

Databricks Certified Data Analyst Associate

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Update Information

Updates	Date
Exam Published	October 19, 2026 – terminology updates
Exam Guide Updated	October 8, 2026 – terminology updates

Please check the exam guide on our webpages two weeks before your exam date to ensure you are preparing for the current version of the exam.

Purpose of this Exam Guide

The purpose of this exam guide is to give you an overview of the exam and what it covers, to help you determine your exam readiness. This document is updated whenever there are changes to the exam (and indicates when those changes take effect) so that you can prepare with confidence. This guide covers the exam version that is live as of the **effective date** listed above.

Audience Description

The Databricks Certified Data Analyst Associate exam evaluates a candidate's proficiency with the Databricks Data Intelligence Platform (Lakehouse Platform), assessing their ability to manage data with Unity Catalog – this includes discovering, querying, cleaning, and managing certified datasets, import Data by utilizing various methods such as the UI, S3 ingestion, Delta Sharing for external systems, API-driven intake, Auto Loader, and the Marketplace feature, and executing and optimizing queries for Data Analysis – including creating views, performing aggregate operations, combining tables with joins, filtering, sorting, and analyzing queries using auditing, history, logs, and Liquid clustering features. Additionally, the exam covers the basics of working with Dashboards and Visualizations, understanding the fundamentals of developing, sharing, and maintaining AI/BI Genie Agents within Databricks, data modeling with Databricks SQL, and securing data by adhering to

best practices for data storage and management. Individuals who pass this certification exam can be expected to complete basic Data Analytics tasks, such as managing data, analyzing data, and utilizing Dashboards.

About the Exam

Item	Detail
Number of scored items	45 scored multiple-choice questions
Possible unscored items	Up to 10 unscored items may be included (see "Unscored content" below)
Total number of questions you may see	45 scored questions plus unscored items
Time limit	90 minutes (additional time is already factored in to account for unscored items)
Registration fee	USD 200, plus applicable taxes as required per local law
Delivery method	Online proctored or test center
Languages offered	English
Test aides	None allowed
Prerequisite	None required; but related training highly recommended
Recommended experience	Six months of hands-on experience in the Databricks Platform with the listed exam outline are highly recommended
Validity	2 years

Recertification: Recertification is required every two years to maintain your certified status. To recertify, you must take the full exam that is currently live.

Unscored content: Exams may include unscored items to gather statistical information for future use. These items are not identified on the exam and do not affect your score, and additional time is factored into the time limit to account for them.

Recommended Preparation

Training

- **Instructor-led:** Data Analysis with Databricks
- **Self-paced (available in Databricks Academy):**
 - AI/BI for Data Analysts
 - SQL Analytics on Databricks

AI Prep Guide – Any Databricks Exam

The [Databricks AI Prep Guide](#) shows you how to turn the AI chatbot you already use into a personalized tutor for any Databricks certification: prime it with the official exam guide, catch the outdated answers AI tends to give, find your weak spots, and pair it all with the hands-on practice every Databricks exam demands.

Hands-On Practice

Not sure what to practice? The AI Prep Guide (see the AI Prep Guide section above) includes a prompt under “Step 5 – Hands-on minimum” that has an AI chatbot generate a personalized checklist of 6–10 hands-on tasks mapped to this exam’s objectives, each small enough to complete in Databricks [Free Edition](#).

Databricks Documentation

As you prepare, study the official [Databricks documentation](#) for the platform areas covered on this exam. It is the most current, authoritative source. Use it to judge how deeply to study each topic and to ensure you are learning up-to-date, non-deprecated features rather than out-of-date material.

Exam Outline

[Author: list every section with its percentage weight. **Weights MUST sum to 100%**. Order sections as they appear on the exam blueprint. Under each section, list the objectives as they are stated on the exam. Use current product terminology only.]

Section 1: Understanding of Databricks Data Intelligence Platform (Lakehouse Platform) (11%)

- Describe the core components of the Databricks Data Intelligence Platform (Lakehouse Platform), including Mosaic AI, Lakeflow Declarative Pipelines (DeltaLive tables), Lakeflow Jobs, Data Intelligence Engine, Delta Lake, Lakebase, Unity Catalog, and Databricks SQL.

