We will mock Dao using something like mockito and we can actually mock data source , connection , resultset from the db. And with this we can test the dao. But if we need to test the database and behavior , we need to use something like dbunit. With dbunit we need to setup dbunit to a known state before teach test run , but this goes against the notion that junit test cases need to run offline . As long as you make sure that your db is prepped along some lines we can test it.