

Exam DA-100: Analyzing Data with Microsoft Power BI – Skills Measured

This exam was updated on March 23, 2021. Following the current exam guide, we have included a version of the exam guide with Track Changes set to “On,” showing the changes that were made to the exam on that date.

Audience Profile

Data Analysts enable businesses to maximize the value of their data assets by using Power BI. As a subject matter expert, data analysts are responsible for designing and building scalable data models, cleaning and transforming data, and enabling advanced analytic capabilities that provide meaningful business value through easy-to-comprehend data visualizations. Data analysts also collaborate with key stakeholders across verticals to deliver relevant insights based on identified business requirements.

The Data Analyst should have a fundamental understanding of data repositories and data processing both on-premises and in the cloud.

Skills Measured

NOTE: The bullets that appear below each of the skills measured are intended to illustrate how we are assessing that skill. This list is not definitive or exhaustive.

NOTE: Most questions cover features that are General Availability (GA). The exam may contain questions on Preview features if those features are commonly used.

Prepare the Data (20-25%)

Get data from different data sources

- identify and connect to a data source
- change data source settings
- select a shared dataset or create a local dataset
- select a storage mode
- choose an appropriate query type
- identify query performance issues
- use Microsoft Dataverse
- use parameters
- use or create a PBIDS file
- use or create a data flow
- connect to a dataset using the XMLA endpoint

Profile the data

- identify data anomalies
- examine data structures
- interrogate column properties
- interrogate data statistics

Clean, transform, and load the data

- resolve inconsistencies, unexpected or null values, and data quality issues
- apply user-friendly value replacements
- identify and create appropriate keys for joins
- evaluate and transform column data types
- apply data shape transformations to table structures
- combine queries
- apply user-friendly naming conventions to columns and queries
- leverage Advanced Editor to modify Power Query M code
- configure data loading
- resolve data import errors

Model the Data (25-30%)

Design a data model

- define the tables
- configure table and column properties
- define quick measures
- flatten out a parent-child hierarchy
- define role-playing dimensions
- define a relationship's cardinality and cross-filter direction
- design the data model to meet performance requirements
- resolve many-to-many relationships
- create a common date table
- define the appropriate level of data granularity

Develop a data model

- apply cross-filter direction and security filtering
- create calculated tables
- create hierarchies
- create calculated columns
- implement row-level security roles
- set up the Q&A feature

Create measures by using DAX

- use DAX to build complex measures
- use CALCULATE to manipulate filters
- implement Time Intelligence using DAX
- replace numeric columns with measures
- use basic statistical functions to enhance data
- create semi-additive measures

Optimize model performance

- remove unnecessary rows and columns
- identify poorly performing measures, relationships, and visuals
- improve cardinality levels by changing data types
- improve cardinality levels through summarization
- create and manage aggregations

Visualize the Data (20-25%)

Create reports

- add visualization items to reports
- choose an appropriate visualization type
- format and configure visualizations
- import a custom visual
- configure conditional formatting
- apply slicing and filtering
- add an R or Python visual
- configure the report page
- design and configure for accessibility
- configure automatic page refresh
- create a paginated report

Create dashboards

- set mobile view
- manage tiles on a dashboard
- configure data alerts
- use the Q&A feature
- add a dashboard theme
- pin a live report page to a dashboard

Enrich reports for usability

- configure bookmarks
- create custom tooltips
- edit and configure interactions between visuals
- configure navigation for a report
- apply sorting
- configure Sync Slicers
- use the selection pane
- use drillthrough and cross filter
- drilldown into data using interactive visuals
- export report data
- design reports for mobile devices

Analyze the Data (10-15%)

Enhance reports to expose insights

- apply conditional formatting
- apply slicers and filters
- perform top N analysis
- explore statistical summary
- use the Q&A visual
- add a Quick Insights result to a report
- create reference lines by using Analytics pane
- use the Play Axis feature of a visualization
- personalize visuals

Perform advanced analysis

- identify outliers
- conduct Time Series analysis
- use groupings and binnings
- use the Key Influencers to explore dimensional variances
- use the decomposition tree visual to break down a measure
- apply AI Insights

Deploy and Maintain Deliverables (10-15%)

Manage datasets

- configure a dataset scheduled refresh
- configure row-level security group membership
- providing access to datasets
- configure incremental refresh settings
- promote or certify Power BI datasets

- identify downstream dataset dependencies
- configure large dataset format

Create and manage workspaces

- create and configure a workspace
- recommend a development lifecycle strategy
- assign workspace roles
- configure and update a workspace app
- publish, import, or update assets in a workspace
- apply sensitivity labels to workspace content
- use deployment pipelines
- configure subscriptions
- promote or certify Power BI content

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- ~~configure data classification~~

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