## Can you give me an overview of some of the database objects available foruse in SQL Server 2000?

You are looking for objects such as: tables, views,user-defined functions, and stored procedures; it's even better if they mentionadditional objects such as triggers. It's not a good sign if an applicantcannot answer this basic question.

## What is an index? What types of indexes are available in SQL Server 2000?

In its most simple terms, an index is a data structure usedto provide quick access to data in a database table or view. In SQL Server,they come in two flavors: clustered and non-clustered. Clustered indexes storethe data at the leaf level of the index. This means that whichever field(s) inyour table are included in the clustered index, they will be stored in anorderly fashion in the table. Because of this sorting, you can only have oneclustered index per table. Non-clustered indexes contain a row identifier atthe leaf level of the index. This row identifier is a pointer to a location ofthe data on the disk. This allows you to have more than one non-clustered indexper table.

## What does NULL mean?

The value NULL is a very tricky subject in the databaseworld, so don't be surprised if several applicants trip up on this question.

The value NULL means UNKNOWN; it does not mean '' (emptystring). Assuming ANSI\_NULLS are on in your SQL Server database, which they areby default, any comparison to the value NULL will yield the value NULL. Youcannot compare any value with an UNKNOWN value and logically expect to get ananswer. You must use the IS NULL operator instead.

## What is a primary key? What is a foreign key?

A primary key is the field(s) in a table that uniquelydefines the row in the table; the values in the primary key are always unique.A foreign key is a constraint that establishes a relationship between twotables. This relationship typically involves the primary key field(s) from onetable with an adjoining set of field(s) in another table (although it could be thesame table). The adjoining field(s) is the foreign key.

## What are triggers? What are the different types of triggers in SQL Server2000?

It's very beneficial for a potential database developer toknow the types of triggers available, and how to implement them.

A trigger is a specialized type of stored procedure that isbound to a table or view in SQL Server 2000. In SQL Server 2000, there areINSTEAD-OF triggers and AFTER triggers. INSTEAD-OF triggers are procedures thatexecute in place of a Data Manipulation Language (DML) statement on a table.For example, if I have an INSTEAD-OF-UPDATE trigger on TableA,and I execute an update statement on that table, the code in theINSTEAD-OF-UPDATE trigger will execute instead of the update statement that Iexecuted.

An AFTER trigger executes after a DML statement has takenplace in the database. These types of triggers are very handy for auditing datachanges that have occurred in your database tables.

## How can you ensure that a table named TableB witha field named Fld1 will only have those values in the Fld1 field that are alsoin the table named TableA with a field named Fld1?

This relationship related question has two potentialanswers. The first answer (and the one that you want to hear) is the use offoreign key constraints. A foreign key constraint is used to maintainreferential integrity. It is used to ensure that a field in a table will onlyhold values that are already defined in another field in a different (or thesame) table. That field is the candidate key (usually a primary key of theother table).

The other option is the use of triggers. Triggers can beused to ensure the same effect of constraints in a roundabout way, but it ismuch more difficult to set up and maintain, and the performance is typicallyworse. Because of this, Microsoft recommends that developers use foreign keyconstraints instead of triggers for maintaining referential integrity.

## What is a performance consideration of having too many indexes on a productiononline transaction processing (OLTP) table?

You are looking for the applicant to make some referenceregarding data manipulations. The more indexes on a table, the more time ittakes for the database engine to update, insert, or delete data, as the indexesall have to be maintained as the data manipulation occurs.

## What can be used to ensure that a field in a table only accepts a certain range of values?

This question can be answered a couple of different ways,but only one answer is a "good" one. The answer you want to hear is aCheck constraint, which is defined on a database table that limits the valuesentered into that column. These constraints are relatively easy to create, andthey are the recommended type for enforcing domain integrity in SQL Server.

Triggers can also be used to restrict the values accepted ina field in a database table, but this solution requires the trigger to bedefined on the table, which can hinder performance in certain situations. Forthis reason, Microsoft recommends Check constraints over all other methods forrestricting domain integrity.

## What is the difference between a return parameter and an OUTPUT parameter?

If the applicant is able to answer this question correctly,the odds are good that they have some experience working with storedprocedures.

A return parameter is always returned by a stored procedure,and it is meant to indicate the success or failure of the stored procedure. Thereturn parameter is always an INT data type.

An OUTPUT parameter is designated specifically by thedeveloper, and it can return other types of data, such as characters andnumeric values. (There are some limitations on the data types that can be usedas output parameters.) You can use multiple OUTPUT parameters in a stored procedure,whereas you can only use one return parameter.

## What is a correlated sub-query? How can these queries be useful?

The more seasoned developer will be able to accuratelydescribe this type of query.

A correlated sub-query is a special type of query containinga sub-query. The sub-query contained in the query actually requests values fromthe outside query, creating a situation similar to a loop. You can find a moredetailed description as to how these special types of queries work in this[article](http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/5100-9592_11-6100447.html).

