

# SQL Administrator Job Interview Questions And Answers



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## SQL Administrator Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

### Question - 1:

Tell us what are the recovery models for a database?

#### Ans:

There are 3 recovery models available for a database. Full, Bulk-Logged and Simple are the three recovery models available.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 2:

Do you know which types of backups are not supported by SQL Write Service?

#### Ans:

SQL Writer does not support:

- \* Log backups
- \* File and filegroup backup
- \* Page restore

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 3:

Tell us what are the different ways you can create Databases in SQL Server?

#### Ans:

- \* T-SQL; Create Database command.
- \* Using Management Studio
- \* Restoring a database backup
- \* Copy Database wizard

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 4:

Tell us what is Replication?

#### Ans:

Replication is a feature in SQL Server that helps us publish database objects and data and copy (replicate) it to one or more destinations. It is often considered as one of the High-Availability options. One of the advantages of Replication is that it can be configured on databases which are in simple recovery model.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 5:

Do you know what are the different types of Indexes available in SQL Server?

#### Ans:

The simplest answer to this is "Clustered and Non-Clustered Indexes". There are other types of Indexes what can be mentioned such as Unique, XML, Spatial and Filtered Indexes. More on these Indexes later.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 6:

Explain me what is a Database?

#### Ans:

A Database Administrator needs to know what a database is before they can administer it, right? At its most basic, a database is a collection of tables, structured in such a way that it can be navigated like you would any sort of table. If you remember in math class, you may have had a number of tables that allowed you to quickly find a value if you multiplied an x and y value together - or in this case, what it would be if you were looking for a particular row and column value.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 7:**

Explain me what is Fill Factor?

**Ans:**

Fill Factor is a setting that is applicable to Indexes in SQL Server. The fill factor value determines how much data is written to an index page when it is created/rebuilt.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 8:**

Tell us what is SQL Server VSS Writer?

**Ans:**

SQL Writer supports:

- \* Full database backup and restore including full-text catalogs
- \* Differential backup and restore
- \* Restore with move
- \* Copy-only backup
- \* Auto-recovery of database snapshot

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**Question - 9:**

Please explain what is a Database Management System?

**Ans:**

A Database Management System, or DBMS, is essentially the application that handles the heavy lifting between you (the user), and the raw data. The database itself is just that - the database; it cannot alter its own data any more than the average person can re-arrange their genetic code. The DBMS is what you are talking to when you are asking the questions. It is what looks at your question, thinks about it for a while, goes to the database, picks up the data, hands it back to you, and asks you to come again.

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**Question - 10:**

Do you know what is the default Port No on which SQL Server listens?

**Ans:**

default Port No on which SQL Server listens at 1433

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**Question - 11:**

Explain me what are the different types of Indexes available in SQL Server?

**Ans:**

The simplest answer to this is "Clustered and Non-Clustered Indexes". There are other types of Indexes what can be mentioned such as Unique, XML, Spatial and Filtered Indexes. More on these Indexes later.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 12:**

Explain me what is the highest number of database servers you have worked with?

**Ans:**

You get an idea of how large of a data center the database administrator has worked with. If you're a large organization looking for a DBA for critical systems, the applicant with small business experience may not work out well. What to look for:

- \* Size of company
- \* Number of servers
- \* Type of server environment

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 13:**

Tell me what is Full-Text Search service?

**Ans:**

This service is used by the full-text search feature of SQL Server. It helps in starting the filter daemon host process, which manages the full-text indexing, querying, search filtering and word processing as part of the full-text search feature.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 14:**

Explain me what is SQL Server Analysis service and its importance?

**Ans:**

Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS) delivers online analytical processing (OLAP) and data mining functionality for business intelligence applications. Analysis Services supports OLAP by letting you design, create, and manage multidimensional structures that contain data aggregated from other data sources, such as relational databases. For data mining applications, Analysis Services lets you design, create, and visualize data mining models that are constructed from other data sources by using a wide variety of industry-standard data mining algorithms.



[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 15:**

Explain me what are the operating modes in which Database Mirroring runs?

