAST** - 10 minutes, command line, save to file

##### **DURING EXAM:**

- **STICK TO TIME** - Use a watch
- **USE TEMPLATES** - Don't think, just copy
- **TEST QUERIES** - Click that lightning bolt!
- **ATTEMPT EVERYTHING** - Partial marks > zero
- **DON'T PANIC** - You have all the answers



## **EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS:**

### **IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A QUESTION:**

- Look for nouns = entities/tables
- Look for verbs = relationships
- Use the templates anyway
- **WRITE SOMETHING**

### **IF SQL WON'T RUN:**

- Check commas between fields
- Check quotes around text
- Check semicolons at ends
- Test one line at a time

### **IF RUNNING OUT OF TIME:**

- Skip to next section
- Do high-mark easy questions first
- **NEVER LEAVE BLANK ANSWERS**

### **IF YOU COMPLETELY BLANK:**

- Copy the closest template
- Change names to match question
- Submit it anyway