1. Tell me about yourself  
The most often asked question in interviews. You need to have a short statement prepared in your mind. Be careful that it does not sound rehearsed. Limit it to work-related items unless instructed otherwise. Talk about things you have done and jobs you have held that relate to the position you are interviewing for. Start with the item farthest back and work up to the present.

2. Why did you leave your last job?  
Stay positive regardless of the circumstances. Never refer to a major problem with management and never speak ill of supervisors, co-workers or the organization. If you do, you will be the one looking bad. Keep smiling and talk about leaving for a positive reason such as an opportunity, a chance to do something special or other forward-looking reasons.   
  
3. What experience do you have in this field?  
Speak about specifics that relate to the position you are applying for. If you do not have specific experience, get as close as you can.   
  
4. Do you consider yourself successful?  
You should always answer yes and briefly explain why. A good explanation is that you have set goals, and you have met some and are on track to achieve the others.   
  
5. What do co-workers say about you?  
Be prepared with a quote or two from co-workers. Either a specific statement or a paraphrase will work.   
  
6. What do you know about this organization?  
This question is one reason to do some research on the organization before the interview. Find out where they have been and where they are going. What are the current issues and who are the major players?   
  
7. What have you done to improve your knowledge in the last year?  
Try to include improvement activities that relate to the job. A wide variety of activities can be mentioned as positive self-improvement. Have some good ones handy to mention.   
  
8. Are you applying for other jobs?  
Be honest but do not spend a lot of time in this area. Keep the focus on this job and what you can do for this organization. Anything else is a distraction.   
  
9. Why do you want to work for this organization?  
This may take some thought and certainly, should be based on the research you have done on the organization. Sincerity is extremely important here and will easily be sensed. Relate it to your long-term career goals.   
  
10. Do you know anyone who works for us?  
Be aware of the policy on relatives working for the organization. This can affect your answer even though they asked about friends not relatives. Be careful to mention a friend only if they are well thought of.   
  
11. What kind of salary do you need?  
A loaded question. A nasty little game that you will probably lose if you answer first. So, do not answer it. Instead, say something like, That's a tough question. Can you tell me the range for this position? In most cases, the interviewer, taken off guard, will tell you. If not, say that it can depend on the details of the job. Then give a wide range.   
  
12. Are you a team player?  
You are, of course, a team player. Be sure to have examples ready. Specifics that show you often perform for the good of the team rather than for yourself are good evidence of your team attitude. Do not brag, just say it in a matter-of-fact tone. This is a key point.   
  
13. How long would you expect to work for us if hired?  
Specifics here are not good. Something like this should work: I'd like it to be a long time. Or As long as we both feel I'm doing a good job.   
  
14. Have you ever had to fire anyone? How did you feel about that?  
This is serious. Do not make light of it or in any way seem like you like to fire people. At the same time, you will do it when it is the right thing to do. When it comes to the organization versus the individual who has created a harmful situation, you will protect the organization. Remember firing is not the same as layoff or reduction in force.   
  
15. What is your philosophy towards work?  
The interviewer is not looking for a long or flowery dissertation here. Do you have strong feelings that the job gets done? Yes. That's the type of answer that works best here. Short and positive, showing a benefit to the organization.   
  
16. If you had enough money to retire right now, would you?  
Answer yes if you would. But since you need to work, this is the type of work you prefer. Do not say yes if you do not mean it.   
  
17. Have you ever been asked to leave a position?  
If you have not, say no. If you have, be honest, brief and avoid saying negative things about the people or organization involved.   
  
18. Explain how you would be an asset to this organization  
You should be anxious for this question. It gives you a chance to highlight your best points as they relate to the position being discussed. Give a little advance thought to this relationship.   
  
19. Why should we hire you?  
Point out how your assets meet what the organization needs. Do not mention any other candidates to make a comparison.   
  
20. Tell me about a suggestion you have made  
Have a good one ready. Be sure and use a suggestion that was accepted and was then considered successful. One related to the type of work applied for is a real plus.   
  
21. What irritates you about co-workers?  
This is a trap question. Think real hard but fail to come up with anything that irritates you. A short statement that you seem to get along with folks is great.   
  
22. What is your greatest strength?  
Numerous answers are good, just stay positive. A few good examples: Your ability to prioritize, Your problem-solving skills, Your ability to work under pressure, Your ability to focus on projects, Your professional expertise, Your leadership skills, Your positive attitude .   
  
23. Tell me about your dream job.  
Stay away from a specific job. You cannot win. If you say the job you are contending for is it, you strain credibility. If you say another job is it, you plant the suspicion that you will be dissatisfied with this position if hired. The best is to stay genetic and say something like: A job where I love the work, like the people, can contribute and can't wait to get to work.   
  
