Database Terminology

Research the following terminology and complete the tables below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Basic Terms** | **Meaning** |
| Attribute | Attribute describes an entity. The attributes are the data type known as names, titles that describe an entity. |
| Entity | Entity is a real life thing that can be described of which is important to the system. |
| Field | Field is the part of the database or else known as column on which specific data is recorded. |
| Entity Occurrence | This is an instance of an entity. |
| Record | Record is the set of data collected and stored in an organised manner otherwise called rows. |
| Table | Table is the collection of data organised in rows and columns and stored in a database. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Keys** | **Meaning** |
| Candidate | Set of attributes that uniquely identify entity occurrences. |
| Composite | Consists of more than one attribute to uniquely identify an entity occurrence. One or more of the attributes which make up the key are not simple keys in their own right unlike the compound keys. |
| Compound | Consists of more than one attribute to uniquely identify an entity occurrence. |
| Foreign | One or more attributes in one entity which enables a link to another entity. Normally linked to a primary key in another entity. |
| Primary | Comprises one or more attributes in an entity that uniquely identifies an entity occurrence. |
| Simple | Consists of a single attribute to uniquely identify an entity occurrence. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Relationship** | **Meaning** |
| Cardinality | This refers to the relationships between the data in two tables. |
| Degree: 1:1 | This degree of relationship exists when one row in a table is linked with only one row in another table. |
| Degree: 1:M | This degree of relationship refers to an association of one record in a table with many records in another table. |
| Degree: M:N | This is the degree of relationship that refers to many records in a table relating to many records in another table. |
| Mandatory | Just like the name mandatory, every instance of one entity MUST participate in relationship with another entity |
| Optional | Any instance of one entity might participate in relationship with another entity and it is not mandatory. |
| Relationship | An association or link between entities that is of interest to the system and is established by a foreign key in one entity linking to the primary key in another entity. |