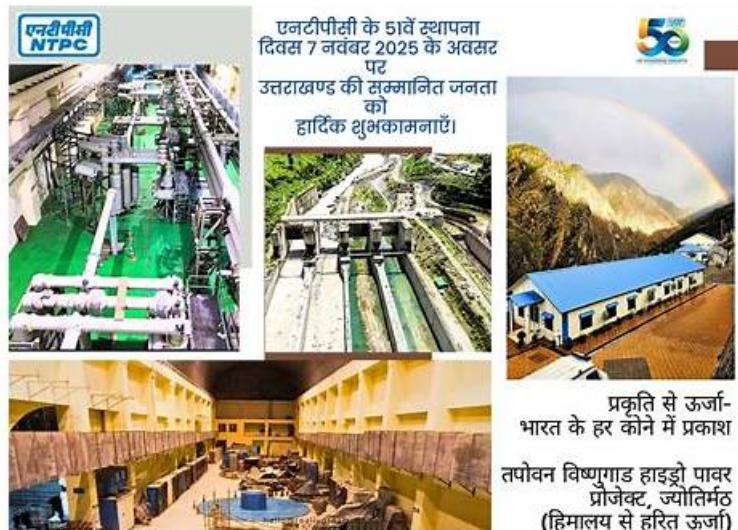


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## dbt Labs dbt Analytics Engineering Certification Exam Sample Questions (Q13-Q18):

### NEW QUESTION # 13

You are working on a complex dbt model with many Common Table Expressions (CTEs) and decide to move some of those CTEs into their own model to make your code more modular.

Is this a benefit of this approach?

The new model can be documented to explain its purpose and the logic it contains.

- A. No
- B. Yes

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

Yes, this is a benefit of breaking large CTE-heavy SQL models into modular dbt models. According to dbt and Analytics Engineering best practices, modularity improves clarity, maintainability, and documentation quality. When CTEs remain embedded inside a single large SQL file, their purposes are often unclear, difficult to document, and hard for other developers to reuse. By extracting a logical CTE into its own model, dbt treats it as a first-class resource-meaning it can have its own description, tests, documentation, lineage, and metadata defined in YAML.

dbt's documentation system allows each model to include a description explaining what the transformation does, the assumptions being made, and the expected behavior of the data. This aligns with the Analytics Engineering principle of creating self-documenting pipelines, where transformations are transparent and easier for downstream users to understand.

Additionally, modular models improve lineage visualization in the DAG. Instead of a single model hiding multiple transformation layers, a modular structure reveals how data flows through each intermediate step, helping both debugging and governance. Modularization also enables reusability-other models can reference the intermediate model rather than rebuilding the same logic through duplicated CTEs, supporting DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) principles.

Therefore, moving CTEs into separate dbt models absolutely provides a documentation benefit and improves the overall engineering quality of the project.

#### NEW QUESTION # 14

Match the desired outcome to the dbt command or argument.

Match the desired outcome to the dbt command or argument.

Execute the last dbt command from the node point of failure.

Select a match:

- state
- defer
- clone
- retry
- continuous integration
- copy
- result
- continuous integration
- copy
- result

Create a copy of an existing database object in a sandbox environment.

Select a match:

- state
- defer
- clone
- retry
- continuous integration
- copy
- result

Run a subset of models or tests in a sandbox environment without having to first build their upstream parents.

Select a match:

- state
- defer
- clone
- retry
- continuous integration
- copy



Compare nodes against a previous version of the same nodes.

Select a match:

- state
- defer
- clone
- retry
- continuous integration
- copy
- result

**Answer:**

Explanation:

Match the desired outcome to the dbt command or argument.

Execute the last dbt command from the node point of failure.

Select a match:

- state
- defer

```
  clone
  retry
continuous integration
copy
result
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Run a subset of models or tests in a sandbox environment without having to first build their upstream parents.

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```
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continuous integration
copy
result
```

Compare nodes against a previous version of the same nodes.

Select a match:

```
state
defer
clone
retry
continuous integration
copy
result
```

Explanation:

Execute the last dbt command from the node point of failure.