**Ans:**

Database Mirroring runs in 2 operating modes High-Safety Mode and High-Performance Mode.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 16:**

Tell me what are the different SQL Server Versions you have worked on?

**Ans:**

The answer would be depending on the versions you have worked on, I would say I have experience working in SQL Server 7, SQL Server 2000, 2005 and 2008. If you have worked only some version be honest in saying that, remember, no one would be working on all versions, it varies from individual to individual.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 17:**

Tell us some of the requirements to setup a SQL Server failover cluster?

**Ans:**

Virtual network name for the SQL Server, Virtual IP address for SQL Server, IP addresses for the Public Network and Private Network(also referred as Heartbeat) for each node in the failover cluster, shared drives for SQL Server Data and Log files, Quorum Disk, and MSDTC Disk.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 18:**

Explain me what is SQL?

**Ans:**

Structured Query Language is the basic way of asking a database server to talk to you. Whether that is in the context of asking it a question, giving it answers to questions it is asking you, or updating answers that have already been stored in the database. The art of asking the right question is critical to getting back the right data you need, which is incredibly valuable when dealing with databases, as it is very easy to receive far more data than you know what to do with, or nothing at all.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 19:**

Can you explain about your SQL Server DBA Experience?

**Ans:**

This is a generic question often asked by many interviewers. Explain what are the different SQL Server Versions you have worked on, what kind of administration of those instances has been done by you. Your role and responsibilities carried out in your earlier projects that would be of significance to the potential employer. This is the answer that lets the interviewer know how suitable are you for the position to which you are being interviewed.

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**Question - 20:**

Do you know what does 'SELECT' do?

**Ans:**

SELECT in the terms of an SQL query triggers a question to the database. It looks across the specified table(s), finds the data you are looking for and then presents it to the user for consideration. Depending on the query, this can be an awful lot of data, so again, asking the right question is critical.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 21:**

Tell me which autogrowth database setting is good?

**Ans:**

Setting an autogrowth in multiples of MB is a better option than setting autogrowth in percentage (%).

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**Question - 22:**

Tell me what authentication modes does SQL Server support?

**Ans:**

SQL Server supports Windows Authentication and mixed-mode. Mixed-mode allows you to use both Windows Authentication and SQL Server Authentication to log into your SQL Server. It's important to note that if you use Windows Authentication, you will not be able to log in as sa.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 23:**

Explain me where do you find the default Index fill factor and how to change it?

**Ans:**

The easiest way to find and change the default fill factor value is from Management Studio, right-click the SQL Server and choose properties. In the Server



Properties, choose Database Settings, you should see the default fill factor value in the top section. You can change to the desired value there and click OK to save the changes.

The other option of viewing and changing this value is using

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### Question - 24:

Tell us what are the different types of Upgrades that can be performed in SQL Server?

**Ans:**

In-place upgrade and Side-by-Side Upgrade.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 25:

Explain me what is a query?

**Ans:**

A query in normal terms is a question, simple enough. It is the statement that is talking to the database in order to Create, Read, Update or Delete (CRUD) data. While many times a query is an actual question asking for an answer, it can also be the statement to modify, insert, or remove data in the database as well.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 26:

Tell us what is SQL Server Integration service and its importance?

**Ans:**

SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS) is a component of the Microsoft SQL Server database software that can be used to perform a broad range of data migration tasks. SSIS is a platform for data integration and workflow applications. It features a fast and flexible data warehousing tool used for data extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL). The tool may also be used to automate maintenance of SQL Server databases and updates to multidimensional cube data.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 27:

Tell me what action plan is preferred if SQL Server is not responding?

**Ans:**

Connect using DAC via CMD or SSMS

\* Connect via CMD

\* SQLCMD -A -U myadminlogin -P mypassword -SMYServer -dmaster

\* Once you connect to the master database run the diagnostic queries to find the problem

\* Correct the issue and restart the server

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### Question - 28:

Tell us what are the different SQL Server Versions you have worked on?

