IT SPECIALIST EXAM OBJECTIVES



Databases

1. Database Design

1.1 Given a scenario, design tables for storing data

• Identify entities, rows/records, columns/fields

1.2 Given a scenario, identify the appropriate primary key

Primary key, composite/compound key

1.3 Given a scenario, choose data types to meet requirements

 Definition and importance of data types; how data types affect storage requirements; data types for storing text, numbers, dates and times, and Boolean values

1.4 Given a scenario, design relationships between tables

 How to establish relationships using primary and foreign keys, entityrelationship diagrams (ERDs), referential integrity

1.5 Normalize a database

 Reasons for normalization, how to normalize a database to third normal form (3NF)

1.6 Given a scenario, identify data protection measures

 Backups, restore, principle of least privilege, GRANT, WITH GRANT OPTION, REVOKE, purpose of roles

2. Database Object Management using DDL

2.1 Construct and analyze queries that create, alter, and drop tables

 Create, alter, and drop tables by using proper ANSI SQL syntax; NULL and NOT NULL

2.2 Construct and analyze queries that create, alter, and drop views

 Create, alter, and drop views by using proper ANSI SQL syntax; purpose of views

2.3 Construct and analyze stored procedures and functions

• Input and output parameters, return values, purpose of stored procedures

2.4 Given a scenario, choose between clustered and non-clustered indexes

When to use clustered vs. non-clustered indexes, syntax for creating indexes

3. Data Retrieval

3.1 Construct and analyze queries that select data

 INNER JOIN, LEFT JOIN, RIGHT JOIN, CROSS JOIN (Cartesian product), and FULL OUTER JOIN; self joins; combine result sets by using UNION and INTERSECT; DISTINCT; column alias; computed columns



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3.2 Construct and analyze queries that sort and filter data

 ORDER BY, WHERE, LIKE, BETWEEN, AND, OR, NOT, TOP (LIMIT), IN, NOT IN, ANY, ALL, NULL, NOT NULL, comparison operators

3.3 Construct and analyze queries that aggregate data

• GROUP BY, HAVING, MIN, MAX, COUNT, AVG (AVERAGE), SUM

4. Data Manipulation using DML

4.1 Construct and analyze INSERT statements

• INSERT INTO SELECT, INSERT INTO VALUES

4.2 Construct and analyze UPDATE statements

• Update data in a single table

4.3 Construct and analyze DELETE statements

• Delete data from a single table

5. Troubleshooting

5.1 Troubleshoot data object management query failures

• Syntax and runtime errors

5.2 Troubleshoot data retrieval query failures

• Syntax and runtime errors

5.3 Troubleshoot data manipulation query failures

• Syntax and runtime errors

