# AWS DevOps Engineer Professional Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

**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. **Which service can be utilized for identifying under-utilized EC2 instances?**

   A. AWS Trusted Advisor

   B. AWS X-Ray

   C. AWS CloudTrail

   D. AWS Cost Explorer

2. **Which methods can be used to install security updates on instances managed by AWS OpsWorks?**

   A. Create new instances and delete the old ones

   B. Run the Update Dependencies stack command for Linux instances

   C. Modify the current instances without downtime

   D. Both Create new instances and Update Dependencies

3. **What does AWS CloudFormation enable you to do?**

   A. Automate network setup

   B. Deploy applications on-premises

   C. Model and provision AWS resources in infrastructure as code

   D. Manage costs associated with cloud resources

4. **What is the role of a Lambda function in the context of AWS Config custom rules?**

   A. To create backups of configuration data

   B. To invoke changes in resource properties

   C. To evaluate compliance of resources based on rule logic

   D. To send notifications to AWS SNS

5. **What should you do if you want a command to run regardless of the success of a CodeBuild phase?**

   A. Place it in the post_build section

   B. Put it in a "finally" section of the phase

   C. Include it in the pre_build section

   D. Set it as a command in the buildspec file directly

6. **What kind of testing can be automated using AWS CodeBuild?**

    A. Unit testing and integration testing

    B. Pilot testing and acceptance testing

    C. Performance and usability testing

    D. Security and compliance testing

7. **What is the main advantage of using Amazon Aurora?**

    A. High availability and disaster recovery

    B. High performance and scalability of a relational database

    C. Data encryption at rest

    D. Cost-efficient storage solutions

8. **At which level are Lifecycle Event hooks configured in AWS OpsWorks?**

    A. At the Application level

    B. At the Stack level

    C. At the Layer level

    D. At the Instance level

9. **What is the consequence of the Shutdown event in OpsWorks?**

    A. Instances are scaled down

    B. Instances are paused

    C. Instances are terminated

    D. Instances are backed up

10. **How do you implement an AWS Config rule across multiple accounts effectively?**

    A. Deploy rules using AWS Management Console

    B. Use on-premise management tools

    C. Utilize CloudFormation StackSets for deployment

    D. Create a self-managed solution for configuration

# **Answers**

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

# Explanations

## 1. Which service can be utilized for identifying under-utilized EC2 instances?

**A. AWS Trusted Advisor**

B. AWS X-Ray

C. AWS CloudTrail

D. AWS Cost Explorer

AWS Trusted Advisor is the correct choice for identifying under-utilized EC2 instances because it offers real-time guidance to help provision your resources following AWS best practices. One of the specific checks provided by Trusted Advisor is for underutilized instances, which identifies EC2 instances that are running but may not be needed or could be downsized based on their usage metrics. This service helps you optimize your resource utilization, which can lead to cost savings. While AWS Cost Explorer is also useful for analyzing costs and usage data over time, it does not directly identify underutilization. Instead, it allows you to visualize your spending patterns and trends, making it more about financial insights than resource efficiency. AWS X-Ray is focused on analyzing and debugging microservices applications, helping developers understand how their applications are performing and identifying performance bottlenecks. It does not specifically address resource utilization of EC2 instances. AWS CloudTrail is a service that records user activity and API usage within your AWS account, providing visibility into account activity but not offering immediate insights into resource utilization metrics. Therefore, Trusted Advisor is specifically designed for identifying under-utilization and helps you make informed decisions about resource optimization in a more direct way.

## 2. Which methods can be used to install security updates on instances managed by AWS OpsWorks?

A. Create new instances and delete the old ones

B. Run the Update Dependencies stack command for Linux instances

C. Modify the current instances without downtime

**D. Both Create new instances and Update Dependencies**

The most effective methods for installing security updates on instances managed by AWS OpsWorks include creating new instances and using the Update Dependencies stack command. Creating new instances and then deleting the old ones allows for a clean update process where the new instances can be prepared with the latest security patches and configurations. This method ensures that the updates do not disrupt the existing services because the old instances can continue to run until the new instances are fully deployed and verified. On the other hand, running the Update Dependencies stack command specifically for Linux instances is a powerful feature of OpsWorks that enables the system to install the latest updates and dependencies directly on existing instances. This method is convenient as it can be executed without necessitating the creation of new resources, which can save time and resources. Combining these two methods offers flexibility depending on the specific needs for maintenance and downtime tolerance. Hence, both strategies are recognized practices within the OpsWorks service for ensuring that security updates are effectively applied to managed instances.