**Ans:**

The answer would be depending on the versions you have worked on, I would say I have experience working in SQL Server 7, SQL Server 2000, 2005 and 2008. If you have worked only on some version be honest in saying that, remember, no one would be working on all versions, it varies from individual to individual.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 29:

Tell us what is SQL Server Agent service and its importance?

**Ans:**

SQL Server Agent is the primary scheduling engine in SQL Server. This is used to execute scheduled administrative tasks like SSIS Packages, T-SQL Scripts, Batch Files and Subscriptions etc. which are referred to as Jobs. It uses msdb database to store the configuration, processing, and metadata information. Apart from SQL Server Agent related information, msdb database also stores similar information related to Backup, Restore, Log Shipping, SSIS Packages etc.

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### Question - 30:

Tell us do you have experience with on-premises databases, cloud databases or both?

**Ans:**

Many organizations are moving from a fully on-premises infrastructure to the cloud. You can discover which environment your candidate works the best in. If your organization intends on changing away from your current configuration, you can find out whether your interviewee can support your long-term goals. What to look for:

\* Strong understanding of infrastructure differences

\* Flexibility

\* Willingness to learn

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### Question - 31:

Please explain what the different types of Replication and why are they used?



**Ans:**

There are basically 3 types of replication: Snapshot, Transactional and Merge Replication. The type of Replication you choose depends on the requirements and/or the goals one is trying to achieve. For example, Snapshot Replication is useful only when the data inside the tables does not change frequently and the amount of data is not too large, such as a monthly summary table or a product list table etc. Transactional Replication would be useful when maintaining a copy of a transactional table such as sales order tables etc. Merge Replication is more useful in case of remote / distributed systems where the data flow can be from multiple sites, for example, sales done at a promotional event which might not be connected to the central servers always.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 32:**

Tell me how do you troubleshoot errors in a SQL Server Agent Job?

**Ans:**

Inside SSMS, in Object explorer under SQL Server Agent look for Job Activity Monitor. The job activity monitor displays the current status of all the jobs on the instance. Choose the particular job which failed, right click and choose view history from the drop down menu. The execution history of the job is displayed and you may choose the execution time (if the job failed multiple times during the same day). There would be information such as the time it took to execute that Job and details about the error occurred.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 33:**

Explain me what is DBCC?

**Ans:**

DBCC statements are Database Console Commands and come in four flavors: Maintenance, Informational, Validation, and Miscellaneous. Maintenance commands are those commands that allow the DBA to perform maintenance activities on the database such as shrinking a file. Informational commands provide feedback regarding the database such as providing information about the procedure cache. Validation commands include commands that validate the database such as the ever-popular CHECKDB. Finally, miscellaneous commands are those that obviously don't fit in the other three categories. This includes statements like DBCC HELP, which provides the syntax for a given DBCC command.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 34:**

Tell me what is the default fill factor value?

**Ans:**

By default, the fill factor value is set to 0.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 35:**

Tell us does Transparent Data Encryption provide encryption when transmitting data across the network?

**Ans:**

No, Transparent Data Encryption (TDE) does not encrypt the data during transfer over a communication channel.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 36:**

Tell me when setting Replication, can you have Distributor on SQL Server 2005, Publisher of SQL Server 2008?

**Ans:**

No, you cannot have a Distributor on a previous version than the Publisher.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 37:**

Tell us what is the Difference Between Lock, Block And Deadlock?

**Ans:**

Lock: DB engine locks the rows/page/table to access the data which is worked upon according to the query.

Block: When one process blocks the resources of another process then blocking happens. Blocking can be identified by using

SELECT \* FROM sys.dm\_exec\_requests where blocked > 0

SELECT \* FROM master..sysprocesses where blocked > 0

Deadlock: When something happens as follows: Error 1205

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 38:**

Tell us what is the difference between Clustered and Non-Clustered Index?

**Ans:**

In a clustered index, the leaf level pages are the actual data pages of the table. When a clustered index is created on a table, the data pages are arranged accordingly based on the clustered index key. There can only be one Clustered index on a table.

