

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Oracle AI Vector Search Professional 2026

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EDITION	Free Set 1
QUESTIONS	10
SHARED	October 15, 2026
EXAM	Oracle AI Vector Search Professional 2026

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10 practice questions for the Oracle AI Vector Search Professional 2026 exam, each followed by its answer and a short explanation. More free sets and the full practice exam:

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1. Why are vectors normalized to unit length before some similarity comparisons?
 - A So that each vector uses fewer bytes of storage on the disk of the database server
 - B So that the comparison depends on direction rather than on the magnitude of each vector
 - C So that the database can skip the vector index entirely for every query it runs
 - D So that every vector gets the same number of dimensions as the table it is stored in

Answer: B

Unit-length vectors make the dot product and cosine similarity agree, so the comparison reflects direction only. Storage savings are tempting, but normalization does not reduce the byte size of a vector. Skipping the index and equalizing dimensions are unrelated results.

2. The number of values in an embedding vector is called its _____.

Answer: dimension (also accepted: dimensionality)

The dimension of a vector is the count of its numeric components, and it must match the size declared for the column that stores it. Accept singular, plural, or dimensionality. Precision and scale describe number formats rather than vector length.

3. Which declaration creates a column for 768-dimensional FLOAT32 embeddings in Oracle Database 23ai?
 - A embedding FLOAT(768) ARRAY
 - B embedding JSON(768)
 - C embedding VECTOR(768, FLOAT32)
 - D embedding BLOB(FLOAT32, 768)

Answer: C

The VECTOR type takes a dimension count and a format, so VECTOR(768, FLOAT32) declares the column correctly. The FLOAT array form is a tempting generic way to hold numbers, but it is not the vector declaration. JSON and BLOB declarations do not define a vector column.

4. Oracle Database 23ai lets you store vector columns in the same table as your relational business columns.

- A True
- B False

Answer: A (True)

Vectors and relational columns can share a table, so one query can filter on business attributes and rank by similarity. The statement is true. The tempting mistake is assuming that vectors need a separate database.

5. Which two statements about approximate vector search are accurate? (Choose two.)

- A It can return different neighbors than an exact scan, depending on the index and the accuracy target
- B It always returns identical results to an exact scan, so accuracy never needs to be checked
- C It is the same thing as full-text keyword search with stemming applied to the words
- D It is useful when the table is large enough that exact scans become too slow to use
- E It removes the need for embeddings because it searches the raw text directly in SQL

Answer: A, D

Approximate search trades exact correctness for speed, so its results can differ and must be measured. It matters most on large tables where exact scanning is slow. The claims of identical results, keyword equivalence, and raw-text search are wrong.

6. Which statement about distance metrics is correct for normalized vectors?

- A Normalized vectors cannot be compared with any distance metric at all
- B Euclidean distance is always zero between any two normalized vectors in the table
- C Normalizing a vector removes its direction from the comparison entirely
- D Cosine and dot product rankings agree when every vector has unit length

Answer: D

With unit-length vectors, cosine similarity equals the dot product, so the two rankings coincide. The claim that normalized vectors cannot be compared is a tempting misconception. Euclidean distance is not always zero, and normalization keeps direction while removing magnitude.

7. A developer compares vectors with DOT. Which property must hold for DOT to rank results the same way cosine similarity does?
- A The stored vectors and the query vector must be normalized to unit length
 - B Every vector must have exactly one dimension so that the comparison is simple
 - C The table must be partitioned by date so that the rows can be compared in order
 - D The query must return fewer than ten rows to keep the ranking consistent

Answer: A

The dot product equals cosine similarity only when the vectors have unit length, so normalization makes the rankings match. A one-dimension rule would make the data meaningless, which makes it a tempting but absurd requirement. Partitioning and row limits do not change the metric's math.

8. HNSW is short for hierarchical navigable small _____, a graph structure used for fast approximate neighbor search.

Answer: world

HNSW stands for hierarchical navigable small world, which describes the layered graph used for approximate neighbor search. Accept world or worlds. The name refers to the graph layout rather than to a storage format.

9. Which control prevents a RAG system from answering with content that the user is not allowed to see?
- A Raising the chunk overlap so that the source text is hidden inside neighboring chunks
 - B Lowering the similarity threshold so that the system shows more content to every user
 - C Renaming the vector column every week so that outside users cannot guess its name
 - D Applying row-level access rules so that the retrieval step returns only rows the user may read

Answer: D

Access rules applied in the database filter retrieval, so restricted passages never reach the model. Chunk overlap changes how text is split, not who can see it, which makes it a tempting but weak fix. Lowering thresholds exposes more content, and renaming a column secures nothing.

10. A RAG bot answers from an outdated price list. Which step most directly fixes the cause?
- A Re-embedding and reloading the changed price rows so that the vectors reflect the current data
 - B Increasing the number of retrieved passages from 5 to 200 for every question asked
 - C Asking the model to answer more confidently in the system message of each request
 - D Adding a longer system message that repeats the old prices so the model memorizes them

Answer: A

The search index holds stale vectors, so updating and re-embedding the changed rows corrects the source of the answer. Retrieving more passages only surfaces more stale data, which is a tempting but wrong fix. Confidence settings and system messages do not change the stored prices.