- Understand catalogs, schemas, managed and external tables, access controls, views, certified tables, metric views, and lineage within the Catalog Explorer interface.
- Describe the role and features of Databricks Marketplace.

Section 2: Managing Data (8%)

- Use Unity Catalog to discover, query, and manage certified datasets.
- Use the Catalog Explorer to tag a data asset with governed tags and view its lineage, including external lineage.
- Perform data cleaning on Unity Catalog Tables in SQL, including removing invalid data or handling missing values.

Section 3: Importing Data (5%)

- Explain the approaches for bringing data into Databricks, covering ingestion from S3, data sharing with external systems via Delta Sharing, API-driven data intake, Auto Loader, Lakeflow Connect managed connectors, and Marketplace.
- Use the Databricks Workspace UI to upload a data file to the platform.

Section 4: Executing queries using Databricks SQL and Databricks SQL Warehouses (20%)

- Utilize Genie Code (Databricks Assistant) within a Notebook or SQL Editor to facilitate query writing and debugging.
- Explain the role a SQL Warehouse plays in query execution.
- Querying cross-system analytics by joining data from a Delta table and a federated data source.
- Create a materialized view, including knowing when to use Streaming Tables and Materialized Views, and differentiate between dynamic and materialized views.
- Perform aggregate operations such as count, approximate count distinct, mean, and summary statistics.
- Write queries to combine tables using various join operations (inner, left, right, and so on) with single or multiple keys, as well as set operations like union and union all, including the differences between the joins (inner, left, right, and so on).
- Perform sorting and filtering operations on a table.
- Create managed tables and external tables, including creating tables by joining data from multiple sources (e.g., CSV, Parquet, Delta tables) to create unified datasets, including Unity Catalog.
- Use Delta Lake's time travel to access and query historical data versions.

Section 5: Analyzing Queries (15%)

- Understand the Features, Benefits, and Supported Workloads of Photon.
- Identify poorly performing queries in the Databricks Intelligence platform, such as Query Insights, Query Profiler log, etc.

- Utilize Delta Lake to audit and view history, validate results, and compare historical results or trends.
- Utilize query history and caching to reduce development time and query latency.
- Analyze table access patterns and query workloads to determine when to leverage Predictive Optimization and Automatic Liquid Clustering to optimize table performance.
- Fix a query to achieve the desired results.

Section 6: Working with Dashboards and Visualizations in Databricks (16%)

- Build dashboards using AI/BI Dashboards, including multi-tabs/page layouts, multiple data sources/datasets, and widgets (visualizations, text, images).
- Create visualizations in notebooks and the SQL editor.
- Work with parameters in SQL queries and dashboards, including defining, configuring, and testing parameters.
- Configure permissions through the UI to share dashboards with workspace users/groups, external users through shareable links, and embed dashboards in external apps.
- Schedule an automatic dashboard refresh.
- Configure an alert with a desired threshold and destination.
- Identify the effective visualization type to communicate insights clearly.

Section 7: Developing, Sharing, and Maintaining AI/BI Genie Agents (Genie Spaces) (12%)

- Describe the purpose, key features, and components of AI/BI Genie Agents (Genie spaces).
- Create Genie Agents (Genie spaces) by defining reasonable sample questions and domain-specific instructions, choosing SQL warehouses, curating Unity Catalog datasets (tables, views...), and vetting queries as Trusted Assets.
- Assign permissions via the UI and distribute Genie Agents (Genie spaces) using embedded links, external app integrations, and channel apps.
- Optimize AI/BI Genie Agents (Genie spaces) by tracking user questions, response accuracy, and feedback; updating instructions and trusted assets based on stakeholder input; validating accuracy with benchmarks; refreshing Unity Catalog metadata.

Section 8: Data Modeling with Databricks SQL (5%)

- Apply industry-standard data modeling techniques, such as star, snowflake, and data vault schemas, to analytical workloads.
- Understand how industry-standard models align with the Medallion Architecture.

Section 9: Securing Data (8%)

- Use Unity Catalog roles and sharing settings to ensure workspace objects are secure.
- Understand how the 3-level namespace (Catalog / Schema / Tables or Volumes) works in the Unity Catalog.

- Apply best practices for storage and management to ensure data security, including table ownership and PII protection.

