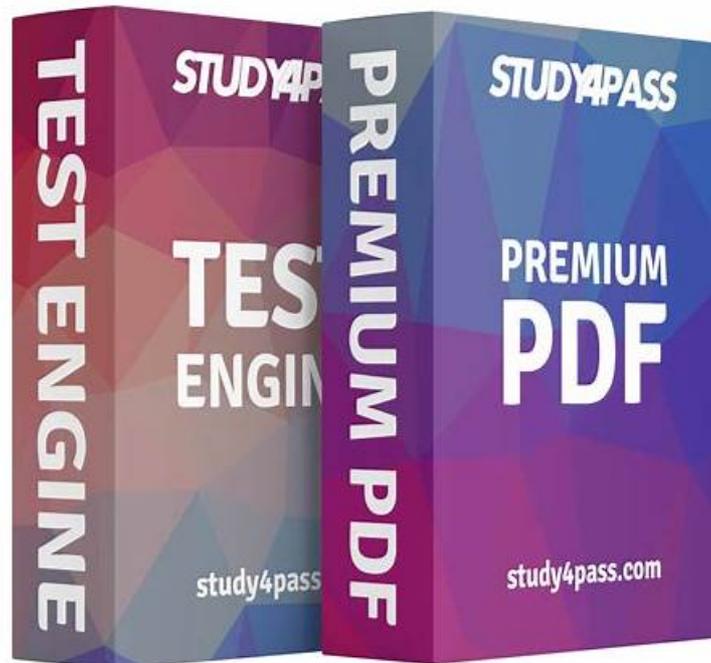


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## Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.5 - Python

## Sample Questions (Q115-Q120):

### NEW QUESTION # 115

A data engineer is working with a large JSON dataset containing order information. The dataset is stored in a distributed file system and needs to be loaded into a Spark DataFrame for analysis. The data engineer wants to ensure that the schema is correctly defined and that the data is read efficiently.

Which approach should the data scientist use to efficiently load the JSON data into a Spark DataFrame with a predefined schema?

- A. Use `spark.read.json()` to load the data, then use `DataFrame.printSchema()` to view the inferred schema, and finally use `DataFrame.cast()` to modify column types.
- **B. Define a `StructType` schema and use `spark.read.schema(predefinedSchema).json()` to load the data.**
- C. Use `spark.read.format("json").load()` and then use `DataFrame.withColumn()` to cast each column to the desired data type.
- D. Use `spark.read.json()` with the `inferSchema` option set to `true`

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The most efficient and correct approach is to define a schema using `StructType` and pass it to `spark.read.schema(...)`.

This avoids schema inference overhead and ensures proper data types are enforced during read.

Example:

```
from pyspark.sql.types import StructType, StructField, StringType, DoubleType
schema = StructType([ StructField("order_id",
StringType(), True), StructField("amount", DoubleType(), True),
```

```
...
```

```
])
```

```
df = spark.read.schema(schema).json("path/to/json")
```

- Source: Databricks Guide - Read JSON with predefined schema

### NEW QUESTION # 116

A developer is running Spark SQL queries and notices underutilization of resources. Executors are idle, and the number of tasks per stage is low.

What should the developer do to improve cluster utilization?

- A. Enable dynamic resource allocation to scale resources as needed
- B. Reduce the value of `spark.sql.shuffle.partitions`
- **C. Increase the value of `spark.sql.shuffle.partitions`**
- D. Increase the size of the dataset to create more partitions

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

The number of tasks is controlled by the number of partitions. By default, `spark.sql.shuffle.partitions` is 200. If stages are showing very few tasks (less than total cores), you may not be leveraging full parallelism.

From the Spark tuning guide:

"To improve performance, especially for large clusters, increase `spark.sql.shuffle.partition` to create more tasks and parallelism."

Thus:

A is correct: increasing shuffle partitions increases parallelism

B is wrong: it further reduces parallelism

C is invalid: increasing dataset size doesn't guarantee more partitions D is irrelevant to task count per stage Final Answer: A

### NEW QUESTION # 117

A developer wants to refactor some older Spark code to leverage built-in functions introduced in Spark 3.5.0.

The existing code performs array manipulations manually. Which of the following code snippets utilizes new built-in functions in Spark 3.5.0 for array operations?

```
import pyspark.sql.functions as F

min_price = 110.50

result_df = prices_df
    .filter(F.col("spot_price") > F.lit(min_price)) \
    .agg(F.count("*"))
```

A)

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .withColumn("valid_price", F.when(F.col("spot_price") > F.lit(min_price), 1).otherwise(0))
```

B)

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.count_if(F.col("spot_price") >= F.lit(min_price)))
```

C)

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.min("spot_price"), F.max("spot_price"))
```

D)

```
result_df = prices_df \
    .agg(F.count("spot_price".alias("spot_price"))) \
    .filter(F.col("spot_price") > F.lit("min_price"))
```

- A. result\_df= prices\_df\  
.agg(F.min("spot\_price"), F.max("spot\_price"))
- B. result\_df= prices\_df\  
.withColumn("valid\_price", F.when(F.col("spot\_price") > F.lit(min\_price), 1).otherwise(0))
- **C. result\_df= prices\_df\  
.agg(F.count\_if(F.col("spot\_price") >= F.lit(min\_price)))**
- D. result\_df= prices\_df\  
.agg(F.count("spot\_price").alias("spot\_price"))\  
.filter(F.col("spot\_price") > F.lit("min\_price"))

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

The correct answer is B because it uses the new function count\_if, introduced in Spark 3.5.0, which simplifies conditional counting within aggregations.

\* F.count\_if(condition) counts the number of rows that meet the specified boolean condition.

\* In this example, it directly counts how many times spot\_price >= min\_price evaluates to true, replacing the older verbose combination of when/otherwise and filtering or summing.

Official Spark 3.5.0 documentation notes the addition of count\_if to simplify this kind of logic:

"Added count\_if aggregate function to count only the rows where a boolean condition holds (SPARK-43773)."

Why other options are incorrect or outdated:

\* A uses a legacy-style method of adding a flag column (when().otherwise()), which is verbose compared to count\_if.

\* C performs a simple min/max aggregation-useful but unrelated to conditional array operations or the updated functionality.

\* D incorrectly applies .filter() after .agg() which will cause an error, and misuses string "min\_price" rather than the variable.

Therefore, B is the only option leveraging new functionality from Spark 3.5.0 correctly and efficiently.

## NEW QUESTION # 118

A data engineer wants to create a Streaming DataFrame that reads from a Kafka topic called feed.

```

1. spark
2. .readStream
3. .format("kafka")
4. .option("kafka.bootstrap.servers", "host1:port1,host2:port2")
5. ._____
6. .load()

```



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Which code fragment should be inserted in line 5 to meet the requirement?

Code context:

```

spark \
.readStream \
.format("kafka") \
.option("kafka.bootstrap.servers", "host1:port1,host2:port2") \
.[LINE 5] \
.load()

```

Options:

- A. `.option("kafka.topic", "feed")`
- B. `.option("subscribe", "feed")`
- C. `.option("subscribe.topic", "feed")`
- D. `.option("topic", "feed")`

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

To read from a specific Kafka topic using Structured Streaming, the correct syntax is:

```
python
```

```
CopyEdit
```

```
.option("subscribe", "feed")
```

This is explicitly defined in the Spark documentation:

"subscribe - The Kafka topic to subscribe to. Only one topic can be specified for this option." (Source: Apache Spark Structured Streaming + Kafka Integration Guide)

"subscribe - The Kafka topic to subscribe to. Only one topic can be specified for this option." (Source: Apache Spark Structured Streaming + Kafka Integration Guide) B . "subscribe.topic" is invalid.

C . "kafka.topic" is not a recognized option.

D . "topic" is not valid for Kafka source in Spark.

### NEW QUESTION # 119

A data engineer is building an Apache Spark™ Structured Streaming application to process a stream of JSON events in real time. The engineer wants the application to be fault-tolerant and resume processing from the last successfully processed record in case of a failure. To achieve this, the data engineer decides to implement checkpoints.

Which code snippet should the data engineer use?

- A. `query = streaming_df.writeStream \`  
`.format("console") \`  
`.outputMode("append") \`  
`.start()`
- B. `query = streaming_df.writeStream \`  
`.format("console") \`  
`.outputMode("append") \`  
`.option("checkpointLocation", "/path/to/checkpoint") \`  
`.start()`
- C. `query = streaming_df.writeStream \`  
`.format("console") \`  
`.option("checkpoint", "/path/to/checkpoint") \`  
`.outputMode("append") \`  
`.start()`
- D. `query = streaming_df.writeStream \`

```
.format("console") \  
.outputMode("complete") \  
.start()
```

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

To enable fault tolerance and ensure that Spark can resume from the last committed offset after failure, you must configure a checkpoint location using the correct option key: "checkpointLocation".

From the official Spark Structured Streaming guide:

"To make a streaming query fault-tolerant and recoverable, a checkpoint directory must be specified using

.option("checkpointLocation", "/path/to/dir")." Explanation of options:

Option A uses an invalid option name: "checkpoint" (should be "checkpointLocation") Option B is correct: it sets checkpointLocation properly Option C lacks checkpointing and won't resume after failure Option D also lacks checkpointing configuration

## NEW QUESTION # 120

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