The Answer:

retry

The --retry flag in dbt is specifically designed to re-execute a dbt command starting from the node where execution previously failed. In large DAGs, rebuilding all upstream models repeatedly is inefficient, especially when a downstream transformation is the only point of failure. dbt includes retry logic to support resiliency within orchestrated pipelines and CI/CD processes.

Using --retry allows dbt to leverage the metadata stored in the run\_results.json to determine which model triggered the failure. Instead of re-running the entire DAG, dbt intelligently continues execution from the failed node, speeding up recovery and making iterative debugging far more efficient. This is particularly valuable in production pipelines where minimizing runtime is critical. This behavior aligns with dbt's philosophy of incremental, test-driven, modular development: failures should be isolated, reproducible, and simple to resume. By re-running only the subset of affected models, dbt improves developer productivity and orchestration reliability.

\*\*Create a copy of an existing database object in a sandbox environment.

The Answer:

clone

The clone capability in dbt refers to creating a zero-copy clone (Snowflake) or snapshot-like duplicated object using the data platform's native features. This is extremely useful when developers or analysts need a safe sandbox environment to test transformations, experiment, or validate logic without affecting production data.

A clone operation duplicates the table or view metadata instantly without physically copying data, which is both cost-efficient and fast. dbt leverages this through commands such as dbt clone (dbt Cloud) or through adapters that support cloning.

Sandboxes created via cloning allow engineers to develop safely by ensuring that testing and prototyping has no impact on production tables. Because cloned objects share underlying data blocks, they are nearly storage-free unless mutated-keeping warehouse costs low.

This practice is aligned with modern analytics engineering best practices where separation of environments (dev/test/prod) is essential for governance, data quality, and reproducibility.

\*\*Run a subset of models or tests in a sandbox environment without having to first build their upstream parents.

The Answer:

defer

The --defer flag allows dbt to reference already-built objects from another environment-commonly production-so that developers can run only the models they are modifying, without recreating all upstream dependencies.

When combined with --state, dbt compares the working branch's DAG with previously generated artifacts and determines which nodes should be rebuilt. Any upstream nodes not modified in the current branch are deferred , meaning dbt will point to the existing production-built version instead of materializing them again.

This dramatically speeds up development because staging layers or intermediate models, which may take significant computation time, do not need to be rebuilt for every developer iteration.

The mechanism also prevents accidental overwrites of production objects because deferred references always point to a safe, isolated schema established by state comparison.

This concept is central to dbt's "safe development via deferral," enabling rapid experimentation while ensuring consistency between dev and prod environments.

\*\*Compare nodes against a previous version of the same nodes.

The Answer:

state

The --state flag allows dbt to compare the current project against a previously generated manifest. This enables dbt to determine which models have changed, which tests must be re-run, and how the DAG differs between two versions.

State comparison is foundational to features such as Slim CI, deferred builds, and change-aware testing. dbt reads the state directory-typically containing artifacts from a production run-and examines differences in SQL, configurations, macros, or schema definitions.

This allows dbt to selectively build only modified nodes, increasing efficiency in CI/CD pipelines and reducing unnecessary warehouse costs. Additionally, state comparison is used for validating backward compatibility, testing versioned models, or enforcing governance rules such as model contracts.

By comparing nodes to their historical equivalents, teams can adopt modern engineering strategies such as impact analysis, regression detection, and selective deployment. This capability aligns with dbt's focus on modular analytics engineering and automated change management.

## NEW QUESTION # 15

Examine this query:

```
select *  
from {{ ref('stg_orders') }}  
where amount_usd < 0
```

You want to make this a generic test across multiple models.

Which set of two standard arguments should be used to replace `ref('stg_orders')` and `amount_usd`?  
Choose 1 option.

- A. `model and column_name`
- B. `model_name and column_name`
- C. `model and field`
- D. `source and column`

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

When converting a model-specific SQL query into a generic test, dbt expects the test macro to accept the two standard arguments used across all generic tests: `model` and `column_name`. These arguments allow dbt to automatically pass the correct table and the correct column when the test is applied in YAML.

