

ARUBA CERTIFIED SWITCHING ASSOCIATE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://arubacertswitchingassociate.examzify.com>



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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

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- 1. What is the purpose of the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)?**
 - A. To assign static IP addresses to devices
 - B. To automatically assign IP addresses to devices on a network
 - C. To create backup copy of IP addresses
 - D. To manage encryption keys for network security
- 2. What layer of the OSI model does VLAN tagging occur?**
 - A. Layer 1 (Physical layer)
 - B. Layer 3 (Network layer)
 - C. Layer 2 (Data Link layer)
 - D. Layer 4 (Transport layer)
- 3. What is the purpose of a network diagram?**
 - A. To illustrate the physical layout of a data center
 - B. To visually represent the components of a network and the relationships between them
 - C. To document the software applications used in networking
 - D. To analyze network traffic flow
- 4. What is true about VSX?**
 - A. VSX keeps the control planes separate for stack members.
 - B. VSX is available on all Aruba OS-CX switches except the 6300F model.
 - C. VSX is ideal for small branch access layer deployments.
 - D. VSX is implemented on static port switches with VSX-plus needed to stack chassis together.
- 5. An administrator has advised you to use the checkpoint auto 15 command prior to making remote management port changes. What does this command do on Aruba AOS-CX switches?**
 - A. Allow the creation of a checkpoint that will automatically roll back in 15 minutes unless changes have been committed
 - B. This will place a bookmark in the run-config of the switch to more easily return to config commands
 - C. A checkpoint called "auto 15" will be created that you can use to manually restore if an error occurs
 - D. This creates a backup of the config that requires the admin to have privilege level 15 restore

- 6. What is the purpose of Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRF)?**
- A. To create multiple virtual routing tables within the same router
 - B. To enhance the speed of data transmission across the network
 - C. To manage IP address conflicts on a local network
 - D. To provide end-to-end encryption for network traffic
- 7. What is the role of a Layer 2 switch?**
- A. To operate at the data link layer, forwarding frames based on MAC addresses
 - B. To manage data flow and prioritize network traffic
 - C. To route packets based on IP addresses
 - D. To provide wireless connectivity to devices
- 8. What is the purpose of a trunk port on a switch?**
- A. To connect switches in a star topology
 - B. To carry traffic for multiple VLANs over a single link
 - C. To isolate devices from one another in the network
 - D. To extend the range of a single VLAN
- 9. What is the primary difference between standard and extended ACLs?**
- A. Standard ACLs filter based on protocols, extended ACLs do not
 - B. Standard ACLs filter based solely on source IP addresses
 - C. Standard ACLs are used for routing, extended ACLs are not
 - D. Standard ACLs only affect incoming traffic
- 10. What is a potential downside of a broadcast storm in a network?**
- A. Improved data transmission speeds
 - B. Increased network reliability
 - C. Decreased network performance and potential downtime
 - D. Reduced need for QoS configuration

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the purpose of the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)?

- A. To assign static IP addresses to devices
- B. To automatically assign IP addresses to devices on a network**
- C. To create backup copy of IP addresses
- D. To manage encryption keys for network security

The Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) is a network management protocol used primarily for automating the process of configuring devices on IP networks. The primary purpose of DHCP is to automatically assign IP addresses to devices on a network, ensuring that each device can communicate with others on the network and on the internet without requiring manual configuration. When a device, such as a computer or smartphone, connects to a network, DHCP enables it to request an IP address from a pool of available addresses managed by a DHCP server. This server then assigns an appropriate IP address to the device along with other necessary network parameters such as the subnet mask, default gateway, and Domain Name System (DNS) server information. This process simplifies network administration, reduces potential errors in IP address configuration, and facilitates easier management of devices joining or leaving the network. In contrast, the other choices describe functions that are not related to DHCP's main purpose. Assigning static IP addresses, creating backups of IP addresses, and managing encryption keys are outside the scope of what DHCP is designed to do. Static IP assignments require manual configuration, backup of IP addresses is typically a function of network management or documentation processes, and encryption key management relates to network security protocols distinct from DHCP. This distinction highlights why DHCP's

2. What layer of the OSI model does VLAN tagging occur?

- A. Layer 1 (Physical layer)
- B. Layer 3 (Network layer)
- C. Layer 2 (Data Link layer)**
- D. Layer 4 (Transport layer)

VLAN tagging occurs at Layer 2 of the OSI model, also known as the Data Link layer. This layer is responsible for the node-to-node transfer of data and manages how data packets are placed on the network. VLAN (Virtual Local Area Network) tagging uses protocols such as IEEE 802.1Q to insert a tag in the Ethernet frame, which contains information about the VLAN to which the frame belongs. This tagging is crucial for ensuring that frames are properly directed to the correct VLANs across the network. By encapsulating VLAN information within the data link layer, devices can accurately manage traffic, enforce policies, and optimize network performance within the same physical infrastructure. Thus, understanding VLAN tagging within the context of Layer 2 is essential for effectively managing and configuring network switches in a VLAN environment.