## 3. What does AWS CloudFormation enable you to do?

    **A. Automate network setup**

    **B. Deploy applications on-premises**

    **C. Model and provision AWS resources in infrastructure as code**

    **D. Manage costs associated with cloud resources**

AWS CloudFormation is a service that allows organizations to model and provision their infrastructure as code in a safe, repeatable manner. This means that you can create and manage a collection of related AWS resources, providing a reliable way to set up and configure them according to your specifications.  With AWS CloudFormation, you define your infrastructure in a declarative manner using templates written in JSON or YAML. This enables you to describe the desired state of your resources, including servers, databases, and networking settings, while CloudFormation takes care of provisioning and configuring those resources in the correct order. As a result, it promotes automation and consistency across environments, reducing the manual effort involved in deploying resources.  In contrast, automating network setup, deploying applications on-premises, and managing costs associated with cloud resources do not directly represent the primary functionality of AWS CloudFormation. While it can be part of broader strategies that involve these aspects, its core capability lies in its ability to structure and provision AWS resources using infrastructure as code principles.

## 4. What is the role of a Lambda function in the context of AWS Config custom rules?

    **A. To create backups of configuration data**

    **B. To invoke changes in resource properties**

    **C. To evaluate compliance of resources based on rule logic**

    **D. To send notifications to AWS SNS**

In the context of AWS Config custom rules, a Lambda function is primarily used to evaluate compliance of resources based on rule logic. AWS Config allows you to create custom rules that assess whether your AWS resources comply with desired configurations. When you set up a custom rule in AWS Config, you typically associate it with a Lambda function that contains the logic for compliance evaluation.  When a config rule is triggered, AWS Config invokes the associated Lambda function which checks the specified resources against the defined rule logic. The function runs checks to determine if the resources meet the compliance requirements, returning results to AWS Config for monitoring. This integration is crucial for automating compliance checks and ensuring that your resources adhere to specified policies.  While other options talk about aspects of AWS functionalities, they do not pertain directly to the primary purpose of Lambda functions within AWS Config custom rules. For instance, creating backups of configuration data or invoking changes to resource properties are outside the scope of compliance evaluation. Sending notifications to AWS SNS, while useful, is not the principal function of Lambda in this specific context and does not encapsulate its role in evaluating resource compliance directly.

**5. What should you do if you want a command to run regardless of the success of a CodeBuild phase?**

A. Place it in the post_build section

**B. Put it in a "finally" section of the phase**

C. Include it in the pre_build section

D. Set it as a command in the buildspec file directly

The correct approach to ensure that a command runs regardless of the success or failure of a CodeBuild phase is to place it in a "finally" section of the phase. This section is specifically designed for commands that must execute at the end of a phase, regardless of whether the previous commands succeeded or failed. By utilizing the "finally" section, you can guarantee that critical cleanup or reporting tasks are completed, regardless of the outcome of preceding commands.  In the context of AWS CodeBuild, this feature provides added robustness to your build process. For example, you might want to always run a command to send a notification or to clean up resources, which should not be affected by the success or failure of the build steps that precede it.  While the other options serve specific purposes, they do not ensure consistent execution regardless of the phase's success:  - The post_build section is designed to execute tasks that should run after successful build and test commands. If the build fails, commands in the post_build section would not execute. - The pre_build section is intended for commands that need to run before the actual build process begins, which would not fulfill the requirement of running after other commands regardless of their success. - Setting a command directly in the buildspec file without

**6. What kind of testing can be automated using AWS CodeBuild?**

**A. Unit testing and integration testing**

B. Pilot testing and acceptance testing

C. Performance and usability testing

D. Security and compliance testing

AWS CodeBuild is a fully managed continuous integration service that compiles source code, runs tests, and produces software packages that are ready for deployment. Among the types of testing that can be automated through CodeBuild, unit testing and integration testing are the most common.  Unit testing involves testing individual components of the software to ensure that each part functions correctly in isolation. This testing is crucial for catching bugs early in the development cycle. Integration testing, on the other hand, focuses on how different modules or services work together and can also be automated within the continuous integration pipeline. Utilizing CodeBuild to automate these tests helps streamline the development process, enhancing code quality and reducing the time needed for manual testing.  In contrast, while pilot testing, acceptance testing, performance testing, usability testing, and security testing are essential components of software testing, they are typically not the primary focus for frameworks like CodeBuild. These tests often require more than just basic automation or involve different environments that may not be suited for the automated builds that CodeBuild provides.

