

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

For

MS SQL Server



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Q. what is an SQL Server?

SQL Server, developed by Microsoft, is a relational database management system (RDBMS) that is widely used for storing, managing, and retrieving data. It provides a secure and scalable platform for handling large amounts of structured and semi-structured data.

Q. What is SQL?

Ans: SQL stands for Structured Query Language, and it is used to communicate with the Database. This is a standard language used to perform tasks such as retrieval, updation, insertion and deletion of data from a database. Standard SQL Commands are Select. SQL is an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard computer language for accessing and manipulating database systems.

Q. What are the specific uses of SQL functions?

Ans: SQL functions have the following uses –

- Performing calculations on data
- Modifying individual data items
- Manipulating the output
- Formatting dates and numbers
- Converting data types

Q. What is the purpose of the group functions in SQL Server? Give some examples of group functions.

Ans: Group functions in SQL work on sets of rows and returns one result per group. Examples of group functions are AVG, COUNT, MAX, MIN, STDDEV, SUM, and VARIANCE.

Q. What is the difference between SQL and MySQL or SQL Server?

Ans: SQL or Structured Query Language is a language; language that communicates with a relational database thus providing ways of manipulating and creating databases. MySQL and Microsoft's SQL Server both are relational database management systems that use SQL as their standard relational database language.

Q. What is the difference between SQL and PL/SQL?

Ans: PL/SQL is a dialect of SQL that adds procedural features of programming languages in SQL. It was developed by Oracle Corporation in the early 90's to enhance the capabilities of SQL.

Q. What is a Database?

Ans: Database is nothing but an organized form of data for easy access, storing, retrieval and managing of data. This is also known as structured form of data which can be accessed in many ways.

Example: School Management Database, Bank Management Database.

Q. What is a Database system?

Ans: The database and DBMS software together is called as Database system.

Q. What are the advantages of DBMS?

Ans: Redundancy is controlled.

1. Unauthorized access is restricted.
2. Providing multiple user interfaces.
3. Enforcing integrity constraints.
4. Providing backup and recovery.

Q. What is RDBMS?

Ans: RDBMS stands for Relational Database Management System. RDBMS store the data into the collection of tables, which is related by common fields between the columns of the table. It also provides relational operators to manipulate the data stored into the tables.

Example: SQL Server.

Q. What's difference between DBMS and RDBMS?

Ans: DBMS provides a systematic and organized way of storing, managing and retrieving from collection of logically related information. RDBMS also provides what DBMS provides but above that it provides relationship integrity.

So in short we can say RDBMS = DBMS + REFERENTIAL INTEGRITY

These relations are defined by using "Foreign Keys" in any RDBMS. Many DBMS companies claimed their DBMS product was a RDBMS compliant, but according to industry rules and regulations if the DBMS fulfills the twelve Codd rules it's truly a RDBMS. Almost all DBMS (SQLSERVER, ORACLE etc) fulfills all the twelve Codd rules and are considered as truly RDBMS.

Q. What is NOT NULL Constraint?

Ans: A NOT NULL constraint enforces that the column will not accept null values. The not null constraints are used to enforce domain integrity, as the check constraints.

Q. What is database or database management systems (DBMS)? What's the difference between file and database? Can files qualify as a database?

Ans: Database provides a systematic and organized way of storing, managing and retrieving from collection of logically related information.

Secondly the information has to be persistent, that means even after the application is closed the information should be persisted.

Finally it should provide an independent way of accessing data and should not be dependent on the application to access the information.

Main difference between a simple file and database that database has independent way (SQL) of accessing information while simple files do not. Files meet the storing, managing and retrieving part of a database but not the independent way of accessing data. Many experienced programmers think that the main difference is that files cannot provide multi-user capabilities which a DBMS provides. But if we look at some old COBOL and C programs where files were the only means of storing data, we can see functionalities like locking, multi-user etc provided very efficiently. So it's a matter of debate if some interviewers think this as a main difference between files and database accept it... going in to debate is probably losing a job.

Q. What are the disadvantages in File Processing System?

Ans: The disadvantages of File processing system are

1. Data redundancy and inconsistency.
2. Difficult in accessing data.
3. Data isolation.
4. Data integrity.
5. Concurrent access is not possible.
6. Security Problems

Q. Describe the three levels of data abstraction?

Ans: There are three levels of abstraction:

1. **Physical level:** The lowest level of abstraction describes how data are stored.

2. **Logical level:** The next higher level of abstraction, describes what data are stored in database and what relationship among those data.
3. **View level:** the highest level of abstraction describes only part of entire database.

Q. What are E-R diagrams?

Ans: E-R diagram also termed as Entity-Relationship diagram shows relationship between various tables in the database.

Q. What is normalization? What are different types of normalization?

Ans: There is a set of rules that has been established to aid in the design of tables that are meant to be connected through relationships. This set of rules is known as Normalization.

Benefits of normalizing your database include:

- =>Avoiding repetitive entries
- =>Reducing required storage space
- =>Preventing the need to restructure existing tables to accommodate new data.
- =>Increased speed and flexibility of queries, sorts, and summaries.

Following are the three normal forms:-

First Normal Form

For a table to be in first normal form, data must be broken up into the smallest possible values. In addition to breaking data up into the smallest meaningful values, table's first normal form should not contain repeating groups of fields.

Second Normal form

The second normal form states that each field in a multiple field primary key table must be directly related to the entire primary key. Or in other words, each non-key field should be a fact about all the fields in the primary key.

Third normal form

A non-key field should not depend on other Non-key field.

Q. Can you explain Fourth Normal Form and Fifth Normal Form?

Ans: In fourth normal form it should not contain two or more independent multi-v about an entity and it should satisfy "Third Normal form".

Fifth normal form deals with reconstructing information from smaller pieces of information. These smaller pieces of information can be maintained with less redundancy.

Q. Have you heard about sixth normal form?

Ans: If we want relational system in conjunction with time we use sixth normal form. At this moment SQL Server does not support it directly.

Q. What is Denormalization?

Ans: Denormalization is the process of putting one fact in numerous places (its vice-versa of normalization). Only one valid reason exists for denormalizing a relational design - to enhance performance. The sacrifice to performance is that you increase redundancy in database.

Q. What are the properties of the Relational tables?

Ans: Relational tables have six properties:

1. Values are atomic.

2. Column values are of the same kind.
3. Each row is unique.
4. The sequence of columns is insignificant.
5. The sequence of rows is insignificant.
6. Each column must have a unique name.

Q. What is Data Warehousing?

Ans: Data Warehousing is a process in which the data is stored and accessed from central location and is meant to support some strategic decisions. Data Warehousing is not a requirement for Data mining. But just makes your Data mining process more efficient.

Data warehouse is a collection of integrated, subject-oriented databases designed to support the decision-support functions (DSF), where each unit of data is relevant to some moment in time.

Q. What are Data Marts?

Ans: Data Marts are smaller section of Data Warehouses. They help data warehouses collect data. For example your company has lot of branches which are spanned across the globe. Head-office of the company decides to collect data from all these branches for anticipating market. So to achieve this IT department can setup data mart in all branch offices and a central data warehouse where all data will finally reside.

Q. What are Fact tables and Dimension Tables? What is Dimensional Modeling and StarSchema Design?

Ans: When we design transactional database we always think in terms of normalizing design to its least form. But when it comes to designing for Data warehouse we think more in terms of denormalizing the database. Data warehousing, Databases are designed using Dimensional Modeling. Dimensional Modeling uses the existing relational database structure and builds on that.

There are two basic tables in dimensional modeling:-

Fact Tables.

Dimension Tables.

Fact tables are central tables in data warehousing. Fact tables have the actual aggregate values which will be needed in a business process. While dimension tables revolve around fact tables. They describe the attributes of the fact tables.

Q. What is Data mining?

Ans: Data mining is a concept by which we can analyze the current data from different perspectives and summarize the information in more useful manner. It's mostly used either to derive some valuable information from the existing data or to predict sales to increase customer market.

There are two basic aims of Data mining:-

Prediction: -

From the given data we can focus on how the customer or market will perform. For instance we are having a sale of 40000 \$ per month in India, if the same product is to be sold with a discount how much sales can the company expect.

Summarization: -

To derive important information to analyze the current business scenario. For example a weekly sales report will give a picture to the top management how we are performing on a weekly basis?

Q. I have a table which has lot of inserts, is it a good database design to create indexes on that table? Inserts are slower on tables which have indexes, justify it? or Why does page splitting happen?

