

AWS Academy Cloud Foundations 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

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- 1. True or false? You can receive a discount on AWS services without payment if you use them during the free tier period.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only for short-term projects**
 - D. Discounts vary by region**

- 2. How does AWS Global Accelerator improve application performance?**
 - A. By caching static content**
 - B. By routing user traffic through optimal locations**
 - C. By sending alerts for downtime**
 - D. By increasing instance sizes**

- 3. True or False: Amazon RDS automatically patches the database software and backs up your database.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Depends on the database type**
 - D. Only with manual configurations**

- 4. With the "pay as you go" pricing model in AWS, how often do you pay for compute resources?**
 - A. Yearly**
 - B. Monthly**
 - C. Quarterly**
 - D. Secondly and hourly**

- 5. Which support plan is designed primarily for production workloads?**
 - A. Developer Support**
 - B. Basic Support**
 - C. Business Support**
 - D. Enterprise Support**

- 6. What is the primary difference between Amazon EBS and Amazon S3?**
- A. Both are block storage solutions**
 - B. EBS is for structured data, S3 for unstructured data**
 - C. EBS is block storage linked to EC2, S3 is object storage**
 - D. S3 is only for archival data**
- 7. What is an optional security control that can be applied at the subnet layer of a VPC?**
- A. Security Groups**
 - B. Network ACL**
 - C. Firewall Rules**
 - D. IAM Policies**
- 8. Which AWS service is primarily used for monitoring and logging resources?**
- A. Amazon S3**
 - B. Amazon CloudFront**
 - C. Amazon CloudWatch**
 - D. Amazon EC2**
- 9. What benefit does cloud computing typically offer regarding infrastructure costs?**
- A. Elimination of variable costs**
 - B. Increased capital expenses**
 - C. Reduction of upfront investments**
 - D. Mandatory long-term contracts**
- 10. What functionality does the IAM policy simulator provide?**
- A. Automatically generates IAM policies based on user roles**
 - B. Evaluates the policies you choose and determines effective permissions**
 - C. Provides a graphical interface for creating policies**
 - D. Tests the performance of IAM roles under load**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. True or false? You can receive a discount on AWS services without payment if you use them during the free tier period.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for short-term projects

D. Discounts vary by region

The statement is true because AWS offers a free tier period that allows new users to utilize a range of AWS services at no cost for a limited time. During this period, customers can take advantage of various services without incurring charges, as long as they stay within the service limits defined by the free tier. This is designed to enable users to explore and experiment with AWS services without financial commitment, making it possible to receive a discount—effectively a zero cost—during this time. The other options do not correctly represent the terms of the free tier. The statement regarding short-term projects is misleading since the free tier isn't limited by project duration, but rather by the service usage within specified limits. As for discounts varying by region, the free tier generally provides consistent offerings across regions, making this statement inaccurate as well. Thus, being able to receive a discount (or access free services) during the free tier is a key feature aimed at encouraging experimentation and adoption of cloud services.

2. How does AWS Global Accelerator improve application performance?

A. By caching static content

B. By routing user traffic through optimal locations

C. By sending alerts for downtime

D. By increasing instance sizes

AWS Global Accelerator enhances application performance by intelligently routing user traffic through optimal locations. This service directs incoming requests to the nearest AWS edge location, which then forwards the traffic over the AWS global network to the application endpoint. By leveraging this optimized path, Global Accelerator reduces latency and minimizes the impact of internet congestion, leading to improved performance for end-users. In the context of application delivery, ensuring that users are connected to the most efficient route plays a crucial role in providing a responsive experience. This improves overall application availability and can dynamically adjust routes in response to changing network conditions, further optimizing performance. The other options do not align with the role of the Global Accelerator. Caching static content is typically associated with services like Amazon CloudFront, which is a content delivery network (CDN). Sending alerts for downtime pertains more to monitoring services and not directly to performance improvements. Similarly, increasing instance sizes would impact the compute capacity but does not address traffic routing or optimal performance at the network level.

