

WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY (WGU) ITCL3203 D321 AWS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Which of the following descriptions fits AWS Lambda best?**
 - A. A framework for building applications
 - B. A serverless compute service that runs code in response to events
 - C. A managed database service in AWS
 - D. A service for deploying and managing virtual networks
- 2. Which of the following describes a characteristic of serverless computing?**
 - A. Requires management of server infrastructure
 - B. Allows automated scaling of resources
 - C. Involves lengthy deployment times
 - D. Depends on fixed server instances
- 3. What type of applications can AWS CodeGuru improve with its recommendations?**
 - A. Applications built with any programming language
 - B. Web-based applications only
 - C. Mobile applications exclusively
 - D. Applications developed using AWS services
- 4. Which type of AWS storage enables optional server-side encryption using KMS?**
 - A. Amazon S3
 - B. AWS EFS (Elastic File System)
 - C. AWS RDS (Relational Database Service)
 - D. All of the above
- 5. In DynamoDB, what reasons might lead to using the On-Demand read/write mode?**
 - A. Predictable workloads
 - B. Unpredictable workloads without capacity planning
 - C. Lower cost than provisioned mode
 - D. High and stable traffic

- 6. What advantage does the integration of serverless query services and QuickSight provide?**
- A. Reduced storage costs
 - B. Enhanced data processing speed
 - C. Simplified dashboard creation and reporting
 - D. Increased security features
- 7. What is the primary function of Amazon API Gateway?**
- A. To store large amounts of data
 - B. To create, publish, maintain, monitor, and secure APIs
 - C. To manage containerized applications
 - D. To enable real-time analytics
- 8. What is an Elastic Load Balancer (ELB)?**
- A. A tool for automated backups
 - B. A service that automatically distributes incoming application traffic across multiple targets, such as EC2 instances
 - C. A firewall configuration service
 - D. A static content hosting service
- 9. Which AWS service is commonly used in conjunction with the serverless query service for reporting and dashboards?**
- A. EC2
 - B. RDS
 