Aruba Certified Switching Associate Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- **Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,**
- **Improve accuracy and speed,**
- **Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and**
- **Approach the exam with greater confidence.**

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here’s how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don’t just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There’s no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

1. **What does Quality of Service (QoS) aim to achieve in networking?**

   A. A set of technologies to improve overall network speed

   B. A set of technologies that manage data traffic to provide predictable performance for critical services

   C. A method for increasing bandwidth availability

   D. A way to prioritize user access for better connectivity

2. **What technology is used to prevent loops in switch networks?**

   A. EtherChannel

   B. Spanning Tree Protocol

   C. VLANs

   D. Link Aggregation

3. **What does the term "Hot Standby Router Protocol" (HSRP) refer to?**

   A. A Cisco redundancy protocol that ensures high availability for routers

   B. A method for load balancing packets across multiple routers

   C. A protocol used for securing router configurations

   D. A technology for converting Ethernet to fiber

4. **How do you configure a port to be part of a VLAN on a switch?**

   A. By using the command "switchport access vlan [VLAN_ID]"

   B. By assigning an IP address to the port

   C. By enabling the spanning tree protocol on the port

   D. By connecting the port to the main router

5. **What function does a layer 3 switch perform in network systems?**

   A. To switch frames based on MAC addresses

   B. To perform routing functions based on IP addresses

   C. To connect different types of networks

   D. To manage bandwidth and traffic

6. What connectivity options does Aruba NetEdit support?

A. It uses SNMPv1 for device management

B. Can discover 3rd-party devices via SNMPv2c

C. They connect to switches using only CLI

D. REST API is not available

7. What happens when the Master in a basic VRRP configuration fails and then comes back online after a period of time?

A. The Standby remains the new Master.

B. The new Master coordinates with MSTP switches.

C. The original Master resumes its Master role.

D. A new election occurs, which the original Master will lose.

8. What does the 'root bridge' refer to in a Spanning Tree Protocol topology?

A. The switch that serves as the backup for all other switches

B. The switch that serves as the central point of the network topology

C. The switch that handles all external network traffic

D. The switch designated for administrative tasks

9. How can redundancy in a switched network be increased?

A. By implementing multiple switch paths and deploying Spanning Tree Protocol to ensure loop-free operation

B. By reducing the number of switches in the network

C. By using only wireless devices to connect

D. By limiting data traffic to essential applications

10. What happens if Switch-A, configured as Master in a stacked setup with Switch-B, is shut down?

A. Switch-B remains a Member. Traffic continues to flow.

B. Switch-B continues to reboot until Switch-A resumes its role as Master. No traffic will pass from the Server to Firewall.

C. Switch-B will be elected as the new Master. Traffic will continue between the Server and the Firewall uninterrupted.

D. Switch-B remains up as a Member but will disable all multi-chassis LAG ports. This will disrupt traffic between the Server and the Firewall.

Answers

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. B

Explanations

1. What does Quality of Service (QoS) aim to achieve in networking?

A. A set of technologies to improve overall network speed

B. A set of technologies that manage data traffic to provide predictable performance for critical services

C. A method for increasing bandwidth availability

D. A way to prioritize user access for better connectivity

Quality of Service (QoS) is designed to manage data traffic systematically, ensuring that critical services receive the bandwidth and timing they need for optimal performance. This is particularly important in environments where multiple applications compete for network resources. By prioritizing certain types of traffic, such as real-time voice or video communication, QoS allows networks to deliver consistent and reliable service levels, despite fluctuations in overall network demand. The essence of QoS lies in its ability to differentiate among various types of traffic based on their requirements. For example, time-sensitive applications may be given priority over bulk data transfers to minimize latency and ensure a seamless user experience. This predictability is vital for applications where delays are unacceptable, such as video conferencing or VoIP calls. While other options mention aspects related to network performance, they fail to encapsulate the primary objective of QoS—managing resources to maintain efficient and reliable service levels for critical applications and services. Therefore, the correct answer effectively highlights the comprehensive role QoS plays in maintaining the performance of key network functions.

2. What technology is used to prevent loops in switch networks?

A. EtherChannel

B. Spanning Tree Protocol

C. VLANs

D. Link Aggregation

The Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) is designed specifically to prevent loops in switched networks. In Ethernet networks, multiple paths can exist between switches, which can lead to broadcast storms and network instability if those loops are not managed. STP identifies and selectively disables these redundant paths to ensure that there is only one active path between any two switches. This protocol effectively builds a loop-free logical topology, allowing for redundancy without compromising the integrity and performance of the network. Using STP, switches exchange information about their ports and the network topology. The protocol elects a root bridge and calculates the shortest path to that bridge from all other switches, placing other redundant paths into a blocked state to prevent loops. This dynamic ability to adapt to changes in the network, such as a link going down or coming back up, maintains the robustness of the connectivity without creating multiple active paths. Other options such as EtherChannel and Link Aggregation focus on increasing bandwidth and combining multiple physical links into a single logical link, but they do not inherently prevent loops. VLANs are useful for segmenting networks, improving management, and enhancing security, but they do not address the issue of loops by themselves. Therefore, STP is the primary technology employed to prevent loops in a switched network