## 7. What is the main advantage of using Amazon Aurora?

A. High availability and disaster recovery

**B. High performance and scalability of a relational database**

C. Data encryption at rest

D. Cost-efficient storage solutions

The main advantage of using Amazon Aurora is its high performance and scalability as a relational database. Aurora is designed to provide the performance of high-end commercial databases while being more cost-effective. It achieves this through multiple enhancements over traditional database architectures, such as a distributed storage engine and replication features that enable it to automatically scale storage capacity up to 64 TB as needed, without any downtime.  Additionally, Amazon Aurora can handle high throughput and is optimized for speed, enabling applications to receive quick responses from database queries. It also allows for read replicas, which can be used to distribute read traffic efficiently, thus improving performance under load. This scalability and high performance make Aurora particularly suitable for demanding applications and workloads in the cloud.   While high availability, disaster recovery, data encryption, and cost-efficient storage are also critical features of Aurora, the unique combination of performance and scalability truly sets it apart in comparison to traditional relational database services.

## 8. At which level are Lifecycle Event hooks configured in AWS OpsWorks?

A. At the Application level

B. At the Stack level

**C. At the Layer level**

D. At the Instance level

Lifecycle Event hooks in AWS OpsWorks are configured at the Layer level. This means that these hooks are specific to the layers of an application stack, allowing you to execute custom scripts at various points in the lifecycle of those layers. Layers in OpsWorks represent different components of your application, such as web servers, application servers, or database servers. Each layer can have its own set of lifecycle hooks to manage tasks like starting, stopping, or updating instances within that layer.  Configuring hooks at this level provides flexibility and granularity, enabling you to manage the behavior of individual components of your application according to specific needs or events. For instance, you might want to run configuration scripts during the "Setup" phase of a web server layer, ensuring that the server is correctly configured upon instantiation. Contrastingly, while Lifecycle Event hooks might seem relevant at other levels, such as at the Application level (which covers the entire application) or at the Stack level (where multiple layers are combined), they are specifically associated with layers to facilitate targeted operations. Instance level hooks, while important, are not the focus for Lifecycle Events since these hooks are meant to coordinate broader tasks across layers rather than act upon individual instances.

## 9. What is the consequence of the Shutdown event in OpsWorks?

**A. Instances are scaled down**

**B. Instances are paused**

**C. Instances are terminated**

**D. Instances are backed up**

In the context of OpsWorks, the Shutdown event indicates that the instance will be terminated. This means that any processes running on the instance will be stopped, and the instance itself will be removed entirely from the AWS infrastructure. This process is important for managing resources efficiently. When an instance receives a Shutdown event, it allows for the proper clean-up of resources, ensures that data stored in the instance is handled correctly (such as configuration or application data), and allows for billing to cease since the instance will no longer incur costs after termination. On the other hand, scaling down would typically refer to adjusting the number of instances within a layer of an application stack without necessarily terminating them, pausing an instance would mean suspending it temporarily without deletion, and backing up would involve creating snapshots or copies of the data for recovery purposes. These actions do not represent what occurs during a Shutdown event in OpsWorks.

## 10. How do you implement an AWS Config rule across multiple accounts effectively?

**A. Deploy rules using AWS Management Console**

**B. Use on-premise management tools**

**C. Utilize CloudFormation StackSets for deployment**

**D. Create a self-managed solution for configuration**

Utilizing CloudFormation StackSets for deployment is an effective method for implementing an AWS Config rule across multiple accounts because StackSets allow you to deploy CloudFormation templates to multiple AWS accounts and regions in a single operation. This feature is particularly beneficial in managing and enforcing consistent configurations across various environments, ensuring that the same rules are applied uniformly without the need for manual intervention in each account. By employing StackSets, you can define your desired configuration through a CloudFormation template, which may contain the necessary definitions for your AWS Config rules. Once the StackSet is created, it provisions the configuration across all targeted accounts and regions, simplifying the management process and enhancing compliance and governance. This approach automates the deployment process, reduces human error, and ensures that any updates to the rules can be efficiently propagated across all accounts. In contrast, manually deploying rules through the AWS Management Console may lead to inconsistencies and requires ongoing manual effort as accounts scale or change. Using on-premises management tools or creating a self-managed solution for configuration would introduce additional complexity and potential inefficiencies compared to the streamlined capabilities provided by StackSets in AWS CloudFormation.

# 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://aws-devops.examzify.com

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