

# **Certification Exam Preparation and iSQL\*Plus**



# What Will I Learn?

**In this lesson, you will learn:**

To prepare for the OCA Exam, you will need to review the concepts learned in the Database Programming course as well as learn the following:

1. How to include iSQL\*Plus commands to produce more readable SQL output. The iSQL\*Plus Oracle product contains its own command language and can be used to create script files. iSQL\*Plus is an Oracle proprietary environment that runs on a browser and is used to submit SQL statements to an Oracle server for execution.

iSQL\*Plus User's Guide and Reference

iSQL\*Plus PowerPoint Slides

2. Database Transactions

3. Controlling User Access



## Why Learn It?

Introducing a new way to get started on your path to certification and career success!

The Introduction to Oracle10g: SQL online exam satisfies your first requirement for the Oracle Certified Associate credential.

By achieving Oracle Certified Associate (OCA) status, you will gain added credibility for your foundation-level knowledge and commitment to learning Oracle technologies.

You will also be halfway completed with your Oracle Certified Associate credential, which gains you access to a wealth of opportunity worldwide.



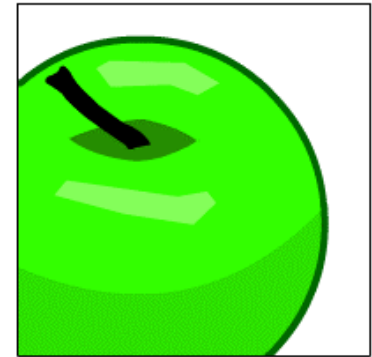
## Tell Me / Show Me

### Oracle Certified Associate

The OCA exam has a higher level of difficulty than the Academy SQL Final Exam.

However, your commitment and success in passing the Academy Database Programming with SQL Final Exam makes you a good candidate for the certification exam.

The following information will help you get started toward your goal.



## Tell Me / Show Me

### Basic and Mastery Sections

Questions in the Basic section of your exam cover the fundamental concepts taught in the Database Programming with SQL course.

Questions in the Mastery section are also based on these same materials, but they are somewhat more difficult than the questions in the Basic section.

These questions may draw more extensively on a candidate's practice or experience. You must pass both sections in order to pass the exam.





## Tell Me / Show Me

### OCA Exam Passing Scores

Oracle routinely publishes new versions of Oracle Certification exams, and the passing score across versions may differ. The passing score for each exam is set independently to maintain a consistent standard across versions. For example, to maintain a consistent standard for success, a new version of an exam, which contains more difficult questions than the prior version, will be assigned a somewhat lower required passing score.

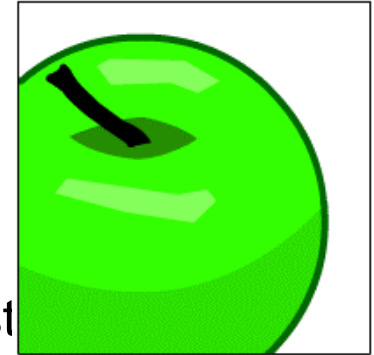
For this reason, passing scores may vary between different exams in your certification track, and between later and earlier versions of the same exam. The passing scores provided on the Oracle Certification Program website are for informational purposes only. Oracle does not recommend an exam preparation strategy targeting the passing score, because passing scores are subject to change.

For the latest information check the Oracle University certification website at <http://www.oracle.com/education/certification/>

# Tell Me / Show Me

## HINTS FOR TAKING THE EXAM

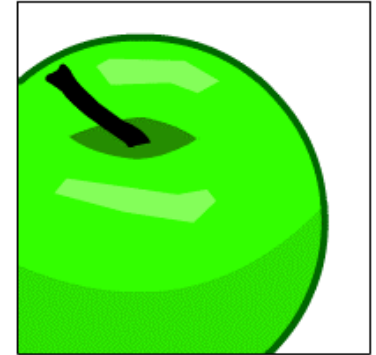
- Be careful to select all the right answers on the test; don't stop looking when you find one.
- Spend only 30 seconds evaluating a question on your first pass, use the review page to go back and review the ones you didn't know.
- There is no penalty for guessing, answer every question.
- The timer does not count down as you work. It will only display the accurate time remaining when you refresh the screen. For example, after submitting an answer a new time will be displayed or if you press the refresh button in your browser window.



## Tell Me / Show Me

### Producing Readable Output with iSQL\*Plus

The iSQL\*Plus Reference Guide is a comprehensive document for iSQL\*Plus (iSQLPlusRef.pdf). Review the Notes pages of the iSQL\*Plus PowerPoint slides (iSQLPlusSlides.ppt). These notes explain iSQL\*Plus concepts needed for the exam.



Using iSQL\*Plus you can create reports that prompt the user to supply their own values to restrict the range of data returned by using substitution variables. These are the same substitution variables as was covered in Section 1, Lesson 1 of this course. But, the character used to identify the substitution variable is different in SQL\*Plus and iSQL\*Plus.

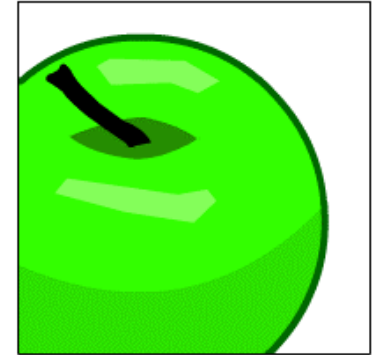
Both these environments use the **&** instead of **..**



## Tell Me / Show Me

### Producing Readable Output with iSQL\*Plus (continued)

Substitution variables can be used anywhere in the SELECT statement such as in the WHERE clause, a text string, column or table name. Substitution variables cannot be used as the first word entered at the command prompt.