In a Non-Clustered index, the leaf level pages does not contain data pages instead it contains pointers to the data pages. There can be multiple non-clustered indexes on a single table.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 39:**



Do you know what is SQL Server Browser?

**Ans:**

This service acts as a listener for the incoming requests for Microsoft SQL Server resources. It provides information about the list of installed SQL Server instances on the computer to the client computers/applications. It helps in browsing the list of servers, locating and connecting to the correct server. This listener service responds to client requests with the names of the installed instances, and the ports or named pipes used by the instance.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 40:**

Tell us what types of databases do you work with?

**Ans:**

Many types of database infrastructure exist, so you want to confirm that the applicant has the background that you're looking for. Look for people who mention the specific database versions they're familiar with, as well as a brief explanation of their experience level with each. What to look for:

- \* Detailed information
- \* Years of experience
- \* Brief overview of duties

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 41:**

Please explain what is meant by Active - Passive and Active - Active clustering setup?

**Ans:**

An Active - Passive cluster is a failover cluster configured in a way that only one cluster node is active at any given time. The other node, called as the Passive node is always online but in an idle condition, waiting for a failure of the Active Node, upon which the Passive Node takes over the SQL Server Services and this becomes the Active Node, the previous Active Node now being a Passive Node.

An Active -Active cluster is a failover cluster configured in a way that both the cluster nodes are active at any given point in time. That is, one Instance of SQL Server is running on each of the nodes always; when one of the nodes has a failure, both the Instances run on the only one node until the failed node is brought up (after fixing the issue that caused the node failure). The instance is then failed over back to its designated node.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 42:**

Tell us what is a correlated sub-query?

**Ans:**

A correlated sub-query is a nested query that is linked to the outer query. For instance, say I wanted to find all the employees who have not entered their time for the week. I could query the Employee table to get their first and last name, but I need to look at the TimeEntry table to see if they've entered their time or not. I can't do a straight join here because I'm looking for the absence of time data, so I'll do a correlated sub-query similar to this:

```
SELECT FirstName, LastName  
FROM EMPLOYEE e  
WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT 1 FROM TimeEntry te  
WHERE te.EmpID = e.EmpID  
AND te.WeekID = 123)
```

Notice that the inner query relates to the outer query on the employee ID, thus making it a correlated sub-query. The inner query will be evaluated once per outer query row.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 43:**

Tell me what are the commands used in DCL?

**Ans:**

GRANT, DENY and REVOKE.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 44:**

Tell us what are the different types of database compression introduced in SQL Server 2008?

**Ans:**

Row compression and Page compression.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 45:**

Do you know what ODBC is?

**Ans:**

This question tests the technical knowledge of your applicant and is directed at people you're hiring for mid-level positions. Look for an answer that covers the basic concept and goes into some detail about its role in a database environment. What to look for:

- \* Thorough understanding of this acronym
- \* Good communication
- \* Use case examples

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 46:**



Tell us what is the difference between the 2 operating modes of Database Mirroring?

**Ans:**

- \* High-Safety Mode is to ensure that the Principal and Mirrored database are synchronized state, that is the transactions are committed at the same time on both servers to ensure consistency, but there is/might be a time lag.
- \* High-Performance Mode is to ensure that the Principal database run faster, by not waiting for the Mirrored database to commit the transactions. There is a slight chance of data loss and also the Mirrored database can be lagging behind (in terms being up to date with the Principal database) if there is a heavy load on the Mirrored Server.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 47:**

Tell me what are the different Authentication modes in SQL Server and how can you change authentication mode?

**Ans:**

SQL Server has 2 Authentication modes; Windows Authentication and SQL Server and Windows Authentication mode also referred as Mixed Mode.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 48:**

Tell us what are the different Topologies in which Replication can be configured?

**Ans:**

Replication can be configured in any topology depending keeping in view of the complexity and the workload of the entire Replication. It can be any of the following:

- \* Publisher, Distributor, and Subscriber on the same SQL Instance.
- \* Publisher and Distributor on the same SQL Instance and Subscriber on a separate Instance.
- \* Publisher, Distributor, and Subscriber on individual SQL Instances.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 49:**

Do you know what is DCL?