Ans: All indexing fundamentals in database use "B-tree" fundamental. Now whenever there is new data inserted or deleted the tree tries to become unbalance.

Creates a new page to balance the tree.
Shuffle and move the data to pages.

So if your table is having heavy inserts that means it's transactional, then you can visualize the amount of splits it will be doing. This will not only increase insert time but will also upset the end-user who is sitting on the screen. So when you forecast that a table has lot of inserts it's not a good idea to create indexes.

Q. What are the two types of indexes and explain them in detail? or What's the difference between clustered and non-clustered indexes?

Ans: There are basically two types of indexes: Clustered Indexes & Non-Clustered Indexes.

In clustered index the non-leaf level actually points to the actual data. In Non-Clustered index the leaf nodes point to pointers (they are row id's) which then point to actual data.

Q. What are various DDL commands in SQL? Give brief description of their purposes.

Ans: Following are various DDL or Data Definition Language commands in SQL –

CREATE – it creates a new table, a view of a table, or other object in database.

ALTER – it modifies an existing database object, such as a table.

DROP – it deletes an entire table, a view of a table or other object in the database.

Q. What are DDL statements?

Ans: DDL stands for Data definition Language. They change structure of the database objects like table, index etc. Most important DDL statements are as shown below:-

=>CREATE TABLE - creates a new table in the database.

=>ALTER TABLE – changes table structure in database.

=>DROP TABLE - deletes a table from database

=> CREATE INDEX - creates an index

=> DROP INDEX - deletes an index

Q. What are DML statements?

Ans: DML stands for Data Manipulation Statements. They update data values in table. Below are the most important DDL statements:-

=>SELECT - gets data from a database table

=> UPDATE - updates data in a table

=> DELETE - deletes data from a database table

=> INSERT INTO - inserts new data into a database table

Q. What are various DML commands in SQL? Give brief description of their purposes.

Ans: Following are various DML or Data Manipulation Language commands in SQL –

SELECT – it retrieves certain records from one or more tables.

INSERT – it creates a record.

UPDATE – it modifies records.

DELETE – it deletes records.

Q. What is the purpose of DML statements in SQL?

Ans: The DML statements are used to add new rows to a table, update or modify data in existing rows, or remove existing rows from a table.

Q. What are various DCL commands in SQL? Give brief description of their purposes.

Ans: Following are various DCL or Data Control Language commands in SQL –

GRANT – it gives a privilege to user.

REVOKE – it takes back privileges granted from user.

Q. What's the difference between DELETE and TRUNCATE?

Ans: Following are difference between them:

=>>DELETE TABLE syntax logs the deletes thus making the delete operation slow. TRUNCATE table does not log any information but it logs information about deal location of data page of the table. So TRUNCATE table is faster as compared to delete table.

=>>DELETE table can have criteria while TRUNCATE cannot.

=>> TRUNCATE table cannot have triggers.

Q. What is the difference between TRUNCATE and DROP statements?

Ans: TRUNCATE removes all the rows from the table, and it cannot be rolled back. DROP command removes a table from the database and operation cannot be rolled back.

Q. What are tables and Fields?

Ans: A table is a set of data that are organized in a model with Columns and Rows. Columns can be categorized as vertical, and Rows are horizontal. A table has specified number of column called fields but can have any number of rows which is called record.

Example:

Table: Employee.

Field: Emp ID, Emp Name, Date of Birth.

Data: 201456, David, 11/15/1960.

Q. What is a primary key?

Ans: A primary key is a combination of fields which uniquely specify a row. This is a special kind of unique key, and it has implicit NOT NULL constraint. It means, Primary key values cannot be NULL.

Q. What is a unique key?

Ans: A Unique key constraint uniquely identified each record in the database. This provides uniqueness for the column or set of columns. A Primary key constraint has automatic unique constraint defined on it. But not, in the case of Unique Key. There can be many unique constraints defined per table, but only one Primary key constraint defined per table.

Q. What is a foreign key?

Ans: foreign key is one table which can be related to the primary key of another table. Relationship needs to be created between two tables by referencing foreign key with the primary key of another table.

Q. What is an Index?

Ans: An index is performance tuning method of allowing faster retrieval of records from the table. An index creates an entry for each value and it will be faster to retrieve data.

Q. What are all the different types of indexes?

Ans: There are three types of indexes:

Unique Index: This indexing does not allow the field to have duplicate values if the column is unique indexed. Unique index can be applied automatically when primary key is defined.

Clustered Index: Clustered Index is a special type of index that reorders the way records in the table are physically stored. Therefore table can have only one clustered index. The leaf nodes of a clustered index contain the data pages. This type of index reorders the physical order of the table and search based on the key values. Each table can have only one clustered index.

NonClustered Index: NonClustered Index is a special type of index in which the logical order of the index does not match the physical stored order of the rows on disk. The leaf node of a non clustered index does not consist of the data pages. Instead, the leaf nodes contain index rows. NonClustered Index does not alter the physical order of the table and maintains logical order of data. Each table can have 999 nonclustered indexes.

Q. What are the different index configurations a table can have?

Ans: A table can have one of the following index configurations:

1. No indexes
2. A clustered index
3. A clustered index and many nonclustered indexes
4. A nonclustered index
5. Many nonclustered indexes

Q. What is a Cursor?

Ans: A database Cursor is a control which enables traversal over the rows or records in the table. This can be viewed as a pointer to one row in a set of rows. Cursor is very much useful for traversing such as retrieval, addition and removal of database records.

Q. What is a relationship and what are they?

Ans: Database Relationship is defined as the connection between the tables in a database. There are various data basing relationships, and they are as follows:

1. One-to-One Relationship.
2. One-to-Many Relationship.
3. Many-to-One Relationship.
4. Self-Referencing Relationship.

Q. What are local and global variables and their differences?

Ans: Local variables are the variables which can be used or exist inside the function. They are not known to the other functions and those variables cannot be referred or used. Variables can be created whenever that function is called.

Global variables are the variables which can be used or exist throughout the program. Same variable declared in global cannot be used in functions. Global variables cannot be created whenever that function is called.

Q. What is data Integrity?

Ans: Data Integrity defines the accuracy and consistency of data stored in a database. It can also define integrity constraints to enforce business rules on the data when it is entered into the application or database.

Q. What is a constraint?

Ans: Constraint can be used to specify the limit on the data type of table. Constraint can be specified while creating or altering the table statement.

Sample of constraint are:

1. NOT NULL
2. CHECK
3. DEFAULT
4. UNIQUE
5. PRIMARY KEY
6. FOREIGN KEY

Q. What is Auto Increment?

Ans: Auto increment keyword allows the user to create a unique number to be generated when a new record is inserted into the table. AUTO INCREMENT keyword can be used in Oracle and IDENTITY keyword can be used in SQL SERVER. Mostly this keyword can be used whenever PRIMARY KEY is used.

Q. What is a stored procedure?

Ans: Stored Procedure is a function consists of many SQL statements to access the database system. Several SQL statements are consolidated into a stored procedure and execute them whenever and wherever required.

Q. Advantages and Disadvantages of Stored Procedure?

Ans: Stored procedure can be used as a modular programming – means create once, store and call for several times whenever required. This supports faster execution instead of executing multiple queries. This reduces network traffic and provides better security to the data. Disadvantage is that it can be executed only in the Database and utilizes more memory in the database server.

Q. What is recursive stored procedure?

Ans: A stored procedure which calls by itself until it reaches some boundary condition. This recursive function or procedure helps programmers to use the same set of code any number of times.

Q. What are the advantages of using Stored Procedures?

Ans:

1. Stored procedure can reduced network traffic and latency, boosting application performance.
2. Stored procedure execution plans can be reused, staying cached in SQL Server's memory, reducing server overhead.
3. Stored procedures help promote code reuse.
4. Stored procedures can encapsulate logic. You can change stored procedure code without affecting clients.
5. Stored procedures provide better security to your data.

Q. What is user defined functions?

Ans: User defined functions are the functions written to use that logic whenever required. It is not necessary to write the same logic several times. Instead, function can be called or executed whenever needed.

Q. What are all types of user defined functions?

Ans: Three types of user defined functions are:

- Scalar Functions
- Inline Table valued functions

- Multi statement valued functions

Scalar returns unit, variant defined the return clause. Other two types return table as a return.

