**SQL Standards:**

**Naming conventions:**

* Use correct abbreviations for shortened words to avoid confusion (e.g. Num for Number)
* Use CamelCase or snake\_case for formatting (e.g. FirstName, last\_name)
* Use singular nouns for tables that are created (e.g. Name instead of Names)

**DML syntax:**

* Use column list in INSERT statements
* Avoid using Column numbers in ORDER BY clauses
* Minimise using NULL unless needed, instead use ISNULL() to handle them

**Stored Procedure standards:**

* Place all DECLARE and SET statements at the beginning
* Avoid using BEGIN…END blocks for multiple statements

**Error Handling:**

* Implement consistent error trapping using TRY..CATCH.
* Use RETURN only for execution status, not for returning data.
* Include transaction handling where appropriate.

**General Formatting:**

* Use spaces for readability
* Fill in spaces with blank lines
* Avoid white space in identifiers