**Ans:**

DCL stands for Data Control Language.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 50:**

Tell us how can you control the amount of free space in your index pages?

**Ans:**

You can set the fill factor on your indexes. This tells SQL Server how much free space to leave in the index pages when re-indexing. The performance benefit here is fewer page splits (where SQL Server has to copy rows from one index page to another to make room for an inserted row) because there is room for growth built into the index.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 51:**

Tell us what different steps will a SQL Server Developer takes to secure SQL Server?

**Ans:**

- \* Preferring NT authentication
- \* Using server, database and application roles to control access to the data
- \* Securing the physical database files using NTFS permissions
- \* Using an unusable SA password, restricting physical access to the SQL Server
- \* Renaming the Administrator account on the SQL Server computer
- \* Disabling the Guest account, enabling auditing using multiprotocol encryption,
- \* Setting up SSL, setting up firewalls, isolating SQL Server from the web server

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 52:**

Tell me why should I go to all the trouble of creating a database when I have a perfectly good Excel Spreadsheet?

**Ans:**

Scale. If you were to take a (singular) spreadsheet and a (singular) table and place them side by side, there would be effectively no difference in the data you are seeing or what you could do with it. As you go bigger and bigger with more and more tables and spreadsheets, if you have a black belt in spreadsheet-fu you can accomplish many of the same tasks that a database could do as well. The problem is, as you go larger and larger and larger, that it becomes much more difficult to be human-friendly and still be efficient when it comes to processing data. So should you replace every single spreadsheet with a database? Not necessarily, but if the data on that spreadsheet needs to be accessed quickly by multiple users simultaneously and is growing rapidly, it may be time to consider going to the dark side (they have cookies).

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 53:**

Tell me what is the difference between dropping a database and taking a database offline?

**Ans:**



Drop database deletes the database along with the physical files, it is not possible to bring back the database unless you have a backup of the database. When you take a database offline, you the database is not available for users, it is not deleted physically, it can be brought back online.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 54:

Suppose you are given access to a SQL Server, how do you find if the SQL Instance is a named instance or a default instance?

**Ans:**

I would go to the SQL Server Configuration Manager. In the left pane of the tool, I would select SQL Server Services, the right side pane displays all of the SQL Server Services/components that are installed on that machine. If the Service is displayed as (MSSQLSERVER), then it indicates it is a default instance, else there will be the Instance name displayed.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 55:

Tell us what are the High-Availability solutions in SQL Server and differentiate them briefly?

**Ans:**

Failover Clustering, Database Mirroring, Log Shipping, and Replication are the High-Availability features available in SQL Server. I would recommend reading this blog of mine which explains the differences between these 4 features.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 56:

Explain me what types of replication are supported in SQL Server?

**Ans:**

SQL Server has three types of replication: Snapshot, Merge, and Transaction. Snapshot replication creates a snapshot of the data (point-in-time picture of the data) to deliver to the subscribers. This is a good type to use when the data changes infrequently, there is a small amount of data to replicate, or large changes occur over a small period of time.

Merge replication uses a snapshot to seed the replication. Changes on both sides of the publication are tracked so the subscriber can synchronize with the publisher when connected. A typical use for this type of replication is in a client and server scenario. A server would act as a central repository and multiple clients would independently update their copies of the data until connected. At which time, they would all send up their modifications to the central store.

Transaction replication also begins with a snapshot only this time changes are tracked as transactions (as the name implies). Changes are replicated from publisher to subscriber the same as they occurred on the publisher, in the same order as they occurred, and in near real time. This type of replication is useful when the subscriber needs to know every change that occurred to the data (not point-in-time), when the change volume is high, and when the subscriber needs near real-time access to the changes.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 57:

Tell us which are third-party tools used in SQL Server and why would you use them?

