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| Sql Queries most asked in job interviews.  By [**sudipta.india**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=5086867), 26 Apr 2008   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 1.96 (15 votes) | |  |   Top of Form  **INTRODUCTION**  **SQL** queries most asked in .NET/**SQL** Server job **interview**s. These tricky queries may be required in your day to day database usage.  **BACKGROUND**  This article demonstrates some commonly asked **SQL** queries in a job **interview**. I will be covering some of the common but tricky queries like:-  (i) Finding the nth highest salary of an employee. (ii) Finding TOP X records from each group. (iii) Deleting duplicate rows from a table.  **NOTE :** All the **SQL** mentioned in this article has been tested under **SQL** Server 2005.  (i) Finding the nth highest salary of an employee.  Create a table named Employee\_Test and insert some test data as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  CREATE TABLE Employee\_Test  (  Emp\_ID INT Identity,  Emp\_name Varchar(100),  Emp\_Sal Decimal (10,2)  )  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test VALUES ('Anees',1000);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test VALUES ('Rick',1200);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test VALUES ('John',1100);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test VALUES ('Stephen',1300);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test VALUES ('Maria',1400);  It is very easy to find the highest salary as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  *--Highest Salary*  select max(Emp\_Sal) from Employee\_Test  Now, if you are asked to find the 3rd highest salary, then the query is as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  *--3rd Highest Salary*  select min(Emp\_Sal) from Employee\_Test where Emp\_Sal in  (select distinct top 3 Emp\_Sal from Employee\_Test order by Emp\_Sal desc)  The result is as :- 1200  To find the nth highest salary, replace the top 3 with top n (n being an integer 1,2,3 etc.)   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  *--nth Highest Salary*  select min(Emp\_Sal) from Employee\_Test where Emp\_Sal in  (select distinct top n Emp\_Sal from Employee\_Test order by Emp\_Sal desc)  (ii) Finding TOP X records from each group  Create a table named photo\_test and insert some test data as :-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  create table photo\_test  (  pgm\_main\_Category\_id int,  pgm\_sub\_category\_id int,  file\_path varchar(MAX)  )  insert into photo\_test values  (17,15,'photo/bb1.jpg');    insert into photo\_test values(17,16,'photo/cricket1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(17,17,'photo/base1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(18,18,'photo/forest1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(18,19,'photo/tree1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(18,20,'photo/flower1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(19,21,'photo/laptop1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(19,22,'photo/camer1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values(19,23,'photo/cybermbl1.jpg');  insert into photo\_test values  (17,24,'photo/F1.jpg');  There are three groups of pgm\_main\_category\_id each with a value of 17 (group 17 has four records),18 (group 18 has three records) and 19 (group 19 has three records).  Now, if you want to select top 2 records from each group, the query is as follows:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  select pgm\_main\_category\_id,pgm\_sub\_category\_id,file\_path from  (  select pgm\_main\_category\_id,pgm\_sub\_category\_id,file\_path,  rank() over (partition by pgm\_main\_category\_id order by pgm\_sub\_category\_id asc) as rankid  from photo\_test  ) photo\_test  where rankid < 3 -- replace 3 by any number 2,3 etc for top2 or top3.  order by pgm\_main\_category\_id,pgm\_sub\_category\_id  The result is as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  pgm\_main\_category\_id pgm\_sub\_category\_id file\_path  17 15 photo/bb1.jpg  17 16 photo/cricket1.jpg  18 18 photo/forest1.jpg  18 19 photo/tree1.jpg  19 21 photo/laptop1.jpg  19 22 photocamer1.jpg  (iii) Deleting duplicate rows from a table  A table with a primary key doesn’t contain duplicates. But if due to some reason, the keys have to be disabled or when importing data from other sources, duplicates come up in the table data, it is often needed to get rid of such duplicates. This can be achieved in tow ways :-  (a) Using a temporary table.  (b) Without using a temporary table.  (a) Using a temporary or staging table  Let the table employee\_test1 contain some duplicate data like:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  CREATE TABLE Employee\_Test1  (  Emp\_ID INT,  Emp\_name Varchar(100),  Emp\_Sal Decimal (10,2)  )  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (1,'Anees',1000);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (2,'Rick',1200);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (3,'John',1100);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (4,'Stephen',1300);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (5,'Maria',1400);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (6,'Tim',1150);  INSERT INTO Employee\_Test1 VALUES (6,'Tim',1150);  **Step 1:** Create a temporary table from the main table as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  select top 0\* into employee\_test1\_temp from employee\_test1  **Step2 :** Insert the result of the GROUP BY query into the temporary table as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  insert into employee\_test1\_temp  select Emp\_ID,Emp\_name,Emp\_Sal  from employee\_test1  group by Emp\_ID,Emp\_name,Emp\_Sal  **Step3:** Truncate the original table as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  truncate table employee\_test1  **Step4:** Fill the original table with the rows of the temporary table as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  insert into employee\_test1  select \* from employee\_test1\_temp  Now, the duplicate rows from the main table have been removed.   