3. True or False: Amazon RDS automatically patches the database software and backs up your database.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on the database type

D. Only with manual configurations

Amazon RDS, or Amazon Relational Database Service, is designed to simplify database management. One of its key features is the automated handling of routine tasks, including patching database software and performing backups. This automation is crucial for maintaining the health, security, and availability of the database while minimizing the operational overhead for the user. When Amazon RDS is set up, it automatically applies patches to the database software to fix bugs and security vulnerabilities, typically during scheduled maintenance windows. Additionally, it has a built-in backup feature that allows for automated daily snapshots of the database, enabling easy restoration to a specific point in time if necessary. This automatic patching and backup functionality is integrated into the AWS service, providing users with a high level of reliability without requiring them to manage these tasks manually. This makes the statement true, as both patching and backups are automatically handled by Amazon RDS. Other options suggest conditions or limitations that do not accurately reflect the nature of the service's automation capabilities.

4. With the "pay as you go" pricing model in AWS, how often do you pay for compute resources?

A. Yearly

B. Monthly

C. Quarterly

D. Secondly and hourly

The "pay as you go" pricing model in AWS allows customers to pay for resources based on their actual usage, rather than a fixed amount or commitment over a longer period. The correct answer highlights that customers are billed for compute resources based on seconds and hours of usage. This model provides significant flexibility, particularly for workloads that experience fluctuations in demand. By being able to scale up or down and only pay for usage in such smaller increments, businesses can better manage their budgets and operational costs. This granular billing helps in optimizing expenses, especially for applications that don't run continuously. In contrast, the other options imply longer payment intervals, which don't align with the dynamic nature of resource consumption typical in cloud environments. The ability to pay second by second or hourly is a key feature of cloud computing that differentiates it from traditional hardware purchasing, where costs are often upfront and fixed for longer periods. This flexibility enables users to adjust their AWS usage in real time, making it a powerful tool for businesses looking to optimize their IT spending.

5. Which support plan is designed primarily for production workloads?

- A. Developer Support**
- B. Basic Support**
- C. Business Support**
- D. Enterprise Support**

The Enterprise Support plan is specifically tailored for businesses running critical production workloads on AWS. It offers comprehensive support, including access to a Technical Account Manager (TAM), 24/7 access to Cloud Support Engineers, and a faster response time to support cases, which is vital for any production environment that requires immediate assistance to minimize downtime and ensure smooth operation. Furthermore, this support tier provides architectural guidance, best practices for operating in the cloud, and proactive management for system performance and cost optimization. The dedicated support focuses on minimizing disruptions and enhancing performance, which is essential for organizations that depend on seamless operations for their production services. The other options, while they offer various levels of support, do not provide the same level of services and responsiveness tailored for high-stakes production environments. For instance, the Business Support plan also supports production workloads but lacks some of the advanced features that Enterprise Support provides, such as a dedicated TAM and the highest level of response times. Therefore, for organizations with critical production needs, the Enterprise Support plan stands out as the most suitable and robust choice.

6. What is the primary difference between Amazon EBS and Amazon S3?

- A. Both are block storage solutions**
- B. EBS is for structured data, S3 for unstructured data**
- C. EBS is block storage linked to EC2, S3 is object storage**
- D. S3 is only for archival data**

The primary difference between Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS) and Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) lies in their storage types and use cases. EBS is specifically designed as a block storage solution that is tied to Amazon EC2 instances. It provides low-latency storage that allows applications running on EC2 to access data efficiently, making it suitable for scenarios where high performance and quick data access are required, such as databases and file systems. On the other hand, S3 is an object storage service that stores data as objects within buckets. It is designed to handle various types of data, including large amounts of unstructured data, such as media files, backups, and data for big data analytics. S3 is scalable and can store an unlimited amount of data, allowing for easy retrieval and management, which differs from the more structured approach of EBS. Understanding this distinction is vital for deploying applications effectively in the cloud, as the selection of storage type can significantly impact performance, scalability, and cost-effectiveness.

