

Data Growth Analyst - SQL Homework

Environment Setup

Google Colab starter template - [link](#)

Dataset to upload into Google Colab - [link](#)

Dataset Overview

You'll be working with an e-commerce orders dataset with the following schema:

- invoice_id: Unique identifier for each transaction
- line_item_id: Unique identifier for each item in an order
- user_id: Customer identifier
- item_id: Product identifier
- item_name: Product name
- item_category: Product category
- price: Item price in USD
- created_at: Order creation timestamp
- paid_at: Payment completion timestamp

Instructions

- Write SQL queries using pandas SQL (pandasql) syntax
- Provide clear, well-commented code
- Include your analytical reasoning for each question
- Suggested time allocation: 2-3 hours
- **Complete at least 2 questions.**

Output

- Google Colab notebook with code and comments
- Excel / Python for questions results visualization/presentation
- Don't spend too much time on formal write up, but be ready to go over the questions in the interview process

Question 1: Cohort Retention Analysis

Create a comprehensive monthly cohort retention analysis that includes:

1. **Standard cohort table:** Cohort month, cohort size, and retention rates for months 1-12
2. **Resurrection analysis:** Identify customers who return after being inactive for 2+ months and calculate "resurrection rates" by cohort
3. **Quality retention:** Calculate retention rates excluding customers who only made single low-value purchases (<\$50 total)

Expected Output:

- Main cohort retention table with monthly percentages
- Resurrection rate table showing what % of "lost" customers return each month
- Comparison of standard vs. quality retention rates

Business Context: Growth team needs to understand true retention patterns to set realistic customer acquisition targets and identify opportunities for win-back campaigns.

Question 2: Customer Lifetime Value & Acquisition Efficiency

Build a CLV model that informs acquisition strategy:

1. **Customer segmentation:** Classify customers based on first 90 days behavior (single vs. repeat purchaser, high vs. low value)
2. **CLV calculation:** For each segment, calculate predicted CLV using:
 - a. Average Order Value
 - b. Purchase frequency (orders per month)
 - c. Estimated lifespan (based on similar customers)
3. **Acquisition ROI:** Determine maximum allowable Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) for each segment assuming 3:1 LTV:CAC ratio
4. **Validation:** Compare predicted vs. actual CLV for customers with 12+ months history

Expected Output: Table showing segment characteristics, predicted CLV, and recommended max CAC by segment.

Business Context: Marketing needs data-driven CAC limits by customer type to optimize ad spend across different channels and audiences.

Question 3: Growth Decomposition & Revenue Health

Analyze the components driving monthly revenue growth:

1. **Growth decomposition:** Break down month-over-month revenue growth into:
 - a. New customer revenue
 - b. Existing customer expansion (increased spending)
 - c. Existing customer contraction (decreased spending)
 - d. Customer churn impact (lost revenue)
2. **Net Revenue Retention (NRR):** Calculate NRR by customer cohort (expansion revenue ÷ beginning revenue for existing customers)
3. **Growth sustainability:** Identify months where growth was primarily driven by new acquisitions vs. existing customer expansion

Expected Output: Monthly growth waterfall showing each component's contribution to total growth.

Business Context: Executive team needs to understand whether growth is sustainable or overly dependent on new customer acquisition.

Question 4: Customer Risk Scoring & Churn Prevention

Build a customer health scoring system for proactive retention:

1. **Risk score calculation:** Create a risk score using:
 - a. Recency: Days since last purchase
 - b. Frequency: Purchase frequency trend (accelerating/declining)
 - c. Monetary: Spending trend over time
 - d. Engagement: Category diversity and order size trends
2. **Churn prediction:** For customers inactive 30+ days, calculate probability of return based on historical patterns of similar customers
3. **Value-at-risk:** Identify high-value customers (top 20% by CLV) who show early warning signs of churn
4. **Action prioritization:** Rank customers by combination of churn risk and potential value loss

Expected Output:

- Customer risk score methodology and distribution
- Top 50 customers prioritized for retention intervention
- Recommended intervention timing based on historical save rates

Business Context: Customer success team needs to prioritize limited resources on retention efforts with highest ROI potential.