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## Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.5 - Python Sample Questions (Q55-Q60):

### NEW QUESTION # 55

A data scientist has identified that some records in the user profile table contain null values in any of the fields, and such records should be removed from the dataset before processing. The schema includes fields like user\_id, username, date\_of\_birth, created\_ts, etc.

The schema of the user profile table looks like this:

```

user_id STRING,
username STRING,
full_name STRING,
date_of_birth DATE,
primary_email STRING,
created_ts TIMESTAMP,
updated_ts TIMESTAMP,
last_login_ts TIMESTAMP

```

Which block of Spark code can be used to achieve this requirement?

Options:

- A. `filtered_df = users_raw_df.na.drop(how='any')`
- B. `filtered_df = users_raw_df.na.drop(how='all')`
- C. `filtered_df = users_raw_df.na.drop(thresh=0)`
- D. `filtered_df = users_raw_df.na.drop(how='all', thresh=None)`

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

`.na.drop(how='any')` drops any row that has at least one null value.

This is exactly what's needed when the goal is to retain only fully complete records.

Usage: CopyEdit

```
filtered_df = users_raw_df.na.drop(how='any')
```

Explanation of incorrect options:

A: `thresh=0` is invalid - `thresh` must be  $\geq 1$ .

B: `how='all'` drops only rows where all columns are null (too lenient).

D: `spark.na.drop` doesn't support mixing `how` and `thresh` in that way; it's incorrect syntax.

## NEW QUESTION # 56

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What is the behavior of the function `date_sub(start, days)` if a negative value is passed into the `days` parameter?

- A. The number of days specified will be removed from the start date.
- B. The same start date will be returned.
- C. An error message of an invalid parameter will be returned.
- D. The number of days specified will be added to the start date.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In Spark SQL, the function `date_sub(startDate, days)` returns the date that is days before `startDate`.

If the `days` parameter is negative, Spark interprets it as subtracting a negative number, which effectively adds days to the date.

Example:

```

from pyspark.sql.functions import date_sub, lit
df = spark.createDataFrame([( "2024-10-01", )], ["dt"])
df.select(date_sub("dt", -5).alias("new_date")).show()

```

Output:

```

+-----+
| new_date |
+-----+
| 2024-10-06 |
+-----+

```

Why the other options are incorrect:

B: No error occurs; negative values are supported.

C: The start date changes if `days`  $\neq 0$ .

D: Subtracting days would move the date backward, not forward.

Reference:

Spark SQL Functions - `date_sub(startDate, days)` and `date_add(startDate, days)` behavior.

### NEW QUESTION # 57

A developer initializes a SparkSession:

```
spark = SparkSession.builder \
    .appName("Analytics Application") \
    .getOrCreate()
```

```
spark = SparkSession.builder \
    .appName("Analytics Application") \
    .getOrCreate()
```

Which statement describes the spark SparkSession?

- A. If a SparkSession already exists, this code will return the existing session instead of creating a new one.
- B. A new SparkSession is created every time the getOrCreate() method is invoked.
- C. The getOrCreate() method explicitly destroys any existing SparkSession and creates a new one.
- D. A SparkSession is unique for each appName, and calling getOrCreate() with the same name will return an existing SparkSession once it has been created.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

According to the PySpark API documentation:

"getOrCreate(): Gets an existing SparkSession or, if there is no existing one, creates a new one based on the options set in this builder." This means Spark maintains a global singleton session within a JVM process. Repeated calls to getOrCreate() return the same session, unless explicitly stopped.

Option A is incorrect: the method does not destroy any session.

Option B incorrectly ties uniqueness to appName, which does not influence session reusability.

Option D is incorrect: it contradicts the fundamental behavior of getOrCreate().

(Source: PySpark SparkSession API Docs)

### NEW QUESTION # 58

A developer is working with a pandas DataFrame containing user behavior data from a web application.

Which approach should be used for executing a groupBy operation in parallel across all workers in Apache Spark 3.5?

A)

Use the applyInPandas API

B)

```
import pandas as pd
def mean_func(key, pdf):
    return pd.DataFrame([key + (pdf['value'].mean(),)])

df.groupby('user_id').applyInPandas(mean_func, schema="user_id long, value double").show()
Utilize the mapInPandas API:
```

C)

```
df.mapInPandas(mean_func, schema="user_id long, value double").show()
Use a regular Spark UDF (User-Defined Function):

from pyspark.sql.functions import mean
df.groupBy('user_id').agg(mean('value')).show()
```

Create a Pandas UDF (User-Defined Function):

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import pandas_udf

@pandas_udf("double")
def mean_func(value: pd.Series) -> float:
    return value.mean()

df.groupby("user_id").agg(mean_func(df['value'])).show()
```



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- A. Use a Pandas UDF:  
@pandas\_udf("double")  
def mean\_func(value: pd.Series) -> float:  
 return value.mean()  
df.groupby("user\_id").agg(mean\_func(df["value"])).show()
- B. Use the mapInPandas API:  
df.mapInPandas(mean\_func, schema="user\_id long, value double").show()
- C. Use a regular Spark UDF:  
from pyspark.sql.functions import mean  
df.groupBy("user\_id").agg(mean("value")).show()
- D. Use the applyInPandas API:  
df.groupby("user\_id").applyInPandas(mean\_func, schema="user\_id long, value double").show()

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The correct approach to perform a parallelized groupBy operation across Spark worker nodes using Pandas API is via applyInPandas. This function enables grouped map operations using Pandas logic in a distributed Spark environment. It applies a user-defined function to each group of data represented as a Pandas DataFrame.

As per the Databricks documentation:

"applyInPandas() allows for vectorized operations on grouped data in Spark. It applies a user-defined function to each group of a DataFrame and outputs a new DataFrame. This is the recommended approach for using Pandas logic across grouped data with parallel execution." Option A is correct and achieves this parallel execution.

Option B (mapInPandas) applies to the entire DataFrame, not grouped operations.

Option C uses built-in aggregation functions, which are efficient but not customizable with Pandas logic.

Option D creates a scalar Pandas UDF which does not perform a group-wise transformation.

Therefore, to run a groupBy with parallel Pandas logic on Spark workers, Option A using applyInPandas is the only correct answer.

## NEW QUESTION # 59

What is the difference between df.cache() and df.persist() in Spark DataFrame?

- A. persist() - Persists the DataFrame with the default storage level (MEMORY\_AND\_DISK\_SER) and cache() - Can be used to set different storage levels to persist the contents of the DataFrame.
- B. Both cache() and persist() can be used to set the default storage level (MEMORY\_AND\_DISK\_SER)
- C. cache() - Persists the DataFrame with the default storage level (MEMORY\_AND\_DISK) and persist() - Can be used to set different storage levels to persist the contents of the DataFrame
- D. Both functions perform the same operation. The persist() function provides improved performance as its default storage level is DISK\_ONLY.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

df.cache() is shorthand for df.persist(StorageLevel.MEMORY\_AND\_DISK)

df.persist() allows specifying any storage level such as MEMORY\_ONLY, DISK\_ONLY, MEMORY\_AND\_DISK\_SER, etc.

By default, persist() uses MEMORY\_AND\_DISK, unless specified otherwise.

## NEW QUESTION # 60

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