Total: 100%

Sample Questions

The purpose of sample questions is to show you the objectives as they are stated in the exam guide and to give you a sample question that aligns with each objective. The exam guide lists the objectives that could be covered on an exam; the best way to prepare is to review the full exam outline for your exam date above.

Question 1

Objective: Perform aggregate operations such as count, approximate count distinct, mean, and summary statistics.

A data analyst working in a notebook needs to quickly understand the characteristics of a customer dataset. The analyst wants to automatically generate insights such as data distributions, potential quality issues, and summary statistics. Which insights are automatically provided when using data preview features in a notebook?

- A. Row count and column names
- B. Summary statistics for numeric, string and date columns, along with histograms showing value distributions for each column.
- C. Mean data type information, null counts and standard deviation calculation for numeric columns only
- D. Real-time performance metrics and queries execution statistics for the dataset

Question 2

Objective: Utilize Genie Code (Databricks Assistant) within a Notebook or SQL Editor to facilitate query writing and debugging.

A data analyst is struggling to understand why a complex SQL query is not returning the expected results. Which Genie Code (Databricks Assistant) command should the analyst use for a step-by-step explanation of the query and potential issues?

- A. `/help`
- B. `/generate`
- C. `/explain`
- D. `/optimize`

Question 3

Objective: Create a materialized view, including knowing when to use Streaming Tables and Materialized Views, and differentiate between dynamic and materialized views.

A data analyst is planning a new analytics pipeline and needs to decide between using a Streaming Table and a Materialized View for two different use cases: real-time analysis of continuously arriving sensor data; and frequent, complex queries on static data for business intelligence dashboards. Which Databricks table type should the analyst use?

- A. Use a Materialized View for real-time sensor data, and a Streaming Table for static business intelligence queries.
- B. Use a Materialized View for both real-time sensor data and static business intelligence queries to maximize the freshness of data.
- C. Use a Streaming Table for both real-time sensor data and static business intelligence queries to simplify pipeline complexity.
- D. Use a Streaming Table for real-time analysis of continuously arriving sensor data, and a Materialized View for frequent, complex queries on static data.

Question 4

Objective: Use Delta Lake's time travel to access and query historical data versions.

A data analyst attempts to query a Delta table as it existed 30 days ago, but receives an error. What is the reason for this error?

- A. The table schema was updated after the target date, which prevents time travel to previous versions.
- B. The data files and log files needed for that version were deleted by a VACUUM operation.
- C. The Delta table's permissions were changed, which disables time travel functionality.
- D. The table was renamed, which removes access to historical versions.

Question 5

Objective: Configure an alert with a desired threshold and destination.

A data pipeline processes a high volume of incoming sensor readings. To prevent potential equipment damage, the data analyst needs to be notified immediately if the average temperature reported by these sensors within the last 15 minutes exceeds a critical threshold. Which action should the analyst perform to implement this requirement?

- A. Set up a Databricks SQL Alert that runs a query calculating the 15-minute average temperature, triggers when the value exceeds the critical threshold, and sends instant notifications to the desired channels (e.g., email, Slack).
- B. Create a Databricks Dashboard with a temperature chart and manually refresh it every 15 minutes to check if the reading exceeds the threshold.

- C. Use a Databricks Job to run a notebook periodically and review the output logs manually to detect threshold breaches.
- D. Modify Databricks cluster configuration to automatically scale up resources or restart when temperature metrics are high, with alert notifications every 15 minutes.

Question 6

Objective: Create managed tables and external tables, including creating tables by joining data from multiple sources (e.g., CSV, Parquet, Delta tables) to create unified datasets, including Unity Catalog.

A database administrator needs to set up an inventory tracking table, `product_inventory`, in the `warehouse_db` schema. The table must include three integer columns (`width`, `length`, and `height`). It should be created empty, and if it already exists, it must be replaced while retaining table privileges and history. Which SQL command accomplishes this requirement?

- A. `CREATE TABLE warehouse_db.product_inventory (width INT, length INT, height INT) IF NOT EXISTS;`
- B. `CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE warehouse_db.product_inventory (width INT, length INT, height INT);`
- C. `DROP TABLE warehouse_db.product_inventory; CREATE TABLE warehouse_db.product_inventory (width INT, length INT, height INT);`
- D. `CREATE EXTERNAL TABLE warehouse_db.product_inventory (width INT, length INT, height INT) USING DELTA;`

Question 7

Objective: Fix a query to achieve the desired results.