3. What does the term "Hot Standby Router Protocol" (HSRP) refer to?

A. A Cisco redundancy protocol that ensures high availability for routers

B. A method for load balancing packets across multiple routers

C. A protocol used for securing router configurations

D. A technology for converting Ethernet to fiber

The term "Hot Standby Router Protocol" (HSRP) refers specifically to a Cisco-developed redundancy protocol designed to ensure high availability for routers in a network. HSRP enables routers to work together in a group, providing the ability to seamlessly take over from a failing router without affecting the network's operational continuity. In an HSRP setup, one router acts as the active router, while one or more routers remain in a standby state. If the active router fails, one of the standby routers automatically takes over as the new active router. This role switching happens without requiring manual intervention, which minimizes downtime and enhances network resilience. In contrast, the other options provide different functions. Load balancing across routers, securing configurations, and converting Ethernet to fiber are not aspects of HSRP. Load balancing generally involves distributing network traffic to optimize resources, security focuses on protecting configurations from unauthorized access, and technology for media conversion pertains to how different types of cabling are managed. Thus, the primary role of HSRP clearly aligns with the concept of maintaining continuous availability of routing paths in a network environment.

4. How do you configure a port to be part of a VLAN on a switch?

A. By using the command "switchport access vlan [VLAN_ID]"

B. By assigning an IP address to the port

C. By enabling the spanning tree protocol on the port

D. By connecting the port to the main router

To configure a port to be part of a VLAN on a switch, the correct method involves using the command "switchport access vlan [VLAN_ID]." This command effectively assigns the specified VLAN ID to the port, allowing the switch to know that any traffic arriving on that port should be associated with the designated VLAN. In the context of network switching, VLANs (Virtual Local Area Networks) segment the broadcast domain, enhancing both security and performance by isolating network traffic. By utilizing the command mentioned, the port is configured in access mode, which is typically used for end devices such as computers and printers, enabling them to communicate within the defined VLAN. Alternative options do not achieve the purpose of adding the port to a VLAN. Assigning an IP address to the port is relevant for Layer 3 switching and does not relate to VLAN assignment on Layer 2 ports. Enabling the spanning tree protocol, while essential for preventing loops in the network topology, does not configure VLAN membership. Connecting the port to a main router involves routing capabilities rather than VLAN configuration, which is relevant to Layer 2 functions. Thus, using the "switchport access vlan [VLAN_ID]" command directly addresses the need to configure VLAN membership correctly.

5. What function does a layer 3 switch perform in network systems?

A. To switch frames based on MAC addresses

B. To perform routing functions based on IP addresses

C. To connect different types of networks

D. To manage bandwidth and traffic

A layer 3 switch primarily performs routing functions based on IP addresses. This capability allows it to analyze incoming packets not just by their MAC addresses (like a layer 2 switch would), but also by examining their destination and source IP addresses. This enables layer 3 switches to determine how to forward packets across different networks or subnets. Unlike traditional switches that connect devices within the same local area network (LAN) by switching data frames, layer 3 switches process data at the network layer and can make forwarding decisions based on logical addressing, leading to improved efficiency and flexibility in larger network architectures. They enable inter-VLAN routing, which allows communication between different VLANs without needing a separate router, thereby simplifying network design and reducing latency. While connecting different types of networks is one aspect of networking, the specific routing function defined in the correct response highlights why layer 3 switches are essential in modern network systems, especially in environments that require high performance and scalability.

6. What connectivity options does Aruba NetEdit support?

A. It uses SNMPv1 for device management

B. Can discover 3rd-party devices via SNMPv2c

C. They connect to switches using only CLI

D. REST API is not available

Aruba NetEdit supports the discovery of third-party devices through SNMPv2c, which is a significant feature when integrating network management with various device types from different vendors. This capability allows Aruba NetEdit to extend its functionality beyond Aruba's proprietary devices, making it a versatile tool for network management. By leveraging SNMPv2c, network administrators can fetch device statuses, monitor performance, and manage configurations of connected devices, enhancing the overall efficiency and interoperability within a multi-vendor network environment. This support is critical for organizations that utilize a range of devices from various manufacturers, as it provides a streamlined approach to managing their network infrastructure without being limited to specific vendor tools. This element of compatibility and integration into a diverse environment is a strong advantage of using Aruba NetEdit. Other options provided do not accurately reflect the capabilities of Aruba NetEdit in terms of connectivity and device management, thus distinguishing this choice as the correct one.

