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## Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.5 - Python Sample Questions (Q23-Q28):

### NEW QUESTION # 23

Given the following code snippet in `inmy_spark_app.py`:

```
from pyspark.sql
import SparkSession

spark = SparkSession.builder.appName("CoreComponentsExample").getOrCreate()

data = [("Alice", 34), ("Bob", 36), ("Sally", 31)]
columns = ["Name", "Age"]

df = spark.createDataFrame(data, columns).withColumn("Status", "Pass")
df_filtered = df.filter(df.Age > 35)
df_filtered.show()

spark.stop()
```

What is the role of the driver node?

- A. The driver node holds the DataFrame data and performs all computations locally
- B. The driver node stores the final result after computations are completed by worker nodes
- **C. The driver node orchestrates the execution by transforming actions into tasks and distributing them to worker nodes**
- D. The driver node only provides the user interface for monitoring the application

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

In the Spark architecture, the driver node is responsible for orchestrating the execution of a Spark application.

It converts user-defined transformations and actions into a logical plan, optimizes it into a physical plan, and then splits the plan into tasks that are distributed to the executor nodes.

As per Databricks and Spark documentation:

"The driver node is responsible for maintaining information about the Spark application, responding to a user's program or input, and analyzing, distributing, and scheduling work across the executors." This means:

Option A is correct because the driver schedules and coordinates the job execution.

Option B is incorrect because the driver does more than just UI monitoring.

Option C is incorrect since data and computations are distributed across executor nodes.

Option D is incorrect; results are returned to the driver but not stored long-term by it.

Reference: Databricks Certified Developer Spark 3.5 Documentation # Spark Architecture # Driver vs Executors.

### NEW QUESTION # 24

A data engineer replaces the `exact_percentile()` function with `approx_percentile()` to improve performance, but the results are drifting too far from expected values.

Which change should be made to solve the issue?

```
features_df = raw_df \
    .select(F.approx_percentile("price", percentiles=[0.25, 0.5, 0.75], accuracy=1000).alias("price_perc"))
```

- A. Decrease the value of the accuracy parameter in order to decrease the memory usage but also improve the accuracy
- **B. Increase the value of the accuracy parameter in order to increase the memory usage but also improve the accuracy**
- C. Decrease the first value of the percentage parameter to increase the accuracy of the percentile ranges
- D. Increase the last value of the percentage parameter to increase the accuracy of the percentile ranges

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation:

The `approx_percentile` function in Spark is a performance-optimized alternative to `percentile`. It takes an optional accuracy

parameter:

approx\_percentile(column, percentage, accuracy)

Higher accuracy values # more precise results, but increased memory/computation.

Lower values # faster but less accurate.

From the documentation:

"Increasing the accuracy improves precision but increases memory usage." Final Answer: D

## NEW QUESTION # 25

17 of 55.

A data engineer has noticed that upgrading the Spark version in their applications from Spark 3.0 to Spark 3.5 has improved the runtime of some scheduled Spark applications.

Looking further, the data engineer realizes that Adaptive Query Execution (AQE) is now enabled.

Which operation should AQE be implementing to automatically improve the Spark application performance?

- A. Optimizing the layout of Delta files on disk
- **B. Dynamically switching join strategies**
- C. Improving the performance of single-stage Spark jobs
- D. Collecting persistent table statistics and storing them in the metastore for future use

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Adaptive Query Execution (AQE) in Spark 3.x automatically optimizes query plans at runtime based on the actual data characteristics observed during job execution.

Key features of AQE include:

Dynamic switching of join strategies: Changes between sort-merge join and broadcast join based on actual shuffle sizes.

Coalescing shuffle partitions: Reduces small tasks and improves parallelism efficiency.

Handling skew joins: Dynamically splits large partitions to avoid data skew.

Thus, the most accurate answer describing AQE's function is "dynamically switching join strategies." Why the other options are incorrect:

B: Table statistics are collected manually or by the metastore, not by AQE.

C: AQE benefits multi-stage jobs involving shuffles, not single-stage jobs.

D: Delta file optimization is handled by Databricks utilities, not AQE.

Reference:

Databricks Exam Guide (June 2025): Section "Troubleshooting and Tuning Apache Spark DataFrame API Applications" - covers AQE and its benefits.

Spark 3.5 Release Notes - Adaptive Query Execution dynamic optimizations.

## NEW QUESTION # 26

8 of 55.

A data scientist at a large e-commerce company needs to process and analyze 2 TB of daily customer transaction data. The company wants to implement real-time fraud detection and personalized product recommendations.

Currently, the company uses a traditional relational database system, which struggles with the increasing data volume and velocity.

Which feature of Apache Spark effectively addresses this challenge?

- A. Built-in machine learning libraries
- **B. In-memory computation and parallel processing capabilities**
- C. Ability to process small datasets efficiently
- D. Support for SQL queries on structured data

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Apache Spark was designed for big data and high-velocity workloads. Its core strength lies in its in-memory computation and parallel distributed processing model.

These features allow Spark to:

Process large-scale datasets quickly across many nodes.

Support real-time and near-real-time analytics for tasks like fraud detection and recommendations.

Minimize disk I/O through caching and memory persistence.

Thus, the key advantage in this use case is Spark's ability to handle large data volumes efficiently using distributed, in-memory computation.

Why the other options are incorrect:

A: Spark is optimized for large, not small, datasets.

C: SQL support is useful but doesn't solve the scalability issue.

D: MLlib supports machine learning but relies on Spark's parallel computation for speed.

Reference:

Databricks Exam Guide (June 2025): Section "Apache Spark Architecture and Components" - identifies Spark's advantages: in-memory processing, distributed computation, and scalability.

Apache Spark 3.5 Overview - Key design goals and cluster computation model.

## NEW QUESTION # 27

2 of 55. Which command overwrites an existing JSON file when writing a DataFrame?

- A. `df.write.mode("append").json("path/to/file")`
- B. `df.write.option("overwrite").json("path/to/file")`
- C. `df.write.json("path/to/file")`
- D. `df.write.mode("overwrite").json("path/to/file")`

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

When writing DataFrames to files using the Spark `DataFrameWriter` API, Spark by default raises an error if the target path already exists. To explicitly overwrite existing data, you must specify the write mode as "overwrite".

Correct Syntax:

```
df.write.mode("overwrite").json("path/to/file")
```

This command removes the existing file or directory at the specified path and writes the new output in JSON format.

Other supported save modes include:

"append" - Adds new data to existing files.

"ignore" - Skips writing if the path already exists.

"error" or "errorifexists" - Fails the job if the output path exists (default).

Why other options are incorrect:

A: Defaults to "error" mode, which fails if the path exists.

B: "append" only adds data; it does not overwrite existing data.

C: `.option("overwrite")` is invalid - `mode("overwrite")` must be used instead.

Reference (Databricks Apache Spark 3.5 - Python / Study Guide):

PySpark API Reference: `DataFrameWriter.mode()` - describes valid write modes including "overwrite".

PySpark API Reference: `DataFrameWriter.json()` - method to write DataFrames in JSON format.

Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark Exam Guide (June 2025): Section "Using Spark DataFrame APIs" - Reading and writing DataFrames using save modes, schema management, and partitioning.

## NEW QUESTION # 28

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