Q. What is Difference between Function and Stored Procedure?

Ans: UDF can be used in the SQL statements anywhere in the WHERE/HAVING/SELECT section where as Stored procedures cannot be. UDFs that return tables can be treated as another rowset. This can be used in JOINS with other tables. Inline UDF's can be thought of as views that take parameters and can be used in JOINS and other Rowset operations.

Q. What is a trigger?

Ans: A DB trigger is a code or programs that automatically execute with response to some event on a table or view in a database. Mainly, trigger helps to maintain the integrity of the database. Example: When a new student is added to the student database, new records should be created in the related tables like Exam, Score and Attendance tables.

Q. What is Union, minus and Intersect commands?

Ans: UNION operator is used to combine the results of two tables, and it eliminates duplicate rows from the tables. MINUS operator is used to return rows from the first query but not from the second query. Matching records of first and second query and other rows from the first query will be displayed as a result set.

INTERSECT operator is used to return rows returned by both the queries.

Q. What is CLAUSE?

Ans: SQL clause is defined to limit the result set by providing condition to the query. This usually filters some rows from the whole set of records.

Example – Query that has WHERE condition
Query that has HAVING condition

Q. What is an ALIAS command?

Ans: ALIAS name can be given to a table or column. This alias name can be referred in WHERE clause to identify the table or column.

Example: Select StudentID as [st], Result as [result] from student

Here, st refers to alias name for student table and Ex refers to alias name for exam table.

Q. What are Aggregate and Scalar Functions?

Ans: Aggregate and Scalar functions are in built function for counting and calculations. Aggregate functions operate against a group of values but returns only one value.

AVG(column) :- Returns the average value of a column

COUNT(column) :- Returns the number of rows (without a NULL value) of a column

COUNT(*) :- Returns the number of selected rows

MAX(column) :- Returns the highest value of a column

MIN(column) :- Returns the lowest value of a column

Scalar functions operate against a single value and return value on basis of the single value.

UPPER(c) :- Converts a field to upper case
LOWER(c) :- Converts a field to lower case
MID(c,start[,end]) :- Extract characters from a text field
LEN(c) :- Returns the length of a text

Q. Name 3 ways to get an accurate count of the number of records in a table?

Ans: SELECT * FROM table1
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM table1
SELECT rows FROM sysindexes WHERE id = OBJECT_ID(table1) AND indid < 2

Q. How do we select distinct values from a table?

Ans: DISTINCT keyword is used to return only distinct values.
Below is syntax:-

Column age and Table pcdeEmp
SELECT DISTINCT age FROM pcdeEmp

Q. What is Like operator for and what are wild cards?

Ans: LIKE operator is used to match patterns. A "%" sign is used to define the pattern.
Below SQL statement will return all words with letter "S"
SELECT * FROM pcdeEmployee WHERE EmpName LIKE 'S%'
Below SQL statement will return all words which end with letter "S"
SELECT * FROM pcdeEmployee WHERE EmpName LIKE '%S'
Below SQL statement will return all words having letter "S" in between
SELECT * FROM pcdeEmployee WHERE EmpName LIKE '%S%'

"_" operator (we can read as "Underscore Operator"). "_" operator is the character defined at that point. In the below sample fired a query
Select name from pcdeEmployee where name like
'_s%' So all name where second letter is "s" is returned.

Q. Can you explain Insert, Update and Delete query?

Ans: Insert statement is used to insert new rows in to table. Update to update existing data in the table. Delete statement to delete a record from the table. Below code snippet for Insert, Update and Delete :-
INSERT INTO pcdeEmployee SET name='rohit',age='24';
UPDATE pcdeEmployee SET age='25' where name='rohit';
DELETE FROM pcdeEmployee WHERE name = 'sonia';

Q. What is order by clause?

A. ORDER BY clause helps to sort the data in either ascending order to descending order.
Ascending order sort query
SELECT name,age FROM pcdeEmployee ORDER BY age ASC
Descending order sort query
SELECT name FROM pcdeEmployee ORDER BY age DESC

Q. What is the SQL " IN " clause?

A. SQL IN operator is used to see if the value exists in a group of values. For instance the below SQL checks if the Name is either 'rohit' or 'Anuradha'
SELECT * FROM pcdeEmployee WHERE
name IN ('Rohit','Anuradha') Also you can specify a not clause with the same. SELECT * FROM

pcdsEmployee WHERE age NOT IN (17,16)

Q. Can you explain the between clause?

Ans: Below SQL selects employees born between '01/01/1975' AND '01/01/1978' as per sqlserver

```
SELECT * FROM Employee  
WHERE DOB BETWEEN '1975-01-01' AND '2011-09-28'
```

Q. We have an employee salary table how do we find the second highest from it?

Ans: Below Sql Query find the second highest salary

```
SELECT TOP 1 SALARY  
FROM (  
    SELECT DISTINCT TOP 2 SALARY  
    FROM EMPLOYEE_SALARY  
    ORDER BY SALARY DESC  
) AS SecondHighestSalary  
ORDER BY SALARY ASC
```

Q. What is Join and types of joins and explain each?

Ans: This is a keyword used to query data from more tables based on the relationship between the fields of the tables. Keys play a major role when JOINS are used.

There are various types of join which can be used to retrieve data and it depends on the relationship between tables.

Inner join: Inner join return rows when there is at least one match of rows between the tables.

Right Join: Right join return rows which are common between the tables and all rows of Right-hand side table. Simply, it returns all the rows from the right-hand side table even though there are no matches in the left-hand side table.

Left Join: Left join return rows which are common between the tables and all rows of Left-hand side table. Simply, it returns all the rows from Left hand side table even though there are no matches in the Right-hand side table.

Full Join: Full join return rows when there are matching rows in any one of the tables. This means, it returns all the rows from the left-hand side table and all the rows from the right-hand side table.

Q. What is "CROSS JOIN"? or What is Cartesian product?

Ans: "CROSS JOIN" or "CARTESIAN PRODUCT" combines all rows from both tables. Number of rows will be product of the number of rows in each table. In real life scenario I cannot imagine where we will want to use a Cartesian product. But there are scenarios where we would like permutation and combination probably Cartesian would be the easiest way to achieve it.

Q. What is the difference between cross joins and natural joins?

Ans: The cross join produces the cross product or Cartesian product of two tables. The natural join is based on all the columns having same name and data types in both the tables.

Q. How to select the first record in a given set of rows?

Ans: Select top 1 * from salesperson

Q. What is the default "SORT" order for a SQL SERVER?

Ans: ASCENDING

Q. What is Self-Join?

Ans. Self-join is set to be query used to compare to itself. This is used to compare values in a column with other values in the same column in the same table. ALIAS ES can be used for the same table comparison.

Q. List the different types of relationships in SQL SERVER?

One-to-One - This can be defined as the relationship between two tables where each record in one table is associated with the maximum of one record in the other table.

One-to-Many & Many-to-One - This is the mostcommonly used relationship where a record in a table is associated with multiple records in the other table.

Many-to-Many - This is used in cases when multiple instances on both sides are needed for defining a relationship.

Self-Referencing Relationships - This is used when a table needs to define a relationship with itself.

Q. What is the purpose of the COMMIT statement?

The COMMIT statement is used to save the changes made within a transaction. It makes the changes permanent and releases any locks held by the transaction.

Q. What is the purpose of the ROLLBACK statement?

The ROLLBACK statement is used to undo the changes made within a transaction and restore the data to its previous state.

Q. What is the difference between a view and a table?

A table is a physical storage structure that contains data, whereas a view is a virtual table derived from one or more tables.

Q. What is a Temporary Table?

- Temporary tables are physical tables that are created and stored in the tempdb database. They are used to store temporary data that persists for the duration of a session or connection.
- Temporary tables are explicitly created using the CREATE TABLE statement, and they can have columns, indexes, constraints, and other attributes like regular tables.
- Temporary tables are accessible across multiple queries within the same session or connection. They can be modified, inserted into, updated, or deleted from, just like regular tables.
- Temporary tables need to be explicitly dropped or they will be automatically dropped when the session or connection is closed or terminated.

Q. What is the difference between a CTE and Temporary tables?

- CTEs are virtual tables defined within a single query, while temporary tables are physical tables stored in the tempdb database.
- CTEs are not accessible outside the query where they are defined, while temporary tables can be accessed and modified across multiple queries within the same session.
- CTEs are not explicitly created or dropped, while temporary tables need to be explicitly created and dropped.
- CTEs are typically used for simplifying complex queries and recursive operations, while temporary tables are used for storing intermediate results or temporary data for more complex data manipulation.