### Effects of substitution variables

- report figures of current time period
- report data only relevant to the use
- display personnel only within a given department
- dynamically alter headers and footers
- obtain input values from a file instead of a person
- pass values from one SQL statement to another

## Tell Me / Show Me

### Defining Substitution Variables

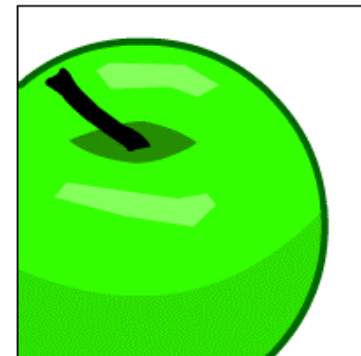
To predefine a variable use the DEFINE command.

```
DEFINE job_title = IT_PROG
```

```
DEFINE job_title = 'President Elect'
```

DEFINE job\_title this command will verify the variable, its value and its data type.

UNDEFINE job\_title will clear the DEFINE command/or exit iSQL\*Plus.



## Tell Me / Show Me

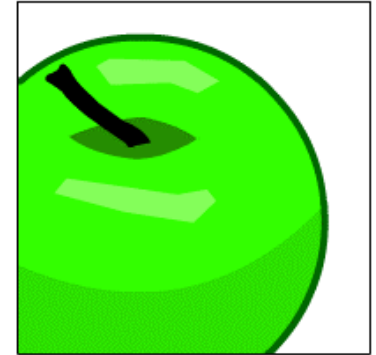
### Using the DEFINE command

1. Create the substitution variable with the DEFINE command

2. Use the variable in a SELECT statement

```
DEFINE employee_num = 200
```

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, first_name  
FROM employees  
WHERE employee_id = &employee_num;
```



# Tell Me / Show Me

## Defining Substitution Variables (continued)

Use the && if you want to prompt the user only once for a variable that is used more than once in a statement. This kind of functionality is not available in Oracle Application Express, so we cannot enter ::.



```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, Job_id, &&column_name  
FROM employees  
ORDER BY &column_name;
```

# Tell Me / Show Me

## Defining Substitution Variables (continued)

Use the **VERIFY** command to show the variable before and after substitution.

### SET VERIFY ON

```
SELECT employee_id, last_name, Job_id, &&column_name  
FROM employees  
ORDER BY &column_name;
```



## Tell Me / Show Me

### Customizing the iSQL\*Plus Environment

The SET command

**SET** system\_variable value



**SET ECHO ON**

**SHOW ECHO** - Used to verify what you have set

**SHOW ALL** - Shows all the SET variable values

**ARRAYSIZE {20 | n }** sets the database fetch size

**FEEDBACK {6 | n | OFF | ON }** sets the number of records to return

**HEADING {OFF | ON}** determines if column headings are displayed

**LONG {80 | n}** sets the maximum width for displaying LONG values

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## Format Commands

**COLUMN** - column name|alias if used

**CLEAR** - clears the column formats

**HEADING** - sets the column heading | for line feed

**FORMAT** - changes the display

9 single zero-suppression (e.g., 9999999 looks like 19342)

0 enforces leading zero

\$ floating dollar sign

L local currency

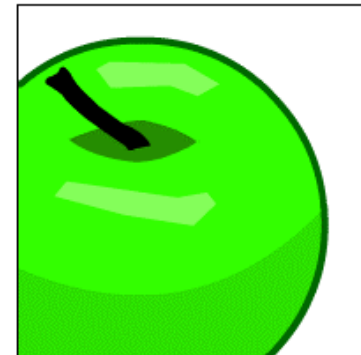
. decimal point position

, thousand separator

**NOPRINT** - hides the column

**PRINT** - shows the column

**NULL** - text to be displayed for NULL values





# Tell Me / Show Me

## Format Commands - cont.

**COLUMN column name** - displays the current setting for the specified column

**COLUMN** - displays the current setting for all columns

**COLUMN column name CLEAR** - clears the column settings for a specified column

**CLEAR column** - clears settings for all columns

**TTITLE [text |OFF|ON]** - page header use the | to split the header across multiple lines

and use ' ' for titles of more than one word

**BTITLE [text |OFF|ON]** - page footer

**BREAK [ON column|alias]** - suppresses duplicate values and divides rows of data into sections using breaks

**ORDER BY** - use this clause with BREAK to order the columns you are breaking on

**CLEAR BREAK** - Clear all BREAK settings by using the CLEAR command

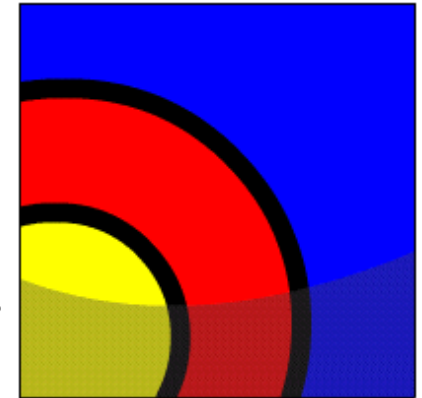




## Summary

**In this lesson you have learned to:**

- Learn to prepare for the OCA Exam
- Learn to become aware of how to include iSQLPlus commands to produce more readable SQL output
- Learn how to gain an understanding of Database Transactions
- Learn how to gain an understanding of Controlling User Access



**If you have passed the Database Programming with SQL Final Exam you are now prepared to take the Oracle 1Z0-007 OCA Exam.**

# Summary

## Practice Guide

The link for the lesson practice guide can be found in the course resources in Section 0.

