

Chapter 11a

ISTA-420, T-SQL Fundamentals

Read *T-SQL Fundamentals, Third Edition*, pages 361 — 379, and answer the following questions.

1. Why do we use variables in T-SQL? How do you declare and initialize T-SQL variables? Can you declare and initialize a variable in a single step?
2. Why is the assignment SET method for setting a variable safer than the assignment SELECT method?
3. Describe what is meant by a *batch* file in T-SQL? What is the difference between batches and transactions?
4. Can a transaction be split between multiple batches? Can a batch be split between multiple transactions? Explain.
5. What is meant when the book says that “a batch is a unit of resolution?” Explain *binding*.
6. What is the scope of variables with respect to T-SQL batches?
7. Give a practical example of the use of the GO n operator that is not in the book.
8. How to you delimit if ...else constructions that contain multiple statements?
9. Does T-SQL provide a SWITCH ...CASE type of construct? See chapter 2 if you don’t recall. If it exists, is it interchangeable with the if ...else construct?
10. What is the difference between a *relation* and a *cursor*?
11. What are the specific steps to use a cursor? List the steps.
12. What is the scope of a *local temporary table*?
13. When are *global temporary tables* destroyed? What is the main difference between local temporary tables and global temporary tables?
14. Under what conditions would you use a *table variable* instead of a local temporary table? Why would you refer to use a local temporary table instead of a table variable?
15. What is a *table type*? What is the syntax for creating a table type? Whhat is the syntax for using a table type?