

Q1. Explain the fundamental differences between DDL, DML, and DQL commands in SQL. Provide one example for each type of command.

SQL commands are grouped based on what they do. **DDL (Data Definition Language)** commands define or modify the structure of database objects such as tables and schemas. They change the schema itself, not the data. Example:

```
CREATE TABLE Employees (id INT, name VARCHAR(50));
```

DML (Data Manipulation Language) commands handle inserting, updating, and deleting the actual data stored in tables. Example:

```
INSERT INTO Employees VALUES (1, 'Atul');
```

DQL (Data Query Language) is used only for fetching data from the database, usually through queries. Example:

```
SELECT * FROM Employees;
```

Q2. Question 2 : What is the purpose of SQL constraints? Name and describe three common types of constraints, providing a simple scenario where each would be useful.

SQL **constraints** ensure the accuracy, validity, and reliability of data inside a table. They protect the database from incorrect or inconsistent data.

1. **PRIMARY KEY** – Ensures each record is unique and not null.
Scenario: An `employee_id` column must uniquely identify each employee.
2. **FOREIGN KEY** – Maintains referential integrity between tables by ensuring a value exists in another table.
Scenario: An `order.customer_id` must match a valid `customer.id`.
3. **CHECK** – Enforces a rule on a column's values.
Scenario: A `salary` column must be greater than zero: `CHECK (salary > 0)`.

These constraints help maintain structured, high-quality data across the database.

Question 3 : Explain the difference between LIMIT and OFFSET clauses in SQL. How would you use them together to retrieve the third page of results, assuming each page has 10 records?

The **LIMIT** clause in SQL is used to specify how many records you want to retrieve. It controls the number of rows returned.

The **OFFSET** clause is used to skip a certain number of rows before starting to return results. It controls where the result should start.

They are commonly used together when implementing pagination (showing data page-by-page).

Retrieving the 3rd page of results (10 records per page)

- Each page has 10 records.
- Page 1 → skip 0 rows
- Page 2 → skip 10 rows
- Page 3 → skip 20 rows, then show the next 10.

So the query becomes:

```
SELECT *
FROM your_table
LIMIT 10
OFFSET 20;
```

This skips the first 20 records and fetches the next 10, which corresponds to the third page of results.

Question 4 : What is a Common Table Expression (CTE) in SQL, and what are its main benefits? Provide a simple SQL example demonstrating its usage.

Answer :

A **Common Table Expression (CTE)** is a temporary named result set defined using the **WITH** keyword. It exists only for the duration of a single query. CTEs make complex queries easier to read, maintain, and debug.

Main Benefits:

1. **Improves readability** by breaking long queries into smaller logical blocks.
2. **Allows reusability** of the same result set within a query.

3. **Supports recursion**, useful for hierarchical data (e.g., employee–manager relationships).

Example:

```
WITH HighSalary AS (
    SELECT name, salary
    FROM Employees
    WHERE salary > 50000
)
SELECT * FROM HighSalary;
```

Question 5 : Describe the concept of SQL Normalization and its primary goals. Briefly explain the first three normal forms (1NF, 2NF, 3NF).

SQL Normalization & Normal Forms

Normalization is the process of organizing database tables to reduce redundancy and improve data integrity. Its primary goals are:

- Eliminate duplicate data
- Ensure data dependencies are logical
- Improve consistency and reduce anomalies (insert, update, delete)

First Three Normal Forms:

1. 1NF (First Normal Form):

- No repeating groups or multi-valued attributes.
- All columns contain atomic (indivisible) values.

2. 2NF (Second Normal Form):

- Must satisfy 1NF.
- No partial dependency: non-key attributes must depend on the whole primary key (applies to composite keys).

3. 3NF (Third Normal Form):

- Must satisfy 2NF.
- No transitive dependency: non-key attributes should not depend on other non-key attributes.