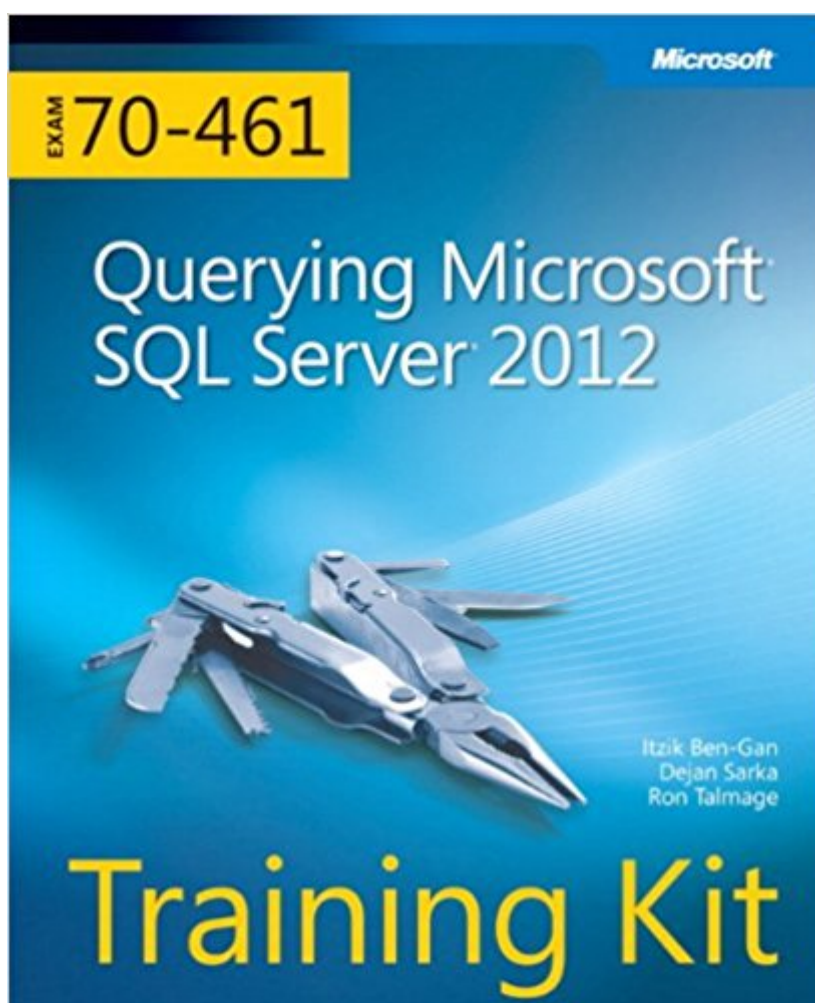




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# Training Kit (Exam 70-461) Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012 (MCSA) (Microsoft Press Training Kit)



## Synopsis

Ace your preparation for Microsoft Certification Exam 70-461 with this 2-in-1 Training Kit from Microsoft Press. Work at your own pace through a series of lessons and practical exercises, and then assess your skills with practice tests on CD featuring multiple, customizable testing options. Maximize your performance on the exam by learning how to: Create database objects Work with data Modify data Troubleshoot and optimize queries For customers who purchase an ebook version of this title, instructions for downloading the CD files can be found in the ebook.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dejan Sarka is a mentor with SolidQ and focuses on development of database and business intelligence applications. He is a frequent speaker at international conferences such as TechEd, SqlDevCon, and PASS. He is the founder of the Slovenian SQL Server and .NET Users Group. As main author or coauthor, Dejan has written nine books about SQL Server. He has also developed three courses for SolidQ: Data Modeling Essentials, Data Quality and Master Data Management, and Data Mining.

