**Reflection Questions and Answers**

**1. What would happen if you skipped the differential backup step?**  
If you skip the differential backup, the database can only be restored to the point of the last full backup. All changes captured in the differential backup would be lost, resulting in incomplete recovery.

**2. What’s the difference between restoring a full vs. copy-only backup?**

* A **full backup** resets the backup chain and is part of the regular sequence of backups used for recovery.
* A **copy-only backup** does **not** affect the backup chain and is used for ad hoc purposes (e.g. testing or development). You generally **do not** use copy-only backups in a full recovery sequence unless it was taken with that intention.

**3. What happens if you use WITH RECOVERY in the middle of a restore chain?**  
Using WITH RECOVERY before the final backup in the chain **ends the restore sequence**, making the database operational. You cannot apply additional backups (like differential or transaction log) after this step unless you start over from the full backup again.

**4. Which backup types are optional and which are mandatory for full recovery?**

* **Mandatory**: Full backup
* **Optional but Recommended**: Differential backup, Transaction log backup  
  For **point-in-time recovery**, the **transaction log** is required. The **differential backup** allows faster recovery but is not strictly required.