7. What happens when the Master in a basic VRRP configuration fails and then comes back online after a period of time?

A. The Standby remains the new Master.

B. The new Master coordinates with MSTP switches.

C. The original Master resumes its Master role.

D. A new election occurs, which the original Master will lose.

In a basic Virtual Router Redundancy Protocol (VRRP) configuration, when the Master router fails, one of the Backup routers assumes the Master role to ensure continuity of service. When the original Master comes back online after its failure, it will perform a check to determine if it can reclaim its role. According to VRRP's design, when the original Master router becomes available again, it attempts to regain its Master status. Since it has a higher priority than the Backup router that was elected as Master during its absence, the original Master will resume its role as the Master. This behavior ensures that the router with the highest priority provides the routing service, maintaining a consistent and optimal network configuration. Options that suggest the Standby remains the new Master or that a new election occurs do not align with the VRRP specifications regarding the restoration of the original Master. The protocol prioritizes the original Master returning as the leader whenever it comes back online, reflecting the intent behind their configuration and priority settings in VRRP.

8. What does the 'root bridge' refer to in a Spanning Tree Protocol topology?

A. The switch that serves as the backup for all other switches

B. The switch that serves as the central point of the network topology

C. The switch that handles all external network traffic

D. The switch designated for administrative tasks

In a Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) topology, the 'root bridge' is the switch that serves as the central point of the network topology. The root bridge is fundamental to the operation of STP, as it establishes the basis for the topology and helps prevent loops in the network. When STP is initiated, all switches will participate in an election process to determine which one will become the root bridge. This selection is based on various criteria, including the switch's bridge ID, which is a combination of the bridge priority and the MAC address of the switch. The switch with the lowest bridge ID is elected as the root bridge, and it then forms a tree structure by determining the shortest paths to all other switches in the network. Once designated, the root bridge becomes the reference point for calculating the best paths and determining which ports should be put into a forwarding state and which should be in a blocking state to eliminate loops. This role is critical for maintaining efficient data flow and network stability. Other options may suggest important functionalities or roles that switches can have within a network, but they do not capture the specific role of the root bridge in STP, which is primarily about serving as the central point in establishing the spanning tree topology.

9. How can redundancy in a switched network be increased?

A. By implementing multiple switch paths and deploying Spanning Tree Protocol to ensure loop-free operation

B. By reducing the number of switches in the network

C. By using only wireless devices to connect

D. By limiting data traffic to essential applications

Increasing redundancy in a switched network is best achieved by implementing multiple switch paths and deploying Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) to ensure loop-free operation. This approach allows a network to maintain multiple active paths between switches, providing alternative routes for data to travel in case of a failure in one path. Redundancy is crucial for network reliability because it minimizes the risk of downtime. When multiple paths are established, if one switch or connection fails, traffic can be automatically rerouted through another available path, ensuring continuous connectivity. The Spanning Tree Protocol plays a vital role by preventing network loops that can occur when there are multiple active paths. It does this by defining a single loop-free path while placing redundant links in a standby state until they're needed. The other options do not effectively contribute to increased redundancy. Reducing the number of switches in the network would likely decrease redundancy, as there would be fewer paths available for data, leading to potential single points of failure. Using only wireless devices can create its own challenges and does not inherently increase redundancy; in fact, wireless connections often introduce variability and potential reliability issues. Limiting data traffic to essential applications may optimize performance but does not contribute to redundancy; it could even jeopardize overall network availability if essential communications are

10. What happens if Switch-A, configured as Master in a stacked setup with Switch-B, is shut down?

A. Switch-B remains a Member. Traffic continues to flow.

B. Switch-B continues to reboot until Switch-A resumes its role as Master. No traffic will pass from the Server to Firewall.

C. Switch-B will be elected as the new Master. Traffic will continue between the Server and the Firewall uninterrupted.

D. Switch-B remains up as a Member but will disable all multi-chassis LAG ports. This will disrupt traffic between the Server and the Firewall.

In a stacked switch configuration, the Master switch plays a critical role in managing system operations, including the coordination of the whole stack. When Switch-A is set as the Master and it is shut down, the remaining switch, Switch-B, will not automatically assume the Master role. Instead, it will continue to reboot and attempt to connect back to the Master switch, which disrupts normal operations. While Switch-B is trying to reboot, it loses its capabilities to forward traffic effectively. This scenario means that there will be no traffic flow between devices in the network, such as from the Server to the Firewall, causing significant disruption. Therefore, it is the behavior of Switch-B during the shutdown of the Master that leads to this conclusion regarding traffic flow and re-election processes, indicating that the shutdown of the Master affects the entire Stack's operational status. The other choices present various states of operation that do not accurately reflect the behavior of a non-Master switch when the Master becomes unavailable. For example, stating that Switch-B remains a Member with traffic flow continuing does not account for the operational dependencies that are disrupted since the Master is down.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://arubacertswitchingassociate.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!