## 1) How can one restrict access to certain columns of a database table?

To restrict certain columns of a database table, we can use views to expose only the allowed columns, or grant users access to the view, not the base table.

## 2) What is the difference between user identification and user authentication?

Identification is who you are, for example, providing a username, and authentication is proving you are who you claim, for example, entering a password or providing any identifier.

## 3) What are the recommended authentication protocols for PostgreSQL?

The main recommended authentication protocols are scram-sha-256 and md5. The first one is default in modern PostgreSQL and it uses the SHA-256 hashing algorithm, while md5 is an older authentication protocol and it is slightly weaker, because the password is hashed as md5(md5(password + username)).

## 4) What is proxy authentication in PostgreSQL and what is it for? Why does it make the previously discussed role-based access control easier to implement?

The proxy authentication is a feature in PostgreSQL that lets one role act as another role by setting role and session. It is used to connect applications with a general role and then switch to a user-specific role after authentication. By using a proxy, we can enforce user-specific permissions.