Q. What are the different types of tables used in SQL SERVER?

In SQL Server, there are several types of tables that can be used to store and organize data. The most common types of tables in SQL Server are:

1. **Heap Tables:** Heap tables are the simplest type of table in SQL Server. They store data without any particular order or structure. Records are inserted into the table wherever there is available space, and there is no clustered index defined on the table.
2. **Clustered Tables:** Clustered tables are similar to heap tables, but they have a clustered index defined. The clustered index determines the physical order of the data in the table. Each table can have only one clustered index.
3. **Non-Clustered Tables:** Non-clustered tables have a non-clustered index defined, which is a separate structure from the actual table. The non-clustered index contains a copy of the indexed columns along with a pointer to the corresponding table data.
4. **Partitioned Tables:** Partitioned tables divide the table data into multiple partitions based on a specified partitioning scheme. Each partition can be stored on a different file group, which can improve performance and manageability for large tables.
5. **Temporary Tables:** Temporary tables are created and used for storing temporary data within a specific session or scope. They can be local temporary tables (prefixed with #) that are visible only within the session that created them, or global temporary tables (prefixed with ##) that are visible across different sessions.
6. **Memory-Optimized Tables:** Memory-Optimized tables, also known as In-Memory tables, are designed to provide faster data access by storing the entire table in memory. They are optimized for high-performance and are suitable for scenarios that require real-time data processing.
7. **System Tables:** System tables are used by SQL Server internally to store system metadata and information about database objects, security, transactions, and more. They are not typically accessed directly by users but are essential for the functioning of the SQL Server system.

These are some of the common types of tables used in SQL Server. The choice of table type depends on the specific requirements of the data and the intended usage patterns.

Q. What are the Set Operators?

1. **UNION:** The UNION operator is used to combine the results of two or more SELECT statements into a single result set. It removes duplicate rows from the final result set.
2. **INTERSECT:** The INTERSECT operator returns the common rows that exist in the result sets of two or more SELECT statements. It returns only the distinct rows that appear in all the SELECT statements.
3. **EXCEPT or MINUS:** The EXCEPT (or MINUS in some database systems) operator returns the rows that exist in the result set of the first SELECT statement but not in the result set of the second SELECT statement. It returns only the distinct rows from the first SELECT statement.

These set operators allow you to perform operations such as combining, finding common rows, or finding differences between result sets of multiple SELECT statements. It's important to note that the number and data types of columns in the SELECT statements used with set operators must match or be compatible.

Q. What's the difference between "UNION" and "UNION ALL"?

Ans: UNION syntax is used to select information from two tables. But it selects only distinct records from both the table, while UNION ALL selects all records from both the tables.

Q. What are cursors and what are the situations you will use them?

Ans:

Row-by-Row Processing: Cursors are useful when you need to perform row-level operations or calculations that involve complex logic. For example, if you need to update each row in a table based on certain conditions or perform calculations that involve values from multiple rows, a cursor can be used to iterate through the rows and process them individually.

Cursor-Based Reporting: In some reporting scenarios, you may need to generate complex reports that involve aggregations, calculations, and formatting of data. Cursors can be used to fetch data row by row and perform the necessary transformations and calculations to generate the desired report output.

Data Validation and Cleanup: When performing data validation or data cleanup tasks, cursors can be used to iterate through rows, check for data integrity, and make corrections or adjustments as needed. For example, you might use a cursor to check for duplicate records, identify and resolve data inconsistencies, or apply certain business rules to the data.

Cursor-Based Data Export: If you need to export data from SQL Server in a custom format that requires specific formatting or data manipulation, cursors can be used to retrieve the data row by row, apply the necessary transformations, and write the data to an output file or destination.

SQL statements are good for set at a time operation. So it is good at handling set of data. But there are scenarios where we want to update row depending on certain criteria. We will loop through all rows and update data accordingly. There's where cursors come in to picture.

Q. What is "Group by" clause?

Ans: "Group by" clause group similar data so that aggregate values can be derived.

Q. What is the difference between "HAVING" and "WHERE" clause?

Ans: "HAVING" clause is used to specify filtering criteria for "GROUP BY", while "WHERE" clause applies on normal SQL.

Q. What is a query?

Ans: A DB query is a code written in order to get the information back from the database. Query can be designed in such a way that it matched with our expectation of the result set. Simply, a question to the Database.

Q. What is subquery & Types of subqueries?

Ans: A subquery is a query within another query. The outer query is called as main query, and inner query is called subquery. SubQuery is always executed first, and the result of subquery is passed on to the main query.

There are two types of subquery – **Correlated and Non-Correlated**. A correlated subquery cannot be considered as independent query, but it can refer the column in a table listed in the FROM the list of the main query. A Non-Correlated sub query can be considered as independent query and the output of subquery are substituted in the main query.

For example, to retrieve all EmployeeID and CustomerID records from the ORDERS table that have the EmployeeID greater than the average of the EmployeeID field, you can create a nested query, as shown:

```
SELECT DISTINCT EmployeeID, CustomerID FROM ORDERS WHERE EmployeeID > (SELECT AVG(EmployeeID) FROM ORDERS)
```

Q. What are the properties and different Types of Sub-Queries?

Ans: Properties of Sub-Query:

1. A sub-query must be enclosed in the parenthesis.
2. A sub-query must be put in the right hand of the comparison operator, and
3. A sub-query cannot contain an ORDER-BY clause.

B). A query can contain more than one sub-query.

1. Types of Sub-Query
2. Single-row sub-query, where the sub-query returns only one row.
3. Multiple-row sub-query, where the sub-query returns multiple rows, and
4. Multiple column sub-query, where the sub-query returns multiple columns.

Q. What do you understand by a subquery? When is it used?

Ans: A subquery is a SELECT statement embedded in a clause of another SELECT statement. It is used when the inner query, or the subquery returns a value that is used by the outer query. It is very useful in selecting some rows in a table with a condition that depends on some data which is contained in the same table.

Q. Can you explain the SELECT INTO Statement?

Ans: SELECT INTO statement is used mostly to create backups. The below SQL server backs up the Employee table in to the EmployeeBackUp table. One point to be noted is that the structure of pcdsEmployeeBackup and pcdsEmployee table should be same.

```
SELECT * INTO pcdsEmployeeBackup FROM pcdsEmployee
```

Q. What is a View?

Ans: A view is a virtual table which consists of a subset of data contained in a table. Views are not virtually present, and it takes less space to store. View can have data of one or more tables combined, and it is depending on the relationship.

```
CREATE VIEW [MyView] AS SELECT * from pcdsEmployee where LastName = 'singh'
```

In order to query the view

```
SELECT * FROM [MyView]
```

Q. Why should you use a view?

Ans: A view is used for –

Restricting access to data;

Making complex queries simple;

Ensuring data independency;

Providing different views of same data.

Q. How to select unique records from a table?

Ans: Select unique records from a table by using DISTINCT keyword.

```
Select DISTINCT StudentID, StudentName from Student.
```

Q. What is the command used to fetch first 5 characters of the string?

Ans: There are many ways to fetch first 5 characters of the string –

```
Select SUBSTRING(StudentName,1,5) as studentname from student.
```

```
Select RIGHT(Studentname,5) as studentname from student.
```

Q. Which operator is used in query for pattern matching?

Ans: LIKE operator is used for pattern matching, and it can be used as –

% – Matches zero or more characters.

_(Underscore) – Matching exactly one character.

Example –

```
Select * from Student where studentname like 'a%'
```

Q. Can you sort a column using a column alias?

Ans: Yes. A column alias could be used in the ORDER BY clause.

Q. Is a NULL value same as zero or a blank space? If not then what is the difference?

Ans: A NULL value is not same as zero or a blank space. A NULL value is a value which is 'unavailable, unassigned, unknown or not applicable'. Whereas, zero is a number and blank space is a character.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False. If a column value taking part in an arithmetic expression is NULL, then the result obtained would be NULLM.

Ans: True.

Q. If a table contains duplicate rows, does a query result display the duplicate values by default? How can you eliminate duplicate rows from a query result?

Ans: A query result displays all rows including the duplicate rows. To eliminate duplicate rows in the result, the DISTINCT keyword is used in the SELECT clause.

Q. What is the purpose of the condition operators BETWEEN and IN?

Ans: The BETWEEN operator displays rows based on a range of values. The IN condition operator checks for values contained in a specific set of values.

