Final Self-Reflection

I want to start by telling you how I prepared for the final. I attended your video review on Monday morning. Since my other group members could not watch the review, I then took the time to re-watch the video, write each of your questions from the prior semester Final Exam, and then looked each of these questions up so that we would have that as part of our "cheat sheet" for the final. I also went through the notes and PowerPoints to better prepare for the final. I made notes of the content as a guide for it to be easier to find information as we needed it (like an index, I guess). I felt like I had prepared as much as possible. Even though my score is not very high, after going through this reflection, I knew a lot of the material. Several questions had multiple parts. I got several of those parts correct. I feel like that does show that I was trying on this test.
I didn't sign up for an online experience in this class (nor did any of my classmates). The past few weeks have been extremely difficult for me. I listen to lectures, read and watch videos, complete the assignments, and try my very best. But none of this helps me, nothing replaces the classroom teacher for me. It's easy for others to sit back and look at people like me and say, well they just are not trying, When in reality, I have probably spent more hours studying and working these last few weeks than I have all semester because I know I have to, online classes do not work for me! I come from an academic family. Several of my relatives are educators, some college professors. They have instilled in me to always take advantage of any opportunity given. That is why I completed this assignment on Friday night. Anyway, I just wanted you to know all of this. Here is my self-reflection on the questions.

- The first question we missed was the one where you used my name (imagine that!). I noticed that the database structure in a DBMS is stored as a collection of files which are relational in nature to each other. We marked RDBMS, key/value pairs, relational. After listening to your review of the final I realize that key/value pairs are not relational.
- The two scenario problem was the next one missed. Reports are sent out at set intervals. Since the professors are asked to determine who has been absent that week that makes the first scenario a report! Also, since they are asked to determine who has missed two or more days, that is a derived attribute. By knowing this information, we should have been able to narrow the selection. Then knowing that ad-hoc query is basically a query as the need arises, the student query would be ad-hoc. The key is knowing reports=set interval and ad-hoc = kinda at any moment. And also understanding that derived attributes is a calculated attribute (2 or more classes).
- Which of the following is true? The functions on the two tables …. We confused that unmatched values on the right hand side of the new table is a left hand outer join. BUT we got part of this question correct!
- Consider the two SELECT statements below. I can not believe we messed up here. To be honest I don't know how we missed this. We discussed the meaning of each word (unary-relationship with self; binary- relationship with each other; tertiary- anything with more that two relationships). We got the second SELECT statement correct - unary. The only explanation I have for why we missed the first was instead of seeing Orders and Customers, we saw Orders, Customers, and Orders… Thinking those were three things instead of only two. Again, we got part of this question correct.

- The Daniel and Sam problem, we did exactly what you explained in your answer review. We chose supertypes for the final blank. I guess it's kinda like the questions that the last choice is "All of the Above"…. We got most of this one right, just missed the tricky part.
- The "messy spreadsheet" question -we should have looked more closely at the definition of first normal form. We chose first normal. By definition, it can not be first normal. A first normal has only one entity. This spreadsheet has more than one entity.
- On the Delta.com problem, a composite primary key applies to multiple attributes, while a surrogate primary key only applies to one. For each type of check-in on the Dleta.com site, each required at least 2 attributes. making this a composite key, not a surrogate. For example, a credit card required a number, last name, and airport.
- When James keeps getting a strange error message, I think we just read the problem wrong. Because it wasn't allowing him to read from his local machine, we thought it was a resource allocation issue, instead of a security issue. I went back tonight and watched the video again. This error message actually indicates a security issue which sets the local infile to true.
- On the Oracle Pre-Test, we actually worked through this one during the final. I am not sure what we did wrong. Maybe it was an oversight in not seeing a symbol, not sure.
- There are 3 primary types of data structures. When I looked at my notes, I had written there are 2 primary types of data structures. Since that was the only choice with 2 as the first blank, we chose that one. I now understand that there are 3 and structured data is most used in traditional DBMS and to some extent semistructured could be used as well if it is properly prepared.
- A user could cause update, deletion, insertion anomalies. Particularly, adding a new agent will create null values and this can be resolved by adding flags or creating a new entity. We used blank instead of null values. Null values are the absences of a value. We misinterpreted that as the same thing as a blank value. Again, we did get part of this problem correct.
- On the first bonus, we incorrectly used ALTER COLUMN instead of ALTER TABLE. We really didn't realize there was no such thing. Each of us thought we had used it before. All the rest of the code is the exact same.We answered this question almost perfectly. We now know that ALTER TABLE is used to add, delete, or modify columns in an existing table.
- Bonus on Quiz 4. So I learned tonight why my script was so long. I should have followed your directions here on the correct use of the "insert" statement. I have looked back at my Quiz 4 SQL script and saw that I did use insert incorrectly, creating a less efficient script. It makes perfect sense.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to earn a point on my grade. As you can see from my explanations here, we simply needed to be careful in our reading and thought process. I assure you, we were not randomly choosing answers. While we are not experts on databases, I think if you look at our answers instead of just the score on the test, you can see that we learned a lot this semester.