**Ans:**

Some of the third-party tools are:

- \* SQL CHECK - Idera - Monitoring server activities and memory levels
- \* SQL DOC 2 - RedGate - Documenting the databases
- \* SQL Backup 5 - RedGate - Automating the Backup Process
- \* SQL Prompt - RedGate - Provides IntelliSense for SQL SERVER 2005/2000,
- \* Lite Speed 5.0 - Quest Soft - Backup and Restore
- \* Benefits of using third-party tools:
  - \* Faster backups and restores
  - \* Flexible backup and recovery options
  - \* Secure backups with encryption
  - \* Enterprise view of your backup and recovery environment
  - \* Easily identify optimal backup settings
  - \* Visibility into the transaction log and transaction log backups
  - \* Timeline view of backup history and schedules
  - \* Recover individual database objects
  - \* Encapsulate a complete database restore into a single file to speed up restore time
  - \* When we need to improve upon the functionality that SQL Server offers natively
  - \* Save time, better information or notification

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 58:

Can you list out various services which are important for SQL Server and its components functionality?

**Ans:**

- \* SQL Server Service
- \* SQL Server Agent service
- \* SQL Server Analysis Service
- \* SQL Server Browser service
- \* SQL Server Integration Service
- \* SQL Server Reporting Service
- \* SQL Server VSS Writer service
- \* Distributed Transaction Coordinator
- \* SQL Server Active Directory Helper
- \* SQL Full-Text Filter Daemon Launcher
- \* SQL Server Distributed Replay Client service



\* SQL Server Distributed Replay Client service

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 59:

Tell me how would you handle data loss during a database migration?

#### Ans:

Data loss is a high-pressure situation for a database administrator, especially if a migration project falls behind schedule. You get to see their thought process, how they handle stress and the strategies they use for disaster recovery. What to look for:

- \* Level-headed reactions
- \* Detailed technical answer
- \* Examples of how they handle pressure

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 60:

Tell us when setting Replication, is it possible to have a Publisher as 64 Bit SQL Server and Distributor or Subscribers as a 32 Bit SQL Server?

#### Ans:

Yes, it is possible to have various configurations in a Replication environment.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 61:

Tell us what is a system database and what is a user database?

#### Ans:

System databases are the default databases that are installed when the SQL Server is installed. Basically, there are 4 system databases: Master, MSDB, TempDB, and Model. It is highly recommended that these databases are not modified or altered for a smooth functioning of the SQL System.

A user database is a database that we create to store data and start working with the data.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 62:

Tell us how do you trace the traffic hitting a SQL Server?

#### Ans:

SQL profiler is the SQL Server utility you can use to trace the traffic on the SQL Server instance. Traces can be filtered to narrow down the transactions that are captured and reducing the overhead incurred for the trace. The trace files can be searched, saved off, and even replayed to facilitate troubleshooting.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 63:

Tell me what are the new features in SQL Server 2005 when compared to SQL Server 2000?

#### Ans:

There are quite a lot of changes and enhancements in SQL Server 2005. Few of them are listed here:

- \* Database Partitioning
  - \* Dynamic Management Views
  - \* System Catalog Views
  - \* Resource Database
  - \* Database Snapshots
  - \* SQL Server Integration Services
  - \* Support for Analysis Services on a Failover Cluster.
1. Profiler being able to trace the MDX queries of the Analysis Server.
  2. Peer-to-Peer Replication
  3. Database Mirroring

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 64:

Do you know what is the importance of a recovery model?

#### Ans:

Primarily, recovery model is chosen keeping in view the amount of data loss one can afford to. If one expects to have minimal or no data loss, choosing the Full recovery model is a good choice. Depending on the recovery model of a database, the behavior of database log file changes. I would recommend you read more material on log backups and log file behavior and so on to understand in depth.

[View All Answers](#)

### Question - 65:

Tell us what are the differences in Clustering in SQL Server 2005 and 2008 or 2008 R2?

#### Ans:

On SQL Server 2005, installing SQL Server failover cluster is a single step process whereas on SQL Server 2008 or above it is a multi-step process. That is, in SQL Server 2005, the Installation process itself installs on all of the nodes (be it 2 nodes or 3 nodes). In 2008 or above this has changed, we would need to install separately on all the nodes. 2 times if it is a 2 node cluster or 3 times in a 3 node cluster and so on.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 66:**

Tell us on a Windows Server 2003 Active - Passive failover cluster, how do you find the node which is active?