3. What is the purpose of a network diagram?

- A. To illustrate the physical layout of a data center
- B. To visually represent the components of a network and the relationships between them**
- C. To document the software applications used in networking
- D. To analyze network traffic flow

The primary purpose of a network diagram is to visually represent the components of a network and the relationships between them. This includes showing devices such as routers, switches, servers, and other network elements, along with how these components connect and communicate with one another. A well-constructed network diagram provides a clear understanding of the network's structure, which is essential for network design, troubleshooting, and communication among team members. It helps network engineers and administrators to quickly identify the configuration and connectivity of the entire network, facilitating efficient management and optimization. While other choices may include relevant aspects of networking, they do not capture the overarching goal of a network diagram. For instance, illustrating the physical layout of a data center is more specific and may only represent one portion of a comprehensive network, rather than the entire system's relationships. Documenting software applications is focused on a different aspect of network management, concentrating on application-level concerns rather than the physical or logical framework of the network itself. Analyzing network traffic flow pertains to performance monitoring and optimization, which, although important, does not directly represent the structural relationships of the network as a diagram does.

4. What is true about VSX?

- A. VSX keeps the control planes separate for stack members.**
- B. VSX is available on all Aruba OS-CX switches except the 6300F model.
- C. VSX is ideal for small branch access layer deployments.
- D. VSX is implemented on static port switches with VSX-plus needed to stack chassis together.

VSX, or Virtual Switching eXtension, is a technology that allows for the creation of a virtual switch across multiple physical switch devices. A crucial aspect of VSX is that it keeps the control planes of the switch members separate. This separation is significant because it provides enhanced reliability and availability; if one switch experiences issues, the other one can continue to operate independently and maintain network stability. This architecture enables faster failover and redundancy, as each switch processes control traffic on its own control plane, thus ensuring that the switches are not dependent on a single control point. This independence is part of what allows VSX to deliver high availability characteristics essential for modern network environments, especially in scenarios where uptime is critical. The other options involve characteristics or limitations of VSX that do not align with its operational principles. For example, VSX is not limited to small branch deployments nor is it restricted to specific models like the 6300F. Additionally, while VSX does have certain configurations for static port switches, the concept of needing VSX-plus for stacking is not applicable to all scenarios, indicating different implementations based on the specific hardware and software version. These distinctions highlight the robustness of VSX in providing flexibility and high availability in various deployment scenarios.

5. An administrator has advised you to use the checkpoint auto 15 command prior to making remote management port changes. What does this command do on Aruba AOS-CX switches?

- A. Allow the creation of a checkpoint that will automatically roll back in 15 minutes unless changes have been committed
- B. This will place a bookmark in the run-config of the switch to more easily return to config commands
- C. A checkpoint called "auto 15" will be created that you can use to manually restore if an error occurs
- D. This creates a backup of the config that requires the admin to have privilege level 15 restore

The command "checkpoint auto 15" is designed to enhance the safety of configuration changes made on Aruba AOS-CX switches. When this command is executed, it creates a checkpoint that acts as a temporary safeguard against potential misconfigurations or errors that might arise after making changes to the switch's configuration, particularly in critical areas like remote management port settings. This checkpoint will automatically roll back to its original state after 15 minutes unless the changes made during that time period have been explicitly committed by the administrator. This functionality is particularly useful in scenarios where immediate corrective action is necessary, allowing administrators a grace period to verify the stability and correctness of the new configuration. Additionally, this mechanism provides a safety net, minimizing the risk of prolonged downtime or network issues caused by inadvertent misconfiguration, enabling a seamless recovery process. The ability to revert automatically within a specified timeframe is a powerful feature for maintaining operational integrity in network environments.

