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Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.5-Python

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Apache-Spark-3.5

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Topic Break Down

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QUESTION NO: 1

A DataFrame contains a column named `tags` with type `array<string>`. The engineer needs one output row for every tag while retaining the other columns from the original row. Rows where `tags` is an empty array should not produce an output row.

Which transformation should the engineer use?

- A. `df.withColumn("tag", explode("tags"))`
- B. `df.withColumn("tag", array_distinct("tags"))`
- C. `df.withColumn("tag", split("tags", ","))`
- D. `df.select("*", posexplode("tags"))`

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

`explode("tags")` creates a separate row for each array element and places the element in the specified output column. An empty array produces no rows, which matches the requirement.

`array_distinct()` removes repeated values but leaves the data as an array in one row. `split()` converts a string into an array and is not appropriate for an existing array column. `posexplode()` also expands the array but returns both an element position and an element, adding an unnecessary column.

QUESTION NO: 2

Which command overwrites an existing JSON file when writing a DataFrame?

- A. `df.write.mode("overwrite").json("path/to/file")`
- B. `df.write.overwrite.json("path/to/file")`
- C. `df.write.json("path/to/file", overwrite=True)`
- D. `df.write.format("json").save("path/to/file", mode="overwrite")`

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

`df.write.mode("overwrite").json("path/to/file")` is the standard PySpark `DataFrameWriter` command for writing a DataFrame as JSON while replacing data already present at the target path. The `write` property returns a `DataFrameWriter`, and `mode("overwrite")` sets the save mode before the output operation is invoked. The subsequent `json("path/to/file")` call selects JSON as the output data source and writes to the supplied location. In overwrite mode, Spark replaces the existing output at that path rather than raising an error because the destination already exists. This syntax is concise and directly communicates both required choices: the write behavior and the JSON output format. Spark writes JSON output as a directory containing one or more part files, rather than necessarily as one standalone file, so the supplied path should be understood as the output location. The PySpark API documents `DataFrameWriter.mode` and its supported `overwrite` mode at [the PySpark DataFrameWriter.mode reference](#). JSON-specific writing behavior is documented at [the PySpark DataFrameWriter.json reference](#).