Q. How do you search for a value in a database table when you don't have the exact value to search for?

Ans: In such cases, the LIKE condition operator is used to select rows that match a character pattern. This is also called 'wildcard' search.

Q. What is the default ordering of data using the ORDER BY clause? How could it be changed?

Ans: The default sorting order is ascending. It can be changed using the DESC keyword, after the column name in the ORDER BY clause.

Q. What are the case manipulation functions of SQL?

Ans: LOWER, UPPER

Q. Which function returns the remainder in a division operation?

Ans: The MOD function returns the remainder in a division operation.

Q. What is the purpose of the NVL function?

Ans: In SQL Server, there is no built-in NVL function. The NVL function is commonly used in Oracle databases, but it does not exist in SQL Server.

However, in SQL Server, you can achieve similar functionality using the COALESCE function. The COALESCE function allows you to return the first non-null expression in a list. It can be used to replace null values with alternative values.

Here's an example of using the COALESCE function in SQL Server:

```
SELECT COALESCE(column_name, 'N/A') AS Result
FROM your_table
```

In the example above, if the 'column_name' is null, the COALESCE function will return 'N/A' as the result. Otherwise, it will return the value of 'column_name'.

So, while there is no direct equivalent to the NVL function in SQL Server, you can use the COALESCE function to achieve similar functionality of replacing null values with alternate values.

Q. What is the difference between the NVL and the NVL2 functions?

Ans: The NVL(exp1, exp2) function converts the source expression (or value) exp1 to the target expression (or value) exp2, if exp1 contains NULL. The return value has the same data type as that of exp1.

The NVL2(exp1, exp2, exp3) function checks the first expression exp1, if it is not null then, the second expression exp2 is returned. If the first expression exp1 is null, then the third expression exp3 is returned.

Q. What is the use of the NULLIF function?

Ans: The NULLIF function compares two expressions. If they are equal, the function returns null. If they are not equal, the first expression is returned.

Q. Discuss the syntax and use of the COALESCE function?

Ans: The COALESCE function has the expression COALESCE(exp1, exp2, Expn)

1. It returns the first non-null expression given in the parameter list.

Q. Which expressions or functions allow you to implement conditional processing in a SQL statement?

Ans: There are two ways to implement conditional processing or IF-THEN-ELSE logic in a SQL statement.
Using CASE expression

Using the DECODE function

- You want to display a result query from joining two tables with 20 and 10 rows respectively. Erroneously you forget to write the WHERE clause. What would be the result?
- The result would be the Cartesian product of two tables with $20 \times 10 = 200$ rows.

Q. You want to display a result query from joining two tables with 20 and 10 rows respectively. Erroneously you forget to write the WHERE clause. What would be the result?

Ans: The result would be the Cartesian product of two tables with $20 \times 10 = 200$ rows.

Q. What is the purpose of the MERGE statement in SQL?

Ans: The MERGE statement allows conditional update or insertion of data into a database table. It performs an UPDATE if the row exists, or an INSERT if the row does not exist.

Q. What is the difference between VARCHAR2 AND CHAR datatypes?

Ans: VARCHAR2 represents variable length character data, whereas CHAR represents fixed length character data.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

A DROP TABLE statement can be rolled back.

Ans: False. A DROP TABLE statement cannot be rolled back.

Q. Which SQL statement is used to add, modify or drop columns in a database table?

Ans: The ALTER TABLE statement.

Q. What's wrong in the following query?

Ans: SELECT student_code, name
FROM students
WHERE marks =
(SELECT MAX(marks)
FROM students
GROUP BY subject_code);

Q.What is CLR?

Ans: In SQL Server 2008, SQL Server objects such as user-defined functions can be created using such CLR languages. This CLR language support extends not only to user-defined functions, but also to stored procedures and triggers. You can develop such CLR add-ons to SQL Server using Visual Studio 2008.

Q. How would you handle error in SQL SERVER 2008?

Ans: SQL Server now supports the use of TRY...CATCH con handling. TRY...CATCH lets us build error handling at the level we need, in the way w to, by setting a region where if any error occurs, it will break out of the region and head to an error handler.

The basic structure is as follows:

```
BEGIN TRY
stmts..
END TRY
BEGIN CATCH
stmts..
END CATCH
```

Q. What is RAISEERROR?

Ans: RaiseError generates an error message and initiates error processing for the session. RAISEERROR can either reference a user-defined message stored in the sys.messages catalog view or build a message dynamically. The message is returned as a server error message to the calling application or to an associated CATCH block of a TRY | CATCH construct.

Q. How to get @@ERROR and @@ROWCOUNT at the same time?

Ans: If @@Rowcount is checked after Error checking statement then it will have 0 as the value of @@Recordcount as it would have been reset. And if @@Recordcount is checked before the error-checking statement then @@Error would get reset. To get @@error and @@rowcount at the same time do both in same statement and store them in local variable.
SELECT @RC = @@ROWCOUNT, @ER = @@ERROR

Q. What is collation?

Ans: Collation is defined as set of rules that determine how character data can be sorted and compared. This can be used to compare A and a, other language characters and also depends on the width of the characters.ASCII value can be used to compare these character data.

Q. What are different types of Collation Sensitivity?

Ans:

1. Case sensitivity - A and a, B and b, etc.
2. Accent sensitivity
3. Kana Sensitivity - When Japanese kana characters Hiragana and Katakana are treated differently, it is called Kana sensitive.
4. Width sensitivity - A single-byte character (half-width) and the same character represented as a double-byte character (full-width) are treated differently than it is width sensitive.

Q. What is a Linked Server?

Ans: Linked Servers is a concept in SQL Server by which we can add other SQL Server to a Group and query both the SQL Server dbs using T-SQL Statements. With a linked server, you can create very clean, easy to follow, SQL statements that

allow remote data to be retrieved, joined and combined with local data. Stored Procedure sp_addlinkedserver, sp_addlinkedsrvlogin will be used add new Linked Server.

Q. What is Cursor?

Ans: Cursor is a database object used by applications to manipulate data in a set on a row-by-row basis, instead of the typical SQL commands that operate on all the rows in the set at one time.

In order to work with a cursor we need to perform some steps in the following order:

1. Declare cursor
2. Open cursor
3. Fetch row from the cursor
4. Process fetched row
5. Close cursor
6. Deallocate cursor

Q. What is Identity?

Ans: Identity (or AutoNumber) is a column that automatically generates numeric values. A start and increment value can be set, but most DBAs leave these at 1. A GUID column also generates numbers; the value of this cannot be controlled. Identity/GUID columns do not need to be indexed.

Q. What is Service Broker?

Ans: Service Broker is a message-queuing technology in SQL Server that allows developers to integrate SQL Server fully into distributed applications. Service Broker is a feature which provides facility to SQL Server to send an asynchronous, transactional message. It allows a database to send a message to another database without waiting for the response, so the application will continue to function if the remote database is temporarily unavailable.

Q. Where SQL server user names and passwords are stored in SQL server?

Ans: They get stored in System Catalog Views sys.server_principals and sys.sql_logins.

Q. What is Policy Management?

Ans: Policy Management in SQL SERVER 2008 allows you to define and enforce policies for configuring and managing SQL Server across the enterprise. Policy-Based Management is configured in SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS). Navigate to the Object Explorer and expand the Management node and the Policy Management node; you will see the Policies, Conditions, and Facets nodes.

Q. What is Replication and Database Mirroring?

Ans: Database mirroring can be used with replication to provide availability for the publication database. Database mirroring involves two copies of a single database that typically reside on different computers. At any given time, only one copy of the database is currently available to clients which are known as the principal database. Updates made by clients to the principal database are applied on the other copy of the database, known as the mirror database. Mirroring involves applying the transaction log from every insertion, update, or deletion made on the principal database onto the mirror database.

Q. What are Sparse Columns?

Ans: A sparse column is another tool used to reduce the amount of physical storage used in a database. They are the ordinary columns that have an optimized storage for null values. Sparse columns reduce the space requirements for null values at the cost of more overhead to retrieve non null values.

Q. What does TOP Operator Do?

Ans: The TOP operator is used to specify the number of rows to be returned by a query. The TOP operator has new addition in SQL SERVER 2008 that it accepts variables as well as literal values and can be used with INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETES statements.

Q. What is CTE?

Ans: CTE is an abbreviation Common Table Expression. A Common Table Expression (CTE) is an expression that can be thought of as a temporary result set which is defined within the execution of a single SQL statement. A CTE is similar to a derived table in that it is not stored as an object and lasts only for the duration of the query.

