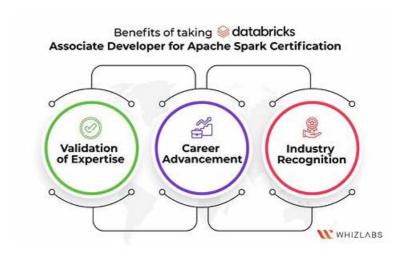
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>> Valid Associate-Developer-Apache-Spark Exam Answers <<

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Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.0 Exam Sample

### **Questions (Q104-Q109):**

#### **NEW QUESTION # 104**

Which of the following code blocks reads in the parquet file stored at location filePath, given that all columns in the parquet file contain only whole numbers and are stored in the most appropriate format for this kind of data?

- A. 1.spark.read.schema([
  - 2. StructField("transactionId", NumberType(), True),
  - 3. StructField('predError', IntegerType(), True)
  - 4. ]).load(filePath)
- B. 1.spark.read.schema([
  - 2. StructField("transactionId", IntegerType(), True),
  - 3. StructField("predError", IntegerType(), True)
  - 4. ]).load(filePath, format="parquet")
- C. 1.spark.read.schema(
  - 2. StructType([
  - 3. StructField("transactionId", StringType(), True),
  - 4. StructField("predError", IntegerType(), True)]
  - 5. )).parquet(filePath)
- D. 1.spark.read.schema(
  - 2. StructType([
  - 3. StructField("transactionId", IntegerType(), True),
  - 4. StructField("predError", IntegerType(), True)]
  - 5. )).format("parquet").load(filePath)
- E. 1.spark.read.schema(
  - 2. StructType(
  - 3. StructField("transactionId", IntegerType(), True),
  - 4. StructField('predError', IntegerType(), True)
  - 5. )).load(filePath)

#### Answer: D

#### Explanation:

Explanation

The schema passed into schema should be of type StructType or a string, so all entries in which a list is passed are incorrect. In addition, since all numbers are whole numbers, the IntegerType() data type is the correct option here.

NumberType() is not a valid data type and StringType() would fail, since the parquet file is stored in the "most appropriate format for this kind of data", meaning that it is most likely an IntegerType, and Spark does not convert data types if a schema is provided. Also note that StructType accepts only a single argument (a list of StructFields). So, passing multiple arguments is invalid. Finally, Spark needs to know which format the file is in. However, all of the options listed are valid here, since Spark assumes parquet as a default when no file format is specifically passed.

More info: pyspark.sql.DataFrameReader.schema - PySpark 3.1.2 documentation and StructType - PySpark 3.1.2 documentation

#### **NEW QUESTION # 105**

The code block displayed below contains an error. The code block should combine data from DataFrames itemsDf and transactionsDf, showing all rows of DataFrame itemsDf that have a matching value in column itemId with a value in column transactionsId of DataFrame transactionsDf. Find the error.

Code block:

itemsDf.join(itemsDf.itemId=transactionsDf.transactionId)

- A. The join statement is incomplete.
- B. The join expression is malformed.
- C. The join method is inappropriate.
- D. The union method should be used instead of join.
- E. The merge method should be used instead of join.

#### Answer: A

Explanation:

**Explanation** 

Correct code block:

itemsDf.join(transactionsDf, itemsDf.itemsId=transactionsDf.transactionId) The join statement is incomplete.

Correct! If you look at the documentation of DataFrame.join() (linked below), you see that the very first argument of join should be the DataFrame that should be joined with. This first argument is missing in the code block.

The join method is inappropriate.

No. By default, DataFrame.join() uses an inner join. This method is appropriate for the scenario described in the question. The join expression is malformed.

Incorrect. The join expression itemsDf.itemId=transactionsDf.transactionId is correct syntax.

The merge method should be used instead of join.

False. There is no DataFrame.merge() method in PySpark.

The union method should be used instead of join.

Wrong. DataFrame.union() merges rows, but not columns as requested in the question.

