

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SAS

A00-406

Machine Learning Using SAS Viya

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EDITION Free Set 1

QUESTIONS 10

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EXAM SAS A00-406, Machine Learning Using SAS Viya

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10 practice questions for the SAS A00-406 exam, Machine Learning Using SAS Viya, each followed by its answer and a short explanation. More free sets and the full practice exam: www.aiexamcerts.com/sas/a00-406. Spotted a mistake? Email support@aiexamcerts.com with the exam code A00-406 and the question number.

1. Which statement creates a caslib that points to a data source on the CAS server so that tables can be loaded into memory?
 - A LIBNAME with a SAS 9 engine only
 - B CASLIB
 - C FILENAME
 - D OPTIONS NOSOURCE

Answer: B

The CASLIB statement defines a caslib, which is the CAS equivalent of a library, and it can point to a path or data source that the server can read. A LIBNAME statement with a traditional engine opens a session-local library and is the tempting mix-up, since it does not place tables in CAS memory. FILENAME refers to external files, and OPTIONS NOSOURCE only suppresses log output.

2. When a large training table is split into partitions, using a _____ variable keeps the class proportions the same in each partition.

Answer: stratification (also accepted: stratified, strata)

A stratification variable forces each partition to contain the same proportion of each class, which protects rare outcomes from being lost in validation data. A random seed fixes the split so it can be reproduced, which is the tempting alternative. An ID variable identifies rows and does not balance classes.

3. Which step should come first when an analyst receives a new table for a supervised model in SAS Viya?
 - A Train the final model and publish it to production
 - B Delete every row that contains any missing value
 - C Profile the columns for missing values, ranges, duplicates and suspicious codes
 - D Choose the decision threshold for the business

Answer: C

Profiling reveals missing values, out-of-range entries, duplicate rows and placeholder codes such as 999, which determine every later decision. Training before profiling can hide problems that inflate or deflate results. Deleting all rows with missing values can bias the sample, and choosing a threshold comes after modeling.

4. A histogram with a long right tail suggests that a square transform of a positive predictor is the usual first fix for the skew.

- A True
- B False

Answer: B (False)

A long right tail means a few large values dominate, and a log transform compresses them, which is the usual first fix for positive skewed predictors. A square transform stretches the upper tail and makes the skew worse, which is the tempting mistake. The statement is false.

5. Which two statements about random forests are correct? (Choose two.)

- A Each tree is grown on a bootstrap sample of the training rows
- B Predictions are combined by averaging or voting across the trees
- C Each tree must be pruned to a single split
- D The trees are built one after another and each fixes the last
- E Random forests cannot handle categorical predictors

Answer: A, B

Random forests grow each tree on a bootstrap sample, and their predictions are combined by averaging for regression or voting for classification. Trees are built independently rather than sequentially, which is the boosting idea and makes the sequential-building claim wrong. Forests can handle categorical predictors, and trees need not be reduced to a single split.

6. Which SAS Viya procedure fits a logistic regression model with variable selection on a binary target?

- A PROC NNET
- B PROC SVMACHINE
- C PROC LOGSELECT
- D PROC HPCLUS

Answer: C

PROC LOGSELECT fits logistic regression models for binary targets with effect selection methods, which makes it the logistic counterpart of the linear selection procedure. PROC NNET fits neural networks, which is a tempting but different family. PROC SVMACHINE fits support vector machines and PROC HPCLUS performs clustering.

7. Which model is most appropriate when the target is a count of events that cannot be negative and whose variance grows with its mean?
- A Linear regression with constant variance only
 - B Principal component analysis
 - C Hierarchical clustering
 - D Poisson regression

Answer: D

Poisson regression models counts with a log link and a variance that equals the mean, which suits counts whose spread grows with the level. Ordinary linear regression assumes constant variance, which makes it the tempting default for counts. Principal component analysis and clustering do not model a count target.

8. In a decision tree, the measure of how mixed the classes are within a node, used to choose splits, is called _____.

Answer: impurity (also accepted: Gini impurity, entropy)

Node impurity, measured for example by the Gini index or entropy, is lowered by each split, and the split that lowers it most is chosen. The information value is a feature screening measure rather than a node measure, which makes it a tempting alternative. Leaf depth describes the tree's shape rather than its purity.

9. What is the role of the kernel function in a support vector machine?

- A It stores the trained model in a caslib so that it can be scored later on any server
- B It maps the inputs into a space where a linear boundary can separate the classes
- C It sorts the training rows by the target
- D It removes the outliers from the target

Answer: B

A kernel computes similarities as if the inputs were mapped into a higher-dimensional space, which lets a linear boundary there represent a nonlinear one in the original inputs. Storage is handled by model files, which makes the caslib-storage option a confusion. Sorting the rows and removing outliers are preparation steps, not the kernel's job.

10. A neural network trained for many epochs shows falling training loss and rising validation loss. What is the most appropriate response?
- A Continue training until the training loss reaches zero
 - B Remove the validation partition so the trend disappears
 - C Stop training early or add regularization, using the validation loss to decide
 - D Increase the learning rate to finish training faster

Answer: C

Rising validation loss while training loss falls is the signature of overfitting, so early stopping or regularization, guided by validation loss, is the sound response. Training until training loss reaches zero deepens the overfit, which is the tempting mistake. Removing validation hides the problem, and a higher learning rate does not address it.