7. What is an optional security control that can be applied at the subnet layer of a VPC?

- A. Security Groups**
- B. Network ACL**
- C. Firewall Rules**
- D. IAM Policies**

A Network ACL (Access Control List) serves as an optional security control that can be implemented at the subnet level within a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) on AWS. Network ACLs function as a stateless layer of security, meaning they evaluate each individual request to allow or deny traffic based solely on the rules defined within the ACL. This is particularly useful for controlling incoming and outgoing traffic to and from subnets, thereby adding an additional degree of security to your networking configuration. Network ACLs can be tailored to apply broad rules that govern entire subnets, allowing for simpler management of access controls in settings where multiple resources may share the same subnet. Administrators can define rules based on various criteria, including IP protocols, port numbers, and source and destination IP addresses. In contrast to Network ACLs, security groups operate at the instance level and are stateful, meaning they automatically allow return traffic for established connections, making them suitable for individual instances rather than entire subnets. IAM Policies are used for managing access permissions for AWS service resources rather than network traffic, and while firewall rules might conceptually operate similarly, they are not an AWS-native feature specifically associated with VPCs. Thus, the Network ACL is the correct and relevant choice in the context

8. Which AWS service is primarily used for monitoring and logging resources?

- A. Amazon S3**
- B. Amazon CloudFront**
- C. Amazon CloudWatch**
- D. Amazon EC2**

Amazon CloudWatch is the primary service used for monitoring and logging resources within AWS. It provides a robust platform for tracking metrics, collecting log files, setting alarms, and taking automated actions based on predefined thresholds. Amazon CloudWatch allows users to gain insights into application performance, detect anomalies, and optimize resource utilization across various AWS services. Its capabilities include monitoring the performance of AWS services like Amazon EC2, DynamoDB, and RDS, making it an essential tool for system health monitoring. Users can visualize logs and performance data through dashboards, helping teams make informed decisions based on real-time data. Furthermore, CloudWatch integrates with other AWS services, enhancing its functionality and offering seamless alerts and notifications. While other services mentioned may have specific functionalities, they do not focus primarily on monitoring and logging as CloudWatch does. For instance, Amazon S3 is used for scalable storage solutions, Amazon CloudFront is a content delivery network, and Amazon EC2 provides compute capacity in the cloud. None offer the specialized monitoring and logging capabilities that are central to the function of CloudWatch.

9. What benefit does cloud computing typically offer regarding infrastructure costs?

- A. Elimination of variable costs**
- B. Increased capital expenses**
- C. Reduction of upfront investments**
- D. Mandatory long-term contracts**

Cloud computing typically offers a significant benefit in terms of infrastructure costs by reducing upfront investments. When organizations leverage cloud services, they can avoid the substantial initial capital expenditures associated with purchasing and maintaining physical infrastructure such as servers, storage devices, and networking equipment. Instead, cloud providers offer on-demand resources that allow businesses to pay for only what they use and scale their resources as needed. This pay-as-you-go model minimizes the financial risk and enables organizations to allocate their budget more efficiently towards operational expenditures rather than large capital expenses at the outset. By migrating to the cloud, businesses can also save on the costs associated with maintenance, upgrades, and energy consumption, which are often required when managing on-premises infrastructure. This reduction in upfront investments not only allows for a more flexible working model but also accelerates innovation, as companies can invest more in developing new products and services rather than tying up funds in physical infrastructure.

10. What functionality does the IAM policy simulator provide?

- A. Automatically generates IAM policies based on user roles**
- B. Evaluates the policies you choose and determines effective permissions**
- C. Provides a graphical interface for creating policies**
- D. Tests the performance of IAM roles under load**

The IAM policy simulator is a highly useful tool that allows users to evaluate and understand the permissions granted by their IAM policies. By selecting specific policies and a user or role, the simulator analyzes the policies to determine what actions are allowed or denied. This capability is crucial for administrators and security teams to verify that the right permissions are in place before deploying policies in a live environment. Using the IAM policy simulator helps identify potential issues, such as overly permissive policies or unintentional denials of crucial actions, ensuring better security and compliance within AWS environments. This proactive assessment is particularly important for managing access control effectively and reducing the risk of unauthorized access. The other options convey different functionalities that do not accurately describe what the IAM policy simulator does. The simulator does not automatically generate policies, create policies through a graphical interface, or test the performance of IAM roles under load. Instead, its primary role is focused on evaluating the effectiveness of existing policies.

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://awsacademycloudfoundations.examzify.com>

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

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