Q. Which are new data types introduced in SQL SERVER 2008?

Ans:

1. The GEOMETRY Type: The GEOMETRY data type is a system .NET common language runtime (CLR) data type in SQL Server. This type represents data in a two-dimensional Euclidean coordinate system.

2. The GEOGRAPHY Type: The GEOGRAPHY datatype's functions are the same as with GEOMETRY. The difference between the two is that when you specify GEOGRAPHY, you are usually specifying points in terms of latitude and longitude.

3. New Date and Time Datatypes: SQL Server 2008 introduces four new datatypes related to date and time: DATE, TIME, DATETIMEOFFSET, and DATETIME2.

A). DATE: The new DATE type just stores the date itself. It is based on the Gregorian calendar and handles years from 1 to 9999.

B). TIME: The new TIME (n) type stores time with a range of 00:00:00.0000000 through 23:59:59.9999999. The precision is allowed with this type. TIME supports seconds down to 100 nanoseconds. The n in TIME (n) defines this level of fractional second precision, from 0 to 7 digits of precision.

C). The DATETIMEOFFSET Type: DATETIMEOFFSET (n) is the time-zone-aware version of a datetime datatype. The name will appear less odd when you consider what it really is: a date + a time + a time-zone offset. The offset is based on how far behind or ahead you are from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) time.

D). The DATETIME2 Type: It is an extension of the datetime type in earlier versions of SQL Server. This new datatype has a date range covering dates from January 1 of year 1 through December 31 of year 9999. This is a definite improvement over the 1753 lower boundary of the datetimedatatype. DATETIME2 not only includes the larger date range, but also has a timestamp and the same fractional precision that TIME type provides

Q. What are the Advantages of using CTE?

Ans:

1. Using CTE improves the readability and makes maintenance of complex queries easy.
2. The query can be divided into separate, simple, logical building blocks which can be then used to build more complex CTEs until final result set is generated.
3. CTE can be defined in functions, stored procedures, triggers or even views.
4. After a CTE is defined, it can be used as a Table or a View and can SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE or DELETE Data.

Q. What are synonyms?

Ans: Synonyms give you the ability to provide alternate names for database objects. You can alias object names; for example, using the Employee table as Emp. You can also shorten names. This is especially useful when dealing with three and four part names; for example, shortening server.database.owner.object to object.

Q. What is LINQ?

Ans: Language Integrated Query (LINQ) adds the ability to query objects using .NET languages. The LINQ to SQL object/relational mapping (O/RM) framework provides the following basic features:

Tools to create classes (usually called entities) mapped to database tables

Compatibility with LINQ's standard query operations

The data context class, with features such as entity record monitoring, automatic SQL statement generation, record concurrency detection, and much more

Q. What is Isolation Levels?

Ans: Transactions specify an isolation level that defines the degree to which one transaction must be isolated from resource or data modifications made by other transactions. Isolation levels are described in terms of which concurrency side-effects, such as dirty reads or phantom reads, are allowed.

Transaction isolation levels control:

1. Whether locks are taken when data is read, and what type of locks are requested.
2. How long the read locks are held.
3. Whether a read operation referencing rows modified by another transaction:
 - Blocks until the exclusive lock on the row is freed.
 - Retrieves the committed version of the row that existed at the time the statement or transaction started.
 - Reads the uncommitted data modification.

Q. What is use of EXCEPT Clause?

Ans: EXCEPT clause is similar to MINUS operation in Oracle. The EXCEPT query and MINUS query returns all rows in the first query that are not returned in the second query. Each SQL statement within the EXCEPT query and MINUS query must have the same number of fields in the result sets with similar data types. data modification.

Q. How to rebuild Master Database?

Ans: Master database is system database and it contains information about running server's configuration. When SQL Server 2005 is installed it usually creates master, model, msdb, tempdb resource and distribution system database by default. Only Master database is the one which is an absolutely must have database. Without Master database SQL Server cannot be started. This is the reason it is extremely important to backup Master database.

To rebuild the Master database, Run Setup.exe, verify, and repair a SQL Server instance, and rebuild the system databases. This procedure is most often used to rebuild the master database for a corrupted installation of SQL Server.

Q. What is XML Datatype?

Ans: The xml data type lets you store XML documents and fragments in a SQL Server database. An XML fragment is an XML instance that is missing a single top-level element. You can create columns and variables of the xml type and store XML instances in them. The xml data type and associated methods help integrate XML into the relational framework of S Server.

Q. What is Data Compression?

Ans: In SQL SERVE 2008 Data Compression comes in two flavors:

1. Row Compression: Row compression changes the format of physical storage of data. It minimize the metadata (column information, length, offsets etc) associated with each record. Numeric data types and fixed length strings are stored in variable-length storage format, just like Varchar.

2. Page Compression: Page compression allows common data to be shared between rows for a given page. Its uses the following techniques to compress data:

- Row compression.
- Prefix Compression. For every column in a page duplicate prefixes are identified. These prefixes are saved in compression information headers (CI) which resides after page header. A reference number is assigned to these prefixes and that reference number is replaced where ever those prefixes are being used.

3. Dictionary Compression: Dictionary compression searches for duplicate values throughout the page and stores them in CI. The main difference between prefix and dictionary compression is that prefix is only restricted to one column while dictionary is applicable to the complete page.

Q. What is Catalog Views?

Ans: Catalog views return information that is used by the SQL Server Database Engine. Catalog Views are the most general interface to the catalog metadata and provide the most efficient way to obtain, transform, and present customized forms of this information. All user- available catalog metadata is exposed through catalog views.

Q. What is PIVOT and UNPIVOT?

Ans: A Pivot Table can automatically sort, count, and total the data stored in one table or spreadsheet and create a second table displaying the summarized data. The PIVOT operator turns the values of a specified column into column names, effectively rotating a table.

UNPIVOT table is reverse of PIVOT Table.

Q. What is Dirty Read?

Ans: A dirty read occurs when two operations say, read and write occurs together giving the incorrect or unedited data. Suppose, A has changed a row, but has not committed the changes. B reads the uncommitted data but his view of the data may be wrong so that is Dirty Read.

Q. Which TCP/IP port does SQL Server run on? How can it be changed?

Ans: SQL Server runs on port 1433. It can be changed from the Network Utility TCP/IP properties.

Q. What do you mean by Table Sample?

Ans: TABLESAMPLE allows you to extract a sampling of rows from a table in the FROM clause. The rows retrieved are random and they are not in any order. This sampling can be based on a percentage of number of rows. You can use TABLESAMPLE when only a sampling of rows is necessary for the application instead of a full result set.

Q. When is the use of UPDATE_STATISTICS command?

Ans: This command is basically used when a large processing of data has occurred. If a large amount of deletions any modification or Bulk Copy into the tables has occurred, it has to update the indexes to take these changes into account. UPDATE_STATISTICS updates the indexes on these tables accordingly.

Q. What is SQL Profiler?

Ans: SQL Profiler is a graphical tool that allows system administrators to monitor events in an instance of Microsoft SQL Server. You can capture and save data about each event to a file or SQL Server table to analyze later. For example, you

can monitor a production environment to see which stored procedures are hampering performances by executing too slowly.

Use SQL Profiler to monitor only the events in which you are interested. If traces are becoming too large, you can filter them based on the information you want, so that only a subset of the event data is collected. Monitoring too many events adds overhead to the server and the monitoring process and can cause the trace file or trace table to grow very large, especially when the monitoring process takes place over a long period of time.

Q. What are the authentication modes in SQL Server? How can it be changed?

Ans: Windows mode and Mixed Mode - SQL and Windows. To change authentication mode in SQL Server click Start, Programs, Microsoft SQL Server and click SQL Enterprise Manager to run SQL Enterprise Manager from the Microsoft SQL Server program group. Select the server then from the Tools menu select SQL Server Configuration Properties, and choose the Security page.

Q. Which command using Query Analyzer will give you the version of SQL server and operating system?

Ans: SELECT SERVERPROPERTY ('productversion'), SERVERPROPERTY ('productlevel'), SERVERPROPERTY ('edition').

Q. What is SQL Server Agent?

Ans: SQL Server agent plays an important role in the day-to-day tasks of a database administrator (DBA). It is often overlooked as one of the main tools for SQL Server management. Its purpose is to ease the implementation of tasks for the DBA, with its full- function scheduling engine, which allows you to schedule your own jobs and scripts.