6. What is the purpose of Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRF)?

- A. To create multiple virtual routing tables within the same router
- B. To enhance the speed of data transmission across the network
- C. To manage IP address conflicts on a local network
- D. To provide end-to-end encryption for network traffic

Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRF) serves a critical function in modern networking by enabling the creation of multiple virtual routing tables within a single physical router. This capability allows different customers or applications to maintain their own independent routing instances without interfering with one another. In essence, each VRF instance provides a separate routing domain, allowing for overlapping IP address spaces. For example, two customers might use the same IP address ranges, but with VRF, their traffic can be kept isolated from each other on the same physical infrastructure. This is particularly useful in service provider environments and in networks requiring multi-tenancy, where keeping customer traffic separate is crucial for security and operational efficiency. The other options do not align with the primary function of VRF. While network speed and optimizing routing may be benefits derived from the effective use of VRF, they are not the defining characteristics. VRF does not directly manage IP address conflicts, which are typically addressed by DHCP or network segmentation strategies. Likewise, VRF is not concerned with encryption of traffic; that role is better suited to technologies like IPSec or SSL/TLS. Therefore, the concept of multiple virtual routing tables is central to what VRF is designed to achieve.

7. What is the role of a Layer 2 switch?

- A. To operate at the data link layer, forwarding frames based on MAC addresses**
- B. To manage data flow and prioritize network traffic
- C. To route packets based on IP addresses
- D. To provide wireless connectivity to devices

A Layer 2 switch primarily operates at the data link layer of the OSI model, which is responsible for the transfer of data frames between devices within the same local area network (LAN). The main function of a Layer 2 switch is to analyze the MAC (Media Access Control) addresses contained in the frames it receives. By doing this, it can make decisions on how to forward these frames to their respective destinations. When a switch receives a frame, it checks its MAC address table to determine the appropriate port to use for forwarding. If the destination MAC address is found in this table, the switch sends the frame out on the specified port. If the address is not found, the switch floods the frame to all ports except the one it originated from, ensuring that it reaches its destination as efficiently as possible. This capability to forward frames based on MAC addresses enables Layer 2 switches to maintain high network efficiency by reducing unnecessary traffic on the network and ensuring effective communication between devices.

8. What is the purpose of a trunk port on a switch?

- A. To connect switches in a star topology
- B. To carry traffic for multiple VLANs over a single link**
- C. To isolate devices from one another in the network
- D. To extend the range of a single VLAN

The purpose of a trunk port on a switch is to carry traffic for multiple VLANs over a single link. In a switched network, VLANs (Virtual Local Area Networks) are utilized to segment traffic for different groups or departments. A trunk port allows for the transmission of traffic from multiple VLANs, which means it can encapsulate VLAN information using protocols like IEEE 802.1Q. This is crucial for maintaining the integrity and separation of VLAN traffic as it passes between switches and across a network, ensuring that devices in different VLANs can communicate effectively while still being segmented. In comparison, connecting switches in a star topology primarily involves access ports and does not specifically relate to the trunking concept. While isolating devices from one another could relate to VLANs, it is not the primary function of a trunk port. Similarly, extending the range of a single VLAN does not accurately describe how trunk ports function, as trunk ports are meant to facilitate multiple VLANs rather than just one.

9. What is the primary difference between standard and extended ACLs?

- A. Standard ACLs filter based on protocols, extended ACLs do not
- B. Standard ACLs filter based solely on source IP addresses**
- C. Standard ACLs are used for routing, extended ACLs are not
- D. Standard ACLs only affect incoming traffic

The primary difference between standard and extended ACLs lies in the filtering capabilities related to source IP addresses. Standard ACLs function by filtering traffic based solely on the source IP address. This means that when a standard ACL is applied, it can permit or deny traffic depending solely on the origin of the packets, without considering other parameters such as destination IP addresses, protocols, or port numbers. On the other hand, extended ACLs offer more granular control and can filter traffic based on a combination of source and destination IP addresses, as well as protocols (like TCP or UDP) and port numbers. This broad filtering capability allows for more complex and specific traffic management, enabling network administrators to define rules that cater to various traffic types and requirements. Thus, the focus of standard ACLs on the source IP address is what establishes this fundamental distinction from extended ACLs, making the correct option the one that highlights this point.

10. What is a potential downside of a broadcast storm in a network?

- A. Improved data transmission speeds
- B. Increased network reliability
- C. Decreased network performance and potential downtime**
- D. Reduced need for QoS configuration

A broadcast storm occurs when there is an excessive amount of broadcast traffic on a network. This can significantly impact network performance, as the network becomes congested with these broadcasts, leading to a situation where legitimate traffic is delayed or dropped. The flood of broadcast packets consumes valuable bandwidth and processing resources on switches and routers, leading to slower network responses and overall degradation of service. In severe cases, a broadcast storm can even cause network devices to become unresponsive, resulting in downtime. Recognizing this, it's clear that the impact of a broadcast storm is detrimental to network performance rather than beneficial. It highlights the importance of managing broadcast traffic and implementing network design principles that minimize the risk of such storms occurring.

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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:

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

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