I just passed the exam with a score of 831 on my first try at 62 years of age. This book was my primary study guide, but I vacillated between giving 3 or 4 stars. Here's how I arrived at four: The book itself would have been a solid five except for numerous editing errors, which I find somewhat

inexcusable especially when you take the quiz at the end of a chapter only to find that the book had some wrong answers. I'm glad I had a later edition so I didn't have to put up with scrambled chapters. I've written books myself so I am at a loss as to how so many errors could have slipped by. I'll blame it on the editors (or lack thereof) - just make sure you print out the errata page from the O'Reilly site as a reference. So for bad editing, I subtract .5 stars. And then there's the practice exam... This has got to be the worst practice exam out there for this test. The questions bear little resemblance to the real thing in either format or difficulty. If you barely pass this exam YOU WILL NOT PASS THE REAL THING. I was getting about 95% on the MeasureUp exam and then bought the Transcender exam after reading some of the reviews here. My 95% was worth 60% (FAIL) on the Transcender exam, which is much closer to the real exam in difficulty. I am not trying to sell you on Transcender as I feel it was over-priced considering that it too has accuracy issues. Bottom line, I was ready to deduct two stars for the worthless exam (which another reviewer did) but decided to view it as a flawed bonus, like those coupons that print on your grocery receipt for items you just bought. So another .5 deduction - four stars seems about right. I would prefer that they didn't include the test as it could raise one's confidence unjustifiably. Buy this training kit for the well-written, well organized, occasionally-flawed text and use it as a guide as you also include other sources from other books or the web, especially the MSDN site. Regard the worthless test as practice but beware of wrong answers. And, of course, good luck on your exam.

I thought that this book was good at introducing topics and providing background understanding of the various topics. It is a good companion to using internet sources such as MSDN, which provides more concise information about topics. I would have rated this as 4 stars, however the coupon code in the back of the book that was listed to expire in December 2014 actually expired in August so I wasn't able to claim it for my exam. I took the exam through Prometric and they said I would have to contact the vendor/maker of the book to get credit for the voucher code. As far as the exam is concerned I agree with other reviewers that the test questions and case scenarios in this book have absolutely no similarity to the real test questions. But, on the other hand, the questions in this book are more relevant to the real world so this would be something I would use as a reference even once I am done with these exams. I passed the exam on the first attempt, but I wouldn't suggest using this book as your sole preparation; in fact I think if you use only this book it will take you 3x longer to be prepared. I would suggest using this book for detailed information about a topic when you need to understand something more deeply, and rely on other sources (practice exams, training, etc) for your exam prep. I will also add that this book isn't intended to be for someone who

has never worked with SQL or SQL Server in their life. It actually states at the beginning of each chapter that a prerequisite is that you have existing knowledge and experience with both SQL and SQL Server. If you are looking for a comprehensive "couch to 5K" type book this isn't it, but I don't regret my purchase.

Step by step; Essential terminology: clarified discussion on foundation protocol for T-SQL This has been very useful, along with MS certification training course at Udemy.com CD was included. Item Brand new condition. 17 Chapters including ; SELECT: ..Grouping, Querying ,...Creating Tables, .. Enforcing Data & Indexes.

Note: Pearson VUE did not honor the voucher discount . as you can see via back cover image, there is a 15% discount coupon in the book, it is a scratch card at the end of it. I tried to use it but didn't go through, I contacted Pearson and this was the response " Unfortunately, the promotion code ..... is not valid for testing with Pearson VUE. Please contact the party you obtain the promotion code from for further assistance. ". I wanted to take the exam and I didn't know who I should contact so I skipped the discount and paid the full price)\But the book content was very helpful. It is not a beginners book, if you already good at a subject you can easily just use this to review it, but if you find something unfamiliar then you need to find other resources to study that specific subject, generally the book gives you a path to study for the exam and it also is good to review and improve your skills.The book has a CD which has the e-book version which is very useful if you like to read it on a tablet and also there are some sets of questions but I did not find them useful (for me), too easy and very different than the real exam.I have rated the book 5star only based on its content I believe it is what is says Training Kit for 70-461. but I got very disappointment by publisher 1- because of the invalid coupon 2- low binding quality

So I should preface with stating that I did pass the 70-461 exam, however I feel that my other study material really did more to prepare me for the exam than this did. It's a solid foundation to get you on the path, but I highly recommend that you follow it up with further reading or even training videos like Pluralsight or CBT Nuggets. The included practice exam is worthless, it doesn't even scratch the surface of what's covered on the exam so I'd recommend that if you want practice tests you get the full practice tests from another source (MeasureUp is what I went with).Good luck on your exam!

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