9) What is a collating sequence?

The collating sequence is of great importance in routine character processing, since much character processing centers on the sorting and selection of data. And it is the order of the codes in the representation table. For example, when the SORT procedure is executed, the collating sequence determines the sort order (higher, lower, or equal to) of a particular character in relation to other characters.

Reference:

1. The Architecture of Computer Hardware and System Software A , 5th Edition, The - Irv Englander Page 109.
2. http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/nlsref/61893/HTML/default/viewer.htm#a002613125.htm