Q. What is Log Shipping?

Ans: Log shipping is the process of automating the backup of database and transaction log files on a production SQL server, and then restoring them onto a standby server. Enterprise Editions only supports log shipping. In log shipping the transactional log file from one server is automatically updated into the backup database on the other server. If one server fails, the other server will have the same db and can be used this as the Disaster Recovery plan. The key feature of log shipping is that it will automatically backup transaction logs throughout the day and automatically restore them on the standby server at defined interval.

Q. What does it mean to have QUOTED_IDENTIFIER ON? What are the implications of having it OFF?

Ans: When SET QUOTED_IDENTIFIER is ON, identifiers can be delimited by double quotation marks, and literals must be delimited by single quotation marks. When SET QUOTED_IDENTIFIER is OFF, identifiers cannot be quoted and must follow all Transact-SQL rules for identifiers.

Q. What is the difference between a Local and a Global temporary table?

Ans:

1. **A local temporary** table exists only for the duration of a connection or, if defined inside a compound statement, for the duration of the compound statement.
2. **A global temporary** table remains in the database permanently, but the rows exist only within a given connection. When connection is closed, the data in the global temporary table disappears. However, the table definition remains with the database for access when database is opened next time.

Q. What is the STUFF function and how does it differ from the REPLACE function?

Ans: STUFF function is used to overwrite existing characters. Using this syntax, STUFF (string_expression, start, length, replacement_characters), string_expression is the string that will have characters substituted, start is the starting

position, length is the number of characters in the string that are substituted, and replacement_characters are the new characters interjected into the string. REPLACE function to replace existing characters of all occurrences. Using the

syntax REPLACE (string_expression, search_string, replacement_string), where every incidence of search_string found in the string_expression will be replaced with replacement_string.

Q. What is a Scheduled Jobs or What is a Scheduled Tasks?

Ans: Scheduled tasks let user automate processes that run on regular or predictable cycles. User can schedule administrative tasks, such as cube processing, to run during times of slow business activity. User can also determine the order in which tasks run by creating job steps within a SQL Server Agent job. E.g. back up database, Update Stats of Tables. Job steps give user control over flow of execution. If one job fails, user can configure SQL Server Agent to continue to run the remaining tasks or to stop execution.

Q. What is a table called, if it has neither Cluster nor Non-cluster Index? What is it used for?

Ans: Unindexed table or Heap. Microsoft Press Books and Book on Line (BOL) refers it as Heap. A heap is a table that does not have a clustered index and, therefore, the pages are not linked by pointers. The IAM pages are the only structures that link the pages in a table together. Unindexed tables are good for fast storing of data. Many times it is better to drop all indexes from table and then do bulk of inserts and to restore those indexes after that.

Q. Can SQL Servers linked to other servers like Oracle?

Ans: SQL Server can be linked to any server provided it has OLE-DB provider from Microsoft to allow a link. E.g. Oracle has an OLE-DB provider for oracle that Microsoft provides to add it as linked server to SQL Server group.

Q. What is BCP? When does it used?

Ans: BulkCopy is a tool used to copy huge amount of data from tables and views. BCP does not copy the structures same as source to destination. BULK INSERT command helps to import a data file into a database table or view in a user-specified format.

Q. How to implement one-to-one, one-to-many and many-to-many relationships while designing tables?

Ans: One-to-One relationship can be implemented as a single table and rarely as two tables with primary and foreign key relationships. One-to-Many relationships are implemented by splitting the data into two tables with primary key and foreign key relationships. Many-to-Many relationships are implemented using a junction table with the keys from both the tables forming the composite primary key of the junction table.

True or False Questions & Answers

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

Ans: By default the group functions consider only distinct values in the set. By default, group functions consider all values including the duplicate values.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

Ans: The DISTINCT keyword allows a function consider only non-duplicate values.
A. True.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

All group functions ignore null values.
Ans: True.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

COUNT(*) returns the number of columns in a table.
Ans: False. COUNT(*) returns the number of rows in a table.

Q. What's wrong in the following query?

```
SELECT subject_code, count(name)
FROM students;
```

Ans: It doesn't have a GROUP BY clause. The subject_code should be in the GROUP BY clause.

```
SELECT subject_code, count(name)
FROM students
GROUP BY subject_code;
```

Q. What's wrong in the following query?

```
SELECT subject_code, AVG (marks)
FROM students
WHERE AVG(marks) > 75
GROUP BY subject_code;
```

Ans: The WHERE clause cannot be used to restrict groups. The HAVING clause should be used.

```
SELECT subject_code, AVG (marks)
FROM students
HAVING AVG(marks) > 75
GROUP BY subject_code;
```

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

Group functions cannot be nested.

Ans: False. Group functions can be nested to a depth of two.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

A single row subquery returns only one row from the outer SELECT statement

Ans: False. A single row subquery returns only one row from the inner SELECT statement.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

A multiple row subquery returns more than one row from the inner SELECT statement.

Ans: True.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

Multiple column subqueries return more than one column from the inner SELECT statement.

Ans: True.

Q. What are the various multiple row comparison operators in SQL?

Ans: IN, ANY, ALL.

Q. Which statement is used to add a new row in a database table?

Ans: The INSERT INTO statement.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

While inserting new rows in a table you must list values in the default order of the columns.

Ans: True.

Q. How do you insert null values in a column while inserting data?

Ans: Null values can be inserted into a table by one of the following ways –

Implicitly by omitting the column from the column list.
Explicitly by specifying the NULL keyword in the VALUES clause.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

INSERT statement does not allow copying rows from one table to another.

Ans: False. INSERT statement allows adding rows to a table copying rows from an existing table.

Q. How do you copy rows from one table to another?

Ans: The INSERT statement can be used to add rows to a table by copying from another table. In this case, a subquery is used in the place of the VALUES clause.

Q. What happens if you omit the WHERE clause in the UPDATE statement?

Ans: All the rows in the table are modified.

Q. Can you modify the rows in a table based on values from another table? Explain.

Ans: Yes. Use of subqueries in UPDATE statements allow you to update rows in a table based on values from another table.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

The DELETE statement is used to delete a table from the database.

Ans: False. The DELETE statement is used for removing existing rows from a table.

Q. What happens if you omit the WHERE clause in a delete statement?

Ans: All the rows in the table are deleted.

Q. Can you remove rows from a table based on values from another table? Explain.

Ans: Yes, subqueries can be used to remove rows from a table based on values from another table.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

Attempting to delete a record with a value attached to an integrity constraint, returns an error.

Ans: True.

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

You can use a subquery in an INSERT statement.

Ans: True.

Q. The condition in a WHERE clause can refer to only one value.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. The ADD command is used to enter one row of data or to add multiple rows as a result of a query.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. SQL provides the AS keyword, which can be used to assign meaningful column names to the results of queries using the SQL built-in functions.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The SELECT command, with its various clauses, allows users to query the data contained in the tables and ask many different questions or ad hoc queries.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. A SELECT statement within another SELECT statement and enclosed in square brackets ([...]) is called a subquery.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. The rows of the result relation produced by a SELECT statement can be sorted, but only by one column.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. There is an equivalent join expression that can be substituted for all subquery expressions.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. A dynamic view is one whose contents materialize when referenced.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. SQL is a programming language.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. SELECT DISTINCT is used if a user wishes to see duplicate columns in a query.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. Indexes can usually be created for both primary and secondary keys.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. Each index consumes extra storage space and also requires overhead maintenance time whenever indexed data change value.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The HAVING clause acts like a WHERE clause, but it identifies groups that meet a criterion, rather than rows.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. SQL is a data sublanguage.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The qualifier DISTINCT must be used in an SQL statement when we want to eliminate duplicate rows.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. DISTINCT and its counterpart, ALL, can be used more than once in a SELECT statement.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. The result of every SQL query is a table.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. COUNT(field_name) tallies only those rows that contain a value; it ignores all null values.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. SUM, AVG, MIN, and MAX can only be used with numeric columns.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. Most companies keep at least two versions of any database they are using.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The format SELECT-FROM-WHERE is the fundamental framework of SQL SELECT statements.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. Indexes may be created or dropped at any time.

A. True

B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The SQL statement: SELECT Number1 + Number 2 AS Total FROM NUMBER_TABLE; adds two numbers from each row together and lists the results in a column named Total.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. ORDER BY can be combined with the SELECT statements.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. Data manipulation language (DML) commands are used to define a database, including creating, altering, and dropping tables and establishing constraints.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. Scalar aggregate are multiple values returned from an SQL query that includes an aggregate function.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. The keyword LIKE can be used in a WHERE clause to refer to a range of values.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. The SQL statement: SELECT Name, COUNT(*) FROM NAME_TABLE; counts the number of name rows and displays this total in a table with a single row and a single column.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. The SQL keyword GROUP BY instructs the DBMS to group together those rows that have the same value in a column.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The wildcard asterisk (*) is the SQL-92 standard for indicating "any sequence of characters."

