

## dbt Analytics Engineering Certification Exam: Preparations & Tips

official Exam info: <https://www.getdbt.com/certifications/analytics-engineer-certification-exam>



Lets get into the topic, I will categorise my preps into 5 Steps, with the last section having the topics what I was asked in the exam.

1. I went through the official study guide released from dbt labs, to understand the Expected question pattern , sample questions, Topic Outline & Learning Path shared

→ [https://8698602.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/8698602/dbt\\_Certificate%20Study%20Guide\\_v\\_1\\_7.pdf](https://8698602.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/8698602/dbt_Certificate%20Study%20Guide_v_1_7.pdf)

2. After that decided to go with the minimum guarantee, to follow the learning Path with official Study guide. Completed all the below official Courses with hands-on practise, <https://courses.getdbt.com/collections>

— dbt fundamentals

— Advanced Materialization

— Advanced Deployment

— Advanced Testing

— Jinja,Macro,Package

— Analyses and Seeds

— Refactoring SQL for modularity

3. Parallely I was actively following dbt Slack:#dbt-certification community, which is the major source, gave me lots of details about the exam and experiences.

Also the blog for more detailed on the certification exam → <https://www.biztory.com/blog/how-to-pass-the-dbt-analytics-engineering-certification>

4. Lastly, for more than couple of weeks with multiple revisions and practise, I went through all the official documentation from dbt mentioned in study guide related to Checkpoint-1, Checkpoint-2, Checkpoint-3 and Checkpoint-4.

**Highlights:** 13 Model Exams are available in <https://www.qanalabs.com/>, I attended all of them to validate my strengths and weakness on topics to focus more on relevant topics.

— I don't remember much of the questions related to State, Source\_Status, model governance as they are newly added topics from May 2024 and the model exams were there since long time.

— Model exam had many questions on Metrics which is not a included topic for exam.

**Coming to the main essence of this story, the topics experienced in my certification exam,**

### 1. Sources

- Definitions in .yaml
- freshness concepts

### 2. Models

- lots of questions based on model diagrams for identifying and solving issues
- fail-fast

### 3. Model Governance (Newly added topic for latest Exam version)

- Access, contract, Version. Basically you need to understand the concepts around model governance

### 4. Materializations

- many questions to identify the type of materialization for provided scenarios in DOMC question pattern.
- config precedence

### 5. Exposure in Documentation

6. **State** (Newly added topic for latest Exam version): Had quite a few number of questions related to this

- defer
- clone
- source\_status: fresher

### 7. Tests

- Generic, singular, generic custom

- severity concepts

- Indirect selection test

8. **Git** (5+ questions I got in my exam related to Git concepts in dbt projects)

9. **Snapshots** (Scd 2 concepts with just 1 question)

10. Basic **SQL** & data understanding

- dbt project structure

11. **Packages**

- Restrict access, Revision and git installation

12. **Others**

- grants, inherit, dispatch, quotes

- hooks, tags, threads

- Debugging logs in DOMC

- dbt retry

- target/run/ & target/compile

- docs md block

- understandings of DRY in dbt

My **surprises** during exam:

- No questions related rows vs columns concepts

- Jinja syntax related questions

- dbt pros and other dbt theoretical questions

A **final verdict**: All questions are within the Topics in Study guide, you will have no surprises, this is based on my Exam experience, it can be different for each candidate which we will know in the future discussions in dbt Slack: #dbt-certification.

And no questions were like “Never seen this topic in Study guide or never seen them in docs”, all were covered in study guide.

But the options provided to choose is the real test and challenge.

DOMC question pattern was thrill, we will never know whether we choosed the right option or wrong one, it suddenly disappears and you cannot answer it later.

Good luck!