The argument `model` represents the actual relation (table/view) being tested. dbt compiles the reference itself so instead of writing `ref('stg_orders')`, generic tests always use `ref(model)` to represent the referenced relation.

The argument `column_name` represents the actual column being tested. In this case, the hard-coded column `amount_usd` becomes the dynamic argument `ref(column_name)`, allowing you to apply the logic to any numeric or validated column across multiple models.

So the generic version of your SQL becomes:

```
select *  
from {{ model }}  
where {{ column_name }} < 0
```

The other options are incorrect:

- \* `source` is not the standard argument for generic tests.
- \* `model_name` is not automatically passed by dbt.
- \* `field` is not a recognized standard test argument.

Thus, the two correct standard arguments are `model` and `column_name`.

## NEW QUESTION # 16

Which two configurations can be applied to a dbt test?

Choose 2 options.

- A. `enabled`
- B. `persist_docs`
- C. `on_schema_change`
- D. `materialized`
- E. `tags`

**Answer: A,E**

Explanation:

The correct answers are B: `tags` and C: `enabled`.

dbt tests-both generic and singular-support a limited but clearly defined set of configurations. Two of the supported configurations are `tags`, which allow grouping and selecting tests using dbt's selector syntax, and `enabled`, which can be set to true or false to control whether a test should run. These configurations are commonly used to manage large test suites, such as disabling slow tests in development or tagging tests for CI pipelines.

Option A (`on_schema_change`) is a model-only configuration and cannot be applied to tests.

Option D (`materialized`) applies only to models, not tests, since tests compile into queries that evaluate failures rather than physical objects.

Option E (`persist_docs`) applies to models and sources for documentation purposes. Tests do not support persisted documentation properties beyond what appears in test metadata.

dbt's documentation makes clear that tests inherit only a small subset of configurations compared to models- primarily `enabled`, `tags`, `severity`, and custom test arguments. Among the options provided, only `tags` and `enabled` are valid and supported.

Thus, the correct answers are B and C.

## NEW QUESTION # 17

59. When a dbt project is stored in a git repository, a developer wanting to add new models to the dbt project starts by creating a new

pull request  
branch  
commit  
repository

Once created, the developer can then modify the code of the project and  
✓ those changes so that they are saved in git.

commit  
push  
checkout  
pull

Once all the required logic has been added, the developer can create a

✓ to have the code go through Continuous Integration and

allow manual review.



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push request  
clone  
merge request  
remote  
pull request  
checkout

#### Answer:

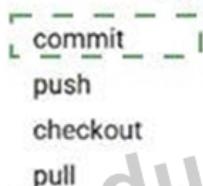
Explanation:

59. When a dbt project is stored in a git repository, a developer wanting to add new models to the dbt project starts by creating a new



Once created, the developer can then modify the code of the project and

- those changes so that they are saved in git.



Once all the required logic has been added, the developer can create a

- to have the code go through Continuous Integration and allow manual review.



Explanation:

(branch)  
(commit)  
(pull request)

In dbt development workflows, version control using Git is essential for ensuring collaborative, safe, and trackable changes to analytics code. The correct first step when making updates-such as adding new models-is to create a new Git branch. This isolates development work from the production (main) branch, preventing incomplete or experimental logic from affecting deployed transformations. Branching supports dbt's modular development approach and aligns with best practices for analytics engineering. Once the branch is created, the developer modifies SQL models, tests, macros, or documentation as required.

To permanently record these modifications in Git, the developer must commit the changes. A commit serves as a snapshot of progress and creates an auditable history of transformations made to the project, enabling rollbacks, diffs, and peer review.

After development is complete, the developer submits a pull request (PR). The pull request triggers CI checks-often including dbt build, schema tests, and contract validations-to ensure code quality and identify impacts on downstream models. PRs allow team members to review and comment before changes merge into the main branch, enforcing governance, consistency, and reliability. This workflow embodies the engineering rigor dbt encourages: modular development, testing, versioning, and peer review.

## NEW QUESTION # 18

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