A data analyst needs to determine the number of customers in each region. The following query was written:

```
SELECT region, count(*) AS number_of_customers
FROM customers
ORDER BY region;
```

The query did NOT meet the analyst's requirements.

What is the reason?

- A. The query is missing a `GROUP BY region` clause.
- B. The query is using `ORDER BY`, which is not allowed in an aggregation.
- C. The query is missing a `HAVING` clause.
- D. The region column is selected, but it should only appear in the `ORDER BY` clause.

Question 8

Objective: Work with parameters in SQL queries and dashboards, including defining, configuring, and testing parameters.

A dashboard displays a bar chart. This bar chart is linked to a Date widget parameter. What is the role of the Date widget parameter in this context?

- A. It defines the start and end dates for the x-axis range of the bar chart.
- B. It acts as a global filter, so all dashboard visualizations use the same date range.
- C. Its start and end dates are used in a `WHERE` clause of the query that populates the bar chart with data.
- D. It is a static text display showing the current date range, but does not affect the visualizations.

Question 9

Objective: Understand catalogs, schemas, managed and external tables, access controls, views, certified tables, and lineage within the Catalog Explorer interface.

A database administrator executes the given query on a 12 GB table in their data warehouse:

```
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS customer_orders;
```

After 10 days, running the `SHOW TABLES` command no longer displays the table. However, the underlying data files in the storage layer remain unchanged in the file system.

What explains this behavior?

- A. The table was configured as a managed table with automatic cleanup disabled
- B. The table was defined as an external table referencing data in a separate storage location
- C. The table exceeded the 10 GB threshold for automatic data file deletion
- D. The table was created without specifying a default storage location

Question 10

Objective: Utilize Query History and caching to reduce development time and query latency.

Which two are features of the Query History in Databricks?

- A. Query history only tracks SQL queries executed through notebooks, not through SQL warehouses
- B. It is possible to filter query history by user, date range, compute resources, and query status to locate specific patterns
- C. Query history automatically deletes all records after 24 hours to save storage space
- D. The query history interface provides detailed execution metrics, including query duration and I/O performance
- E. Query history is only available for premium Databricks workspaces with enterprise licensing

Answer Key & Explanations

[Author: every sample question must have an entry here with the correct letter, a short explanation of WHY it is correct (and, where helpful, why the common distractor is wrong), Candidates repeatedly asked for explanations, not just the letter.]

#	Ans wer	Explanation
1	B	The notebook data-profile/preview automatically generates summary statistics for numeric, string, and date columns along with value-distribution histograms for each column. The other options describe only partial or unavailable outputs.
2	C	The Genie Code (Databricks Assistant) /explain command gives a step-by-step explanation of a query and flags potential issues. /help lists commands, /generate writes new SQL, and /optimize tunes performance.
3	D	Streaming Tables suit continuously arriving (real-time sensor) data, while Materialized Views suit frequent, complex queries on relatively static data for BI dashboards. The other pairings reverse or misapply the two.
4	B	A VACUUM operation removed the data and log files that version depended on (default retention is short), so time travel to 30 days ago fails. Schema changes, permissions, and renames do not cause this error.
5	A	A Databricks SQL Alert runs the query computing the 15-minute average, triggers when the threshold is exceeded, and sends instant notifications to chosen destinations. Manual dashboards, job log review, or cluster config do not meet the immediate-notification need.
6	B	CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE creates the table empty and, if it already exists, replaces it while retaining privileges and history. The IF NOT EXISTS variant won't replace, and DROP + CREATE loses privileges/history.
7	A	Selecting region alongside count(*) requires a GROUP BY region clause; without it the aggregation is invalid/does not group per region. ORDER BY is allowed and a HAVING clause is not required.
8	C	The Date widget parameter's start and end values are substituted into the query's WHERE clause that populates the bar chart. It is not merely an axis range, a global filter by default, or static text.
9	B	For an external table, DROP TABLE removes only the metadata

		reference; the underlying data files in the separate storage location remain untouched. A managed table's files would have been deleted.
10	B, D	Query History lets you filter by user, date range, compute, and status (B) and shows detailed execution metrics such as duration and I/O performance (D). It is not notebook-only, does not auto-delete after 24 hours, and is not limited to enterprise licensing.