**Question 1.**

In the context of a database, an attribute refers to a characteristic or property of an entity. It describes some aspect or feature of the entity being represented. Attributes are the building blocks of a database schema, defining the structure and properties of the data.

**Question 2.**

Having a unique identifier for each item in a database is important for several reasons:

1. Uniqueness: It ensures that each item in the database can be uniquely identified, preventing confusion or ambiguity.

2. Data Integrity: A unique identifier helps maintain data integrity by ensuring that there are no duplicate records.

3. Referential Integrity: Unique identifiers are often used as references or foreign keys in relational databases to establish relationships between different entities.

4. Efficient Retrieval: Unique identifiers facilitate efficient retrieval of specific records or entities from the database.

5. Indexing: Unique identifiers are commonly indexed, which improves the performance of queries and data retrieval operations.

**Question 3.**

Examples of attributes associated with a "Patient" entity in a hospital database:

1. Patient ID: A unique identifier for each patient.

2. Name: The full name of the patient.

3. Date of Birth: The date when the patient was born.

4. Gender: The gender of the patient.

5. Medical History: Information about the patient's past illnesses, surgeries, or medical conditions.

**Question 4.**

Characteristics that help distinguish one specific library book from another:

1. ISBN (International Standard Book Number): A unique identifier assigned to each edition and variation of a book.

2. Title: The name or title of the book.

3. Author: The person who wrote the book.

**Question 5.**

Single-valued attribute: An attribute that holds a single value for each instance of an entity. For example, the "Age" of a person is a single-valued attribute because each person has only one age value.

Multi-valued attribute: An attribute that can hold multiple values for each instance of an entity. For example, the "Phone Numbers" of a person entity can be multi-valued because a person may have multiple phone numbers such as home, work, and mobile.