• Use the SELECT statement.

• Filter data.

• Retrieve unknown values.

• Format result sets.

• Describe the performance considerations of Transact-SQL.

The Purpose of the SELECT Statement

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A result set is the result that is returned to the Query Editor in SQL Server Management Studio. You can choose to return the result set in grid or text format. You can also output the result set to a file. This can be chosen before running the query in the Query Editor. Click Query on the menu bar, click Results to, and then click Results to text, Results to Grid, or Results to File, as desired.

The following syntax creates a basic query:

SELECTcolumn | expression [[AS] Alias], .....[n]

FROMtable | view | subquery as a derived table

[WHEREsearch condition]

SELECT. This allows the selection of columns from a table or expression that will appear in the column headings of the result set. You can specify as many columns or expressions as you want. Each should be separated by a comma. An optional alias can be added to each column or expression.

FROM. This allows you to select the source on which the query is based. It can include a table, view, or subquery statement that includes an additional SELECT statement to create a derived table.

WHERE. This allows you to apply filters to your query to restrict the rows that are returned to the result set. The WHERE clause can include columns, operators, and expressions to define the filter.