More info: pyspark.sql.DataFrame.join - PySpark 3.1.2 documentation, pyspark.sql.DataFrame.union - PySpark 3.1.2 documentation Static notebook | Dynamic notebook: See test 3

#### **NEW OUESTION # 106**

The code block shown below should show information about the data type that column storeId of DataFrame transactionsDf contains. Choose the answer that correctly fills the blanks in the code block to accomplish this. Code block:

transactionsDf. 1 ( 2 ). 3

- A. 1. select
  - 2. storeId
  - 3. dtypes
- B. 1. select
  - 2. "storeId"
  - 3. print schema()
- C. 1. select
  - 2. "storeId"
  - 3. printSchema()
- D. 1. limit
  - 2. 1
  - 3. columns
- E. 1. limit
  - 2. "storeId"
  - 3. printSchema()

#### Answer: D

Explanation:

Explanation

Correct code block:

transactionsDf.select("storeId").printSchema()

The difficulty of this question is that it is hard to solve with the stepwise first-to-last-gap approach that has worked well for similar questions, since the answer options are so different from one another. Instead, you might want to eliminate answers by looking for patterns of frequently wrong answers.

A first pattern that you may recognize by now is that column names are not expressed in quotes. For this reason, the answer that includes storeId should be eliminated.

By now, you may have understood that the DataFrame.limit() is useful for returning a specified amount of rows. It has nothing to do with specific columns. For this reason, the answer that resolves to limit("storeId") can be eliminated.

Given that we are interested in information about the data type, you should question whether the answer that resolves to limit(1).columns provides you with this information. While DataFrame.columns is a valid call, it will only report back column names, but not column types. So, you can eliminate this option.

The two remaining options either use the printSchema() or print\_schema() command. You may remember that DataFrame.printSchema() is the only valid command of the two. The select("storeId") part just returns the storeId column of transactionsDf - this works here, since we are only interested in that column's type anyways.

More info: pyspark.sql.DataFrame.printSchema - PySpark 3.1.2 documentation Static notebook | Dynamic notebook: See test 3

#### **NEW QUESTION # 107**

The code block displayed below contains an error. The code block should merge the rows of DataFrames transactionsDfMonday and transactionsDfTuesday into a new DataFrame, matching column names and inserting null values where column names do not appear in both DataFrames. Find the error.

Sample of DataFrame transactionsDfMonday:

1.++	
2. transactionId predError value storeId productId  f	
3.++	
4.  5  null  null  null  2 null	
5.  6  3  2  25  2 null	
6.++	
Sample of DataFrame transactionsDfTuesday:	
1.++	
2. storeId transactionId productId value	
3.++	
4.  25  1  1  4	
5.  2  2  2  7	
6.  3  4  2  null	
7.  null  5  2  null	
8.++	
Code block:	

sc.union([transactionsDfMonday, transactionsDfTuesday])

- A. Instead of union, the concat method should be used, making sure to not use its default arguments.
- B. The DataFrames' RDDs need to be passed into the sc. union method instead of the DataFrame variable names.
- C. Instead of the Spark context, transactionDfMonday should be called with the union method.
- D. Instead of the Spark context, transactionDfMonday should be called with the unionByName method instead of the union method, making sure to not use its default arguments.
- E. Instead of the Spark context, transactionDfMonday should be called with the join method instead of the union method, making sure to use its default arguments.

#### Answer: D

For solving this question, you should be aware of the difference between the DataFrame.union() and DataFrame.unionByName() methods. The first one matches columns independent of their names, just by their order. The second one matches columns by their name (which is asked for in the question). It also has a useful optional argument, allowMissingColumns. This allows you to merge DataFrames that have different columns - just like in this example.

sc stands for SparkContext and is automatically provided when executing code on Databricks. While sc.union() allows you to join RDDs, it is not the right choice for joining DataFrames. A hint away from sc.union() is given where the question talks about joining "into a new DataFrame".

concat is a method in pyspark.sql.functions. It is great for consolidating values from different columns, but has no place when trying to join rows of multiple DataFrames.

