

**SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
College of Business Administration

MIS 118 – 4GL Applications

Final Exam Essay Questions

Two of the following essay questions will appear on your final exam. The questions have been written for you to reflect upon our discussions and readings in hopes you might see *the big picture*, and become a more knowledgeable person. Please form your answers in the context of the class lectures, discussions and assignments, and limit each response to one page.

**Note.** Pontificating will be a detriment to your grade.

1. To link the drill-down reports, parameters must be passed between report modules. Identify these parameters (in general), explain their significance and purpose, and discuss how they are incorporated into the data model. In Report Builder, what mechanisms (i.e., specific means) support this? How is this similar to linking a graph to a form module with a list item (via a chart item)?
2. Discuss three features and/or components of Developer you would use to increase the flexibility your assignment (P6) to more closely fit the profile of an EIS. If your familiarity with PL/SQL programming or object-relational database posed no barrier, what conceptual (as opposed to mechanical) changes in your physical design would you recommend and why?
3. Discuss how different types of information can be conveyed using different types of graphs produced from the same data set, such as the cdsales\_00\_05 table. Explain why this is important and you as the developer must be aware of this.
4. Discuss the importance of color, symbols (shapes) and brightness in their ability to convey information to the end-user. In the context of EIS, identify and explain at least two applications that would be most concerned with these factors. How would you incorporate them into your P2-P6 assignments?

**Rule of Thumb:** At the most, a textbook answer is considered only an average answer (i.e., 34 out of 45 points or 75 percent of 45). Remember, the exam's emphasis is on conceptual understanding and not rote memory. Thus, bullet points and lists are not deemed appropriate for responses. Your responses should reflect integrative thought expressed in written English.

Other points to be aware of:

- Greater points are awarded when integrative thought is evident in your answers. Points will be reduced for false or unsubstantiated statements.



- Points cannot be awarded to answers that are illegible. Please take the time to write legibly with a good writing utensil (i.e., pencil, pen, etc.).
- Although studying together is encouraged, your answers should reflect your understanding of the subject matter. Identically or near identically worded or phrased answers appearing on two or more exams will be graded at the most as textbook answers, regardless of their quality. This also applies to the examples you cite.
- A *shotgunned* answer (i.e., an answer that does not directly address the question and attempts to incorporate irrelevant material into it) will be a detriment to your grade.
- Any portion of your answer written beyond the one-page limit will not be graded. Therefore, organize your thoughts and be concise.
- Bullet points and lists are not deemed appropriate responses. Your responses should reflect integrative thought expressed in written English.

**Please Note.** As I have told students during past semesters, I can help you with the interpretation of a question, but I **cannot** tell you whether any pre-written answer is correct or incorrect. Doing so would provide you with an unfair advantage over others. Prepare your answers as you would for any other class exam. (The difference is that you know the questions in advance.)

***Exam Date: Wednesday, May 17, 5:15***