**Ans:**

Using Cluster Administrator, connect to the cluster and select the SQL Server cluster. Once you have selected the SQL Server group, on the right-hand side of the console, the column "Owner" gives us the information of the node on which the SQL Server group is currently active.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 67:**

Tell me what's your process for troubleshooting database problems?

**Ans:**

A database administrator needs a strong process for identifying and addressing issues. While automated tools help lighten their load, you get to see their overall thought process and troubleshooting strategy with this answer. What to look for:

- \* Solid process
- \* Willingness to use available resources
- \* Experience with addressing common issues

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 68:**

Tell us what is the difference between a Navigational database and a Relational database?

**Ans:**

The best way to describe a Navigational DBMS is through that of a tree. Each value was associated with another through the use of a parent, most of the time with no other direct way to access the data. Relational Databases on the other hand use values common to multiple tables to establish a unique key - making sure that they are talking on the same page so that there are many, many ways to get to the same place. To put it another way, if you were trying to get from point A to point B, a navigational database would have one specific path to get there - via a freeway. A relational database on the other hand would have options for taking the freeway, a back road, a boat, a plane, a bus and sometimes a rocket - provided that each of those methods were set up correctly to talk to each other. Most modern databases use the relational database model.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 69:**

Tell us what is SQL Server Reporting Services?

**Ans:**

This service is primarily used by SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) for browsing and viewing the reports on Reports Server, through Report Server or Report Manager interface. It is used to manage the shared data sources, reports, shared data sets, report parts, folder, etc. hosted on the Report Server. Reporting services are managed using the Reporting Services Configuration Manager.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 70:**

Tell us can we hot add CPU to SQL server?

**Ans:**

Yes. Adding CPUs can occur physically by adding new hardware, logically by online hardware partitioning, or virtually through a virtualization layer. Starting with SQL Server 2008, SQL Server supports hot add CPU.

- Requires hardware that supports hot add CPU.
- Requires the 64-bit edition of Windows Server 2008 Datacenter or the Windows Server 2008 Enterprise Edition for Itanium-Based Systems operating system.
- Requires SQL Server Enterprise.
- SQL Server cannot be configured to use soft NUMA

Once the CPU is added just run RECONFIGURE then sql server recognizes the newly added CPU.

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**Question - 71:**

Do you know what purpose does the model database serve?

**Ans:**

The model database, as its name implies, serves as the model (or template) for all databases created on the same instance. If the model database is modified, all subsequent databases created on that instance will pick up those changes, but earlier created databases will not. Note that TEMPDB is also created from model every time SQL Server starts up.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 72:**

Do you know what happens on checkpoint?

**Ans:**

Checkpoints, whether scheduled or manually executed, cause the transaction log to be truncated up to the beginning of the oldest open transaction (the active portion of the log). That is, the dirty pages from the buffer cache are written to disk. Storing committed transactions in the cache provides a performance gain for SQL Server. However, you do not want the transaction log to get too big because it might consume too many resources and, should your database fail, take too long to process to recover the database.

One important thing to note here is that SQL Server can only truncate up to the oldest open transaction. Therefore, if you are not seeing the expected relief from a checkpoint, it could very well be that someone forgot to commit or rollback their transaction. It is very important to finalize all transactions as soon as possible.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 73:**

Tell us about your SQL Server DBA Experience?

**Ans:**

This is a generic question often asked by many interviewers. Explain what are the different SQL Server Versions you have worked on, what kind of administration of those instances has been done by you. Your role and responsibilities carried out in your earlier projects that would be of significance to the potential employer. This is the answer that lets the interviewer know how suitable are you for the position to which you are being interviewed.

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**Question - 74:**

Tell us how many files can a Database contain in SQL Server? How many types of data files exist in SQL Server? How many of those files can exist for a single database?