24. Why do you think you would do well at this job?  
Give several reasons and include skills, experience and interest.   
  
25. What are you looking for in a job?  
See answer # 23   
  
26. What kind of person would you refuse to work with?  
Do not be trivial. It would take disloyalty to the organization, violence or lawbreaking to get you to object. Minor objections will label you as a whiner.   
  
27. What is more important to you: the money or the work?  
Money is always important, but the work is the most important. There is no better answer.   
  
28. What would your previous supervisor say your strongest point is?  
There are numerous good possibilities: Loyalty, Energy, Positive attitude, Leadership, Team player, Expertise, Initiative, Patience, Hard work, Creativity, Problem solver   
  
29. Tell me about a problem you had with a supervisor  
Biggest trap of all. This is a test to see if you will speak ill of your boss. If you fall for it and tell about a problem with a former boss, you may well below the interview right there. Stay positive and develop a poor memory about any trouble with a supervisor.   
  
30. What has disappointed you about a job?  
Don't get trivial or negative. Safe areas are few but can include: Not enough of a challenge. You were laid off in a reduction Company did not win a contract, which would have given you more responsibility.   
  
31. Tell me about your ability to work under pressure.  
You may say that you thrive under certain types of pressure. Give an example that relates to the type of position applied for.   
  
32. Do your skills match this job or another job more closely?  
Probably this one. Do not give fuel to the suspicion that you may want another job more than this one.   
  
33. What motivates you to do your best on the job?  
This is a personal trait that only you can say, but good examples are: Challenge, Achievement, Recognition   
  
34. Are you willing to work overtime? Nights? Weekends?  
This is up to you. Be totally honest.   
  
35. How would you know you were successful on this job?  
Several ways are good measures: You set high standards for yourself and meet them. Your outcomes are a success.Your boss tell you that you are successful   
  
36. Would you be willing to relocate if required?  
You should be clear on this with your family prior to the interview if you think there is a chance it may come up. Do not say yes just to get the job if the real answer is no. This can create a lot of problems later on in your career. Be honest at this point and save yourself future grief.   
  
37. Are you willing to put the interests of the organization ahead of your own?  
This is a straight loyalty and dedication question. Do not worry about the deep ethical and philosophical implications. Just say yes.   
  
38. Describe your management style.  
Try to avoid labels. Some of the more common labels, like progressive, salesman or consensus, can have several meanings or descriptions depending on which management expert you listen to. The situational style is safe, because it says you will manage according to the situation, instead of one size fits all.   
  
39. What have you learned from mistakes on the job?  
Here you have to come up with something or you strain credibility. Make it small, well intentioned mistake with a positive lesson learned. An example would be working too far ahead of colleagues on a project and thus throwing coordination off.   
  
40. Do you have any blind spots?  
Trick question. If you know about blind spots, they are no longer blind spots. Do not reveal any personal areas of concern here. Let them do their own discovery on your bad points. Do not hand it to them.   
  
41. If you were hiring a person for this job, what would you look for?  
Be careful to mention traits that are needed and that you have.   
  
42. Do you think you are overqualified for this position?  
Regardless of your qualifications, state that you are very well qualified for the position.   
  
43. How do you propose to compensate for your lack of experience?  
First, if you have experience that the interviewer does not know about, bring that up: Then, point out (if true) that you are a hard working quick learner.   
  
44. What qualities do you look for in a boss?  
Be generic and positive. Safe qualities are knowledgeable, a sense of humor, fair, loyal to subordinates and holder of high standards. All bosses think they have these traits.   
  
45. Tell me about a time when you helped resolve a dispute between others.  
Pick a specific incident. Concentrate on your problem solving technique and not the dispute you settled.   
  
46. What position do you prefer on a team working on a project?  
Be honest. If you are comfortable in different roles, point that out.   
  
47. Describe your work ethic.  
Emphasize benefits to the organization. Things like, determination to get the job done and work hard but enjoy your work are good.   
  
48. What has been your biggest professional disappointment?  
Be sure that you refer to something that was beyond your control. Show acceptance and no negative feelings.   
  
49. Tell me about the most fun you have had on the job.  
Talk about having fun by accomplishing something for the organization.   
  
50. Do you have any questions for me?  
Always have some questions prepared. Questions prepared where you will be an asset to the organization are good. How soon will I be able to be productive? and What type of projects will I be able to assist on? are examples.

**Is there anything you would like to ask us?**  
  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif This is your opportunity to find out more about the job, the company, and the industry.  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif You could ask questions like:  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif What are the career prospects within your company?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif What staff training and development opportunities are available?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Who would I be reporting to?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Where would I be located?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Avoid asking too many questions about salary and conditions of employment such as holidays but know what salary range you are prepared to accept.

**Questions for an Applicant to ask in the Interview**http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif What level of responsibility can I expect in this position?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Why is this job available?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif What training programs do you have for new employees?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Is there a typical career path for a person in this position?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif How are employees evaluated?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Do you like working here?  
http://www.jobinterviewquestions.org/questions/images/punto1.gif Tell me about a typical day in this department. 