Exercise 1

Write the following queries in SQL on the known university schema:

(a) How many students are there?
   
   ```sql
   select count(*) from Students;
   ```

(b) Find all students that are in the third semester.
   
   ```sql
   select * from students where semester = 3;
   ```

(c) Figure out if there is a lecture with more than five weeklyhours.
   
   ```sql
   select * from lectures where weeklyhours > 5;
   
   → No.
   ```

(d) Print out a list with all professor names and avoid duplicates.
   
   ```sql
   select distinct name from professors;
   ```

(e) Find students whose name start and end with the letter 'a'.
   
   ```sql
   select * from students where name like 'A%' and name like '%a';
   ```

Exercise 2

Answer the following questions on our university database using SQL:

(a) List the name and person number of the Assistants of Professor Sokrates.

(b) Which Professors does Fichte know from attending their Lectures.

(c) Which Lectures are attended by Students in the 1.-4. semester? Print only the title of the lectures.

(d) Find all Students that attend at least one Lecture together with Fichte.
Solution:

(a) List the name and person number of the Assistants of Professor Sokrates.

```sql
select a.persNr, a.name
from Professors p, Assistants a
where p.name = 'Sokrates'
and p.persNr = a.boss;
```

(b) Which Professors does Fichte know from attending their Lectures.

```sql
select distinct p.persNr, p.name
from Professors p, attend a, Lectures l, Students s
where p.PersNr = l.given_by
and l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr
and a.studNr = s.studNr
and s.name = 'Fichte';
```

(c) Which Lectures are attended by Students in the 1.-4. semester? Print only the title of the lectures.

```sql
select distinct l.title
from Lectures l, attend a, Students s
where l.lectureNr = a.lectureNr
and a.studNr = s.studnr
and s.semester between 1 and 4;
```

(d) Find all Students that attend at least one Lecture together with Fichte.

```sql
select distinct other_s.studNr, other_s.name
from Students fichte_s, attend fichte_a, attend other_a, Students other_s
where fichte_s.name = 'Fichte'
and fichte_a.studNr = fichte_s.studNr
and other_a.lectureNr = fichte_a.lectureNr
and other_s.studNr = other_a.studNr
and other_s.studNr != fichte_s.studnr
```

Exercise 3

Answer the following questions on our university database using SQL:

a) Figure out the average semester of all students.

b) What is the average semester of students that are not attending any lecture?

c) Determine the average semester of students that attend at least one lecture of Sokrates.

d) Calculate how many lectures students are attending on average. Students who do not attend any lecture should be reflected in the result as well. If you get stuck, see hints: 1 2

e) Calculate how many lectures each student is attending. Students who do not attend any lecture should be included in the result as well (attend_count = 0).

1Remember that the from clause is optional (‘select 1.0 / 2.0;' is a valid query).

2Remember that you can use sub-queries in the select clause.
Solution:

a) Figure out the average semester of all students.

\[ \text{select avg(semester) from students;} \]

b) What is the average semester of students that are not attending any lecture?

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{select avg(semester)} \\
\text{from students s} \\
\text{where not exists (} \\
\text{select *} \\
\text{from attend a} \\
\text{where s.studnr = a.studnr)}
\end{align*}
\]

Or:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{select avg(semester)} \\
\text{from students s} \\
\text{where s.studnr not in (} \\
\text{select a.studnr} \\
\text{from attend a)}
\end{align*}
\]

c) Determine the average semester of students that attend at least one lecture of Sokrates.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{select avg(semester)} \\
\text{from students s} \\
\text{where exists (} \\
\text{select *} \\
\text{from attend a, lectures l, professors p} \\
\text{where s.studnr = a.studnr} \\
\text{and a.lecturenr = l.lecturenr} \\
\text{and l.given_by = p.persnr} \\
\text{and p.name = 'Sokrates')}\end{align*}
\]

In this query we need to make sure that each student is only counted once, even if she is attending two lectures by Sokrates. In our solution, the use of exists takes care of this. However, we could have also used distinct in combination with a sub-query:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{select avg(semester)} \\
\text{from (select distinct s.*)} \\
\text{from Students s, attend a, lectures l, professors p} \\
\text{where s.studnr = a.studnr} \\
\text{and a.lecturenr = l.lecturenr} \\
\text{and l.given_by = p.persnr} \\
\text{and p.name = 'Sokrates')}\end{align*}
\]
d) Calculate how many lectures students are attending on average. Students who do not attend any lecture should be reflected in the result as well.

\[
\text{select} \ \frac{\text{attend\_count}}{\text{student\_count}\times1.000}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ (\text{select count}\text{(*) as attend\_count from attend}) \ a,
(\text{select count\text{(*) as student\_count from students}) s}
\]

Or:

\[
\text{select} \ \frac{\text{attend\_count}}{\text{cast(student\_count as numeric(10,4))}}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ (\text{select count\text{(*) as attend\_count from attend}) \ a,
(\text{select count\text{(*) as student\_count from students}) s}
\]

Or:

\[
\text{select} \ \frac{((\text{select count\text{(*) from attend}) \times 1.000})}{(\text{select count\text{(*) from students})}
\]

e) [Bonus] Calculate how many lectures each student is attending. Students who do not attend any lecture should be included in the result as well (\text{attend\_count} = 0).

In this exercise we have to make sure to include students that do not attend any lecture.

\[
\text{select} \ s\text{.studnr}, s\text{.name}, \ (\text{select count\text{(*) from attend a where a. studnr = s.studnr})}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ \text{students s;}
\]

Another possible solution would be to use \text{union}. We first calculate the number of attended lectures for each student that does attend a lecture. Then we create a query that produces the student number, student name and a zero for all students that do not attend a lecture. We then simply combine the two results using the \text{union} operator. Note, however, that it is important to only allow students that do not attend any lecture in the second sub-query. Otherwise, duplicates would be possible.

\[
(\text{select} \ s\text{.studnr}, s\text{.name, count(*)}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ \text{students s, attend a}
\]

\[
\text{where} \ s\text{.studnr = a.studnr}
\]

\[
\text{group by} \ s\text{.studnr, s.name)
\]

\[
\text{union}
\]

\[
(\text{select} \ s\text{.studnr, s.name, 0}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ \text{students s}
\]

\[
\text{where not exists (select * from attend a where a.studnr = s.studnr))}
\]

A similar approach that takes care of duplicates in a different way is shown in the following query. Here we do not avoid duplicates, but filter them out in a second step, instead.

\[
\text{select} \ x\text{.studnr, x.name, sum(x.cnt)}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ ((
(\text{select s2.studnr, s2.name, count(*) as cnt}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ \text{students s2, attend a}
\]

\[
\text{where} \ s2\text{.studnr = a.studnr}
\]

\[
\text{group by} \ s2\text{.studnr, s2.name}
\)

\[
\text{union}
\]

\[
(\text{select s1.studnr, s1.name, 0 as cnt}
\]

\[
\text{from} \ \text{students s1}
\)) \ x
\]

\[
\text{group by} \ x\text{.studnr, x.name}
\]
As should be clear from this exercise, there are many different ways how a query can be written. As a rule of thumb, shorter queries are often better, because these are easier to understand. That holds for everyone involved: you yourself (when proof-reading your queries in the exam), other people (who read your queries and need to understand them) and the database (which has to execute your queries in an efficient manner).