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. Microsoft Access has become ubiquitous, and being able to program in Access is a critical skill.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option B

Q. SQL provides five built-in functions: COUNT, SUM, AVG, MAX, MIN.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. The keyword BETWEEN can be used in a WHERE clause to refer to a range of values.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. To establish a range of values, < and > can be used.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. If you are going to use a combination of three or more AND and OR conditions, it is often easier to use the NOT and NOT IN operators.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: Option A

Q. Say True or False. Give explanation if False.

A DDL statement or a DCL statement is automatically committed.

Answer. True.

Q. You can add a row using SQL in a database with which of the following?

- A. ADD
- B. CREATE
- C. INSERT
- D. MAKE

Answer: Option C

Q. The command to remove rows from a table 'CUSTOMER' is:

- A.REMOVE FROM CUSTOMER ...
- B.DROP FROM CUSTOMER ...
- C.DELETE FROM CUSTOMER WHERE ...
- D.UPDATE FROM CUSTOMER ...

Answer: Option C

Q. The SQL WHERE clause:

- A.limits the column data that are returned.
- B.limits the row data are returned.
- C.Both A and B are correct.
- D.Neither A nor B are correct.

Answer: Option B

Q. Which of the following is the original purpose of SQL?

- A.To specify the syntax and semantics of SQL data definition language
- B.To specify the syntax and semantics of SQL manipulation language
- C.To define the data structures
- D.All of the above.

Answer: Option D

Q. The wildcard in a WHERE clause is useful when?

- A.An exact match is necessary in a SELECT statement.
- B.An exact match is not possible in a SELECT statement.
- C.An exact match is necessary in a CREATE statement.
- D.An exact match is not possible in a CREATE statement.

Answer: Option B

Q. A view is which of the following?

- A.A virtual table that can be accessed via SQL commands
- B.A virtual table that cannot be accessed via SQL commands
- C.A base table that can be accessed via SQL commands
- D.A base table that cannot be accessed via SQL commands

Answer: Option A

Q. The command to eliminate a table from a database is:

- A.REMOVE TABLE CUSTOMER;
- B.DROP TABLE CUSTOMER;
- C.DELETE TABLE CUSTOMER;
- D.UPDATE TABLE CUSTOMER;

Answer: Option B

Q. ON UPDATE CASCADE ensures which of the following?

- A.Normalization
- B.Data Integrity
- C.Materialized Views
- D.All of the above.

Answer: Option B

Q. SQL data definition commands make up a(n) _____ .

- A. DDL
- B. DML
- C. HTML
- D. XML

Answer: Option A

Q. Which of the following is valid SQL for an Index?

- A.CREATE INDEX ID;
- B.CHANGE INDEX ID;
- C.ADD INDEX ID;
- D.REMOVE INDEX ID;

Answer: Option A

Q. The SQL keyword(s) _____ is used with wildcards.

- A.LIKE only
- B. IN only
- C.NOT IN only
- D.IN and NOT IN

Answer: Option A

Q. Which of the following is the correct order of keywords for SQL SELECT statements?

- A.SELECT, FROM, WHERE

- B.FROM, WHERE, SELECT
- C.WHERE, FROM, SELECT
- D.SELECT, WHERE, FROM

Answer: Option A

Q. A subquery in an SQL SELECT statement is enclosed in:

- A.braces -- {...}.
- B.CAPITAL LETTERS.
- C.parenthesis -- (...) .
- D.brackets -- [...].

Answer: Option C

Q. The result of a SQL SELECT statement is a(n) _____ .

- A. report
- B. form
- C. file
- D. table

Answer: Option D

Q. Which of the following are the five built-in functions provided by SQL?

- A.COUNT, SUM, AVG, MAX, MIN
- B.SUM, AVG, MIN, MAX, MULT
- C.SUM, AVG, MULT, DIV, MIN
- D.SUM, AVG, MIN, MAX, NAME

Answer: Option A

Q. In an SQL SELECT statement querying a single table, according to the SQL-92 standard the asterisk (*) means that:

- A.all columns of the table are to be returned.
- B.all records meeting the full criteria are to be returned.
- C.all records with even partial criteria met are to be returned.
- D.None of the above is correct.

Answer: Option A

Q. The HAVING clause does which of the following?

- A.Acts like a WHERE clause but is used for groups rather than rows.
- B.Acts like a WHERE clause but is used for rows rather than columns.
- C.Acts like a WHERE clause but is used for columns rather than groups.
- D.Acts EXACTLY like a WHERE clause.

Answer: Option A

Q. The SQL -92 wildcards are ____ and ____ .

- A.asterisk (*); percent sign (%)
- B.percent sign (%); underscore (_)
- C.underscore(_); question mark (?)
- D.question mark (?); asterisk (*)

Answer: Option B

Q. To remove duplicate rows from the results of an SQL SELECT statement, the _____ qualifier specified must be included.

- A. ONLY

- B. UNIQUE
- C.DISTINCT
- D. SINGLE

Answer: Option C

Q. The benefits of a standard relational language include which of the following?

- A.Reduced training costs
- B.Increased dependence on a single vendor
- C.Applications are not needed.
- D.All of the above.

Answer: Option A

Q. Which of the following do you need to consider when you make a table in SQL?

- A.Data types
- B.Primary keys
- C.Default values
- D.All of the above.

Answer: Option D

Q. SQL query and modification commands make up a(n) _____ .

- A. DDL
- B. DML
- C. HTML
- D. XML

Answer: Option B

Q. When three or more AND and OR conditions are combined, it is easier to use the SQL keyword(s):

- A.LIKE only.
- B. IN only.
- C.NOT IN only.
- D.Both IN and NOT IN.

Answer: Option D

Q. The Microsoft Access wildcards are ____ and ____ .

- A.asterisk (*); percent sign (%)
- B.percent sign (%); underscore (_)
- C.underscore(_); question mark (?)
- D.question mark (?); asterisk (*)

Answer: Option D

Q. Find the SQL statement below that is equal to the following: SELECT NAME FROM CUSTOMER WHERE STATE = 'VA';

- A.SELECT NAME IN CUSTOMER WHERE STATE IN ('VA');
- B.SELECT NAME IN CUSTOMER WHERE STATE = 'VA';
- C.SELECT NAME IN CUSTOMER WHERE STATE = 'V';
- D.SELECT NAME FROM CUSTOMER WHERE STATE IN ('VA');

Answer: Option D

Q. To sort the results of a query use:

- A.SORT BY.
- B.GROUP BY.

C.ORDER BY.

D.None of the above is correct.

Answer: Option C

Q. To define what columns should be displayed in an SQL SELECT statement:

A.use FROM to name the source table(s) and list the columns to be shown after SELECT.

B.use USING to name the source table(s) and list the columns to be shown after SELECT.

C.use SELECT to name the source table(s) and list the columns to be shown after USING.

D.use USING to name the source table(s) and list the columns to be shown after WHERE.

Answer: Option A

Q. SQL can be used to:

A.create database structures only.

B.query database data only.

C.modify database data only.

D.All of the above can be done by SQL.

Answer: Option D

Q. The SQL statement that queries or reads data from a table is _____ .

A. SELECT

B.READ

C. QUERY

D.None of the above is correct.

Answer: Option A

Q. Which one of the following sorts rows in SQL?

A.SORT BY

B.ALIGN BY

C.ORDER BY

D.GROUP BY

Answer: Option C

Q. The SQL keyword BETWEEN is used:

A.for ranges.

B.to limit the columns displayed.

C.as a wildcard.

D.None of the above is correct.

Answer: Option A

Q. A subquery in an SQL SELECT statement:

A.can only be used with two tables.

B.can always be duplicated by a join.

C.has a distinct form that cannot be duplicated by a join.

D.cannot have its results sorted using ORDER BY.

Answer: Option C

Q. _____ was adopted as a national standard by ANSI in 1992.

A. Oracle

B. SQL

C.Microsoft Access

D. DBase

Answer: Option B

Q. SQL is:

A.a programming language.

B.an operating system.

C.a data sublanguage.

D. a DBMS.

Answer: Option C