**Ans:**

- \* A Database can contain a maximum of 32,767 files.
- \* There are Primarily 2 types of data files Primary data file and Secondary data file(s)
- \* There can be only one Primary data file and multiple secondary data files as long as the total # of files is less than 32,767 files

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**Question - 75:**

Tell us what the different components of Replication and what is their use?

**Ans:**

The 3 main components in Replication are Publisher, Distributor, and Subscriber. The publisher is the data source of a publication. The distributor is responsible for distributing the database objects to one or more destinations. The subscriber is the destination where the publisher's data is copied/replicated.

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**Question - 76:**

Tell me what is Transparent Data Encryption?

**Ans:**

Introduced in SQL Server 2008 Transparent Data Encryption (TDE) is a mechanism through which you can protect the SQL Server Database files from unauthorized access through encryption. Also, TDE can protect the database backups of the instance on which TDE was setup.

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**Question - 77:**

Tell us how do you open a Cluster Administrator?

**Ans:**

From Start -> Run and type CluAdmin (case insensitive) and the Cluster Administrator console is displayed OR you can also go to Start -> All Programs -> Administrative Tools -> Cluster Administrator.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 78:**

Tell us do you have experience working with Hadoop?

**Ans:**

Big data technology is another rapidly growing area. Hadoop helps organizations work with massive data sets by splitting them into smaller sets and then consolidating the results. A willingness to learn Hadoop or existing experience may help your company use your data more efficiently. What to look for:

- \* Subject matter knowledge
- \* Overall experience
- \* Desire to learn about trends and new solutions

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**Question - 79:**

Do you know what is a primary key?

**Ans:**

A primary key is usually used as the index for a particular table - a value that the table can depend upon to be a reliable unique value in every row. When trying to pull data for a particular row, the primary key will normally be used to pull that information, usually a numeric value. For example, if you are trying to pull up data on a specific person, and that database is using their unencrypted ssn as the primary key (naughty), then that could be used in the query to identify that particular row since there could be other people present in the database with that specific name or other identifying characteristics.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 80:**

Do you know what is SQL Server service and its importance?

**Ans:**

SQL Server service is core of SQL Server instance. It runs the Database Engine and executes the client requests related to data processing. If this service is not running, no users can connect to the any of the database, hence users will not be able to fetch, insert, update or delete the data.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 81:**

Tell me what is SQL Server VSS Writer?

**Ans:**

The SQL Writer Service provides added functionality for backup and restore of SQL Server through the Volume Shadow Copy Service framework. When running, Database Engine locks and has exclusive access to the data files. When the SQL Writer Service is not running, backup programs running in Windows do not have access to the data files, and backups must be performed using SQL Server backup.

Use the SQL Writer Service to permit Windows backup programs to copy SQL Server data files while SQL Server is running. It must be running when the Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) application requests a backup or restore. To configure the service, use the Microsoft Windows Services applet. The SQL Writer Service installs on all operating systems.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 82:**

How to start SQL Server in different modes?

**Ans:**

Single User Mode (-m): sqlcmd -m -d master -S PAXT3DEVSQL11 -c -U sa -P \*\*\*\*\*

DAC (-A): sqlcmd -A -d master -S PAXT3DEVSQL11 -c -U sa -P \*\*\*\*\*

Emergency: ALTER DATABASE test\_db SET EMERGENCY

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**Question - 83:**

Please explain why would you call Update Statistics?

**Ans:**

Update Statistics is used to force a recalculation of query optimization statistics for a table or indexed view. Query optimization statistics are automatically recomputed, but in some cases, a query may benefit from updating those statistics more frequently. Beware though that re-computing the query statistics causes queries to be recompiled. This may or may not negate all performance gains you might have achieved by calling update statistics. In fact, it could have a negative impact on performance depending on the characteristics of the system.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 84:**

Tell me why would you use SQL Agent?

**Ans:**

SQL Agent is the job scheduling mechanism in SQL Server. Jobs can be scheduled to run at a set time or when a specific event occurs. Jobs can also be executed on demand. SQL Agent is most often used to schedule administrative jobs such as backups.

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