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  select \* from employee\_test1  gives the result as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  Emp\_ID Emp\_name Emp\_Sal  1 Anees 1000  2 Rick 1200  3 John 1100  4 Stephen 1300  5 Maria 1400  6 Tim 1150  (b) Without using a temporary table   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  ;with T as  (  select \* , row\_number() over (partition by Emp\_ID order by Emp\_ID) as rank  from employee\_test1  )  delete  from T  where rank > 1  The result is as:-   Collapse | [Copy Code](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)  Emp\_ID Emp\_name Emp\_Sal  1 Anees 1000  2 Rick 1200  3 John 1100  4 Stephen 1300  5 Maria 1400  6 Tim 1150  CONCLUSION  I hope that these queries will help you for **Interview**s as well as in your day database activities.  **License**  This article, along with any associated source code and files, is licensed under [The Code Project Open License 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| --- | | Top of Form  **Search this forum**   Bottom of Form | | |  | Top of Form  Profile popups    Spacing    Noise    Layout    Per page       Bottom of Form | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | First Prev[Next](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&noise=1&prof=False&sort=Position&view=None&spc=None&fr=11" \l "xx0xx) | | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **My vote of 4** |  | [**areshdeep**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=9372415) | **9:58 19 Sep '12** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | contain the very good concepts for top records or nth record.i like it | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=4372336)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/4372336/My-vote-of-4.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **3rd highest salary can be made bit more simpler...** |  | [**here2learn.net**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=7169915) | **4:16 27 Aug '12** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Nice one for any intermediate programmer to face such sql queries based questions...     btw i feel 3rd highest salary can be made this way bit simpler:   select MIN(a.Emp\_Sal) from (select distinct top 3 Emp\_Sal from Employee\_Test order by Emp\_Sal desc) as a | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=4349109)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/4349109/3rd-highest-salary-can-be-made-bit-more-simpler.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Feedback** |  | [**sonam\_m**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=8570478) | **1:19 16 May '12** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Nice Article... Really helpful | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=4252595)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/4252595/Feedback.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Thanks** |  | [**Member 7997394**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=7997394) | **8:18 18 Aug '11** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | thanks  great explaination and explained in very easy way | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=3997581)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/3997581/Thanks.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **My vote of 5** |  | [**Mishra Ashish**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=6068587) | **8:40 12 Feb '11** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | These queries are really helpful. | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=3767768)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/3767768/My-vote-of-5.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **My vote of 1** |  | [**Senthil d KING**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=4314244) | **19:17 20 Jan '10** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | dd | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=3339229)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/3339229/My-vote-of-1.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Simple Queries....** |  | [**PeterTheGreat**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=467040) | **8:36 27 Apr '08** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | All simple queries in my opinion.. can be written in 5 seconds by any competant SQL developer. Personally I would ask questions of my developer somewhat above School Level.. | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=2525733)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/2525733/Simple-Queries.aspx) | 1.50/5 (2 votes) | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **[Re: Simple Queries....](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/3892084/Re-Simple-Queries.aspx)** |  | [**vinay28may**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=3679030) | 21:32 13 May '11 | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Could you please list some complex queries according to your opinion.   your effort will be really valued.   thank you. | | | [Sign In](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/LogOn.aspx?rp=%2fArticles%2f25622%2fSql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews)·[View Thread](http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/25622/Sql-Queries-most-asked-in-job-interviews?fid=1259545&df=90&mpp=10&sort=Position&spc=None&tid=2525733)·[Permalink](http://www.codeproject.com/Messages/3892084/Re-Simple-Queries.aspx) |  | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **This is wrong!** |  | [**SimulationofSai**](http://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=1689646) | **8:27 27 Apr '08** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | select max(Emp\_Sal) from Employee\_Test where Emp\_Sal in (select top 3 Emp\_Sal from Employee\_Test)   What if I insert a new row?   INSERT INTO Employee\_Test VALUES ('Test',1250);   Your query would still return 1200.   Could you atleast check if you're queries are correct prior to posting it in an article?   SG *Cause is effect concealed. 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