Finally, the join method is a contender here. However, the default join defined for that method is an inner join which does not get us closer to the goal to match the two DataFrames as instructed, especially given that with the default arguments we cannot define a join condition.

More info:

- pyspark.sql.DataFrame.unionByName PySpark 3.1.2 documentation
- pyspark.SparkContext.union PySpark 3.1.2 documentation
- pyspark.sql.functions.concat PySpark 3.1.2 documentation

Static notebook | Dynamic notebook: See test 3

#### **NEW QUESTION # 108**

Which of the following statements about data skew is incorrect?

- A. Spark will not automatically optimize skew joins by default.
- B. Broadcast joins are a viable way to increase join performance for skewed data over sort-merge joins.
- C. In skewed DataFrames, the largest and the smallest partition consume very different amounts of memory.
- · D. To mitigate skew, Spark automatically disregards null values in keys when joining.
- E. Salting can resolve data skew.

#### Answer: D

Explanation:

Explanation

To mitigate skew, Spark automatically disregards null values in keys when joining.

This statement is incorrect, and thus the correct answer to the question. Joining keys that contain null values is of particular concern with regard to data skew.

In real-world applications, a table may contain a great number of records that do not have a value assigned to the column used as a join key. During the join, the data is at risk of being heavily skewed. This is because all records with a null-value join key are then evaluated as a single large partition, standing in stark contrast to the potentially diverse key values (and therefore small partitions) of the non-null-key records.

Spark specifically does not handle this automatically. However, there are several strategies to mitigate this problem like discarding null values temporarily, only to merge them back later (see last link below).

In skewed DataFrames, the largest and the smallest partition consume very different amounts of memory.

This statement is correct. In fact, having very different partition sizes is the very definition of skew. Skew can degrade Spark performance because the largest partition occupies a single executor for a long time. This blocks a Spark job and is an inefficient use of resources, since other executors that processed smaller partitions need to idle until the large partition is processed. Salting can resolve data skew.

This statement is correct. The purpose of salting is to provide Spark with an opportunity to repartition data into partitions of similar size, based on a salted partitioning key.

A salted partitioning key typically is a column that consists of uniformly distributed random numbers. The number of unique entries in the partitioning key column should match the number of your desired number of partitions. After repartitioning by the salted key, all partitions should have roughly the same size.

Spark does not automatically optimize skew joins by default.

This statement is correct. Automatic skew join optimization is a feature of Adaptive Ouery Execution (AOE).

By default, AQE is disabled in Spark. To enable it, Spark's spark.sql.adaptive.enabled configuration option needs to be set to true instead of leaving it at the default false.

To automatically optimize skew joins, Spark's spark.sql.adaptive.skewJoin.enabled options also needs to be set to true, which it is by default.

When skew join optimization is enabled, Spark recognizes skew joins and optimizes them by splitting the bigger partitions into smaller partitions which leads to performance increases.

Broadcast joins are a viable way to increase join performance for skewed data over sort-merge joins.

This statement is correct. Broadcast joins can indeed help increase join performance for skewed data, under some conditions. One of the DataFrames to be joined needs to be small enough to fit into each executor's memory, along a partition from the other DataFrame. If this is the case, a broadcast join increases join performance over a sort-merge join.

The reason is that a sort-merge join with skewed data involves excessive shuffling. During shuffling, data is sent around the cluster, ultimately slowing down the Spark application. For skewed data, the amount of data, and thus the slowdown, is particularly big. Broadcast joins, however, help reduce shuffling data. The smaller table is directly stored on all executors, eliminating a great amount of network traffic, ultimately increasing join performance relative to the sort-merge join.

It is worth noting that for optimizing skew join behavior it may make sense to manually adjust Spark's spark.sql.autoBroadcastJoinThreshold configuration property if the smaller DataFrame is bigger than the 10 MB set by default. More info:

- Performance Tuning Spark 3.0.0 Documentation
- Data Skew and Garbage Collection to Improve Spark Performance
- Section 1.2 Joins on Skewed Data \* GitBook

#### **NEW QUESTION # 109**

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