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Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.5 - Python Sample Questions (Q68-Q73):

NEW QUESTION # 68
Given a DataFrame df that has 10 partitions, after running the code:
result = df.coalesce(20)
How many partitions will the result DataFrame have?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. Same number as the cluster executors
- D. 2

Answer: D

Explanation:
The .coalesce(numPartitions) function is used to reduce the number of partitions in a DataFrame. It does not increase the number of partitions. If the specified number of partitions is greater than the current number, it will not have any effect.
From the official Spark documentation:
"coalesce() results in a narrow dependency, e.g. if you go from 1000 partitions to 100 partitions, there will not be a shuffle, instead each of the 100 new partitions will claim one or more of the current partitions." However, if you try to increase partitions using coalesce (e.g., from 10 to 20), the number of partitions remains unchanged.
Hence, df.coalesce(20) will still return a DataFrame with 10 partitions.

NEW QUESTION # 69
41 of 55.
A data engineer is working on the DataFrame df1 and wants the Name with the highest count to appear first (descending order by count), followed by the next highest, and so on.
The DataFrame has columns:
id | Name | count | timestamp
---
1 | USA | 10
2 | India | 20
3 | England | 50
4 | India | 50
5 | France | 20
6 | India | 10
7 | USA | 30
8 | USA | 40
Which code fragment should the engineer use to sort the data in the Name and count columns?

- A. df1.orderBy(col("count").desc(), col("Name").asc())
- B. df1.sort("Name", "count")
- C. df1.orderBy("Name", "count")
- D. df1.orderBy(col("Name").desc(), col("count").asc())

Answer: A

Explanation:
To sort a Spark DataFrame by multiple columns, use .orderBy() (or .sort()) with column expressions.
Correct syntax for descending and ascending mix:
from pyspark.sql.functions import col
df1.orderBy(col("count").desc(), col("Name").asc())
This sorts primarily by count in descending order and secondarily by Name in ascending order (alphabetically).
Why the other options are incorrect:
B/C: Default sort order is ascending; won't place highest counts first.
D: Reverses sorting logic - sorts Name descending, not required.
Reference:
PySpark DataFrame API - orderBy() and col() for sorting with direction.
Databricks Exam Guide (June 2025): Section "Using Spark DataFrame APIs" - sorting, ordering, and column expressions.

NEW QUESTION # 70

19 of 55.
A Spark developer wants to improve the performance of an existing PySpark UDF that runs a hash function not available in the standard Spark functions library.
The existing UDF code is:
import hashlib
from pyspark.sql.types import StringType
def shake_256(raw):
return hashlib.shake_256(raw.encode()).hexdigest(20)
shake_256_udf = udf(shake_256, StringType())
The developer replaces this UDF with a Pandas UDF for better performance:
@pandas_udf(StringType())
def shake_256(raw: str) -> str:
return hashlib.shake_256(raw.encode()).hexdigest(20)
However, the developer receives this error:
TypeError: Unsupported signature: (raw: str) -> str
What should the signature of the shake_256() function be changed to in order to fix this error?

- A. def shake_256(raw: [str]) -> [str]:
- B. def shake_256(raw: [pd.Series]) -> pd.Series:
- C. def shake_256(raw: pd.Series) -> pd.Series:
- D. def shake_256(raw: str) -> str:

Answer: C

Explanation:
Pandas UDFs (vectorized UDFs) process entire Pandas Series objects, not scalar values. Each invocation operates on a column (Series) rather than a single value.
Correct syntax:
@pandas_udf(StringType())
def shake_256(raw: pd.Series) -> pd.Series:
return raw.apply(lambda x: hashlib.shake_256(x.encode()).hexdigest(20)) This allows Spark to apply the function in a vectorized way, improving performance significantly over traditional Python UDFs.
Why the other options are incorrect:
A/D: These define scalar functions - not compatible with Pandas UDFs.
B: Uses an invalid type hint [pd.Series] (not a valid Python type annotation).
Reference:
PySpark Pandas API - @pandas_udf decorator and function signatures.
Databricks Exam Guide (June 2025): Section "Using Pandas API on Apache Spark" - creating and invoking Pandas UDFs.

NEW QUESTION # 71
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() with the inferSchema option set to true
- B. 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.
- C. Define a StructType schema and use spark.read.schema(predefinedSchema).json() to load the data.
- D. Use spark.read.format("json").load() and then use DataFrame.withColumn() to cast each column to the desired data type.

Answer: C

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 # 72
A data scientist wants each record in the DataFrame to contain:
The first attempt at the code does read the text files but each record contains a single line. This code is shown below:

```
raw_txt_path = '/datasets/raw_txt/*'

corpus = spark.read.text(raw_txt_path) \
  .select('*', '_metadata.file_path')
```

The entire contents of a file
The full file path
The issue: reading line-by-line rather than full text per file.
Code:
corpus = spark.read.text("/datasets/raw_txt/*") \
.select('*','_metadata.file_path')
Which change will ensure one record per file?
Options:

- A. Add the option wholetext=False to the text() function
- B. Add the option wholetext=True to the text() function
- C. Add the option lineSep='', '' to the text() function
- D. Add the option lineSep='\n' to the text() function

Answer: B

Explanation:
To read each file as a single record, use:
spark.read.text(path, wholetext=True)
This ensures that Spark reads the entire file contents into one row.
Reference:Spark read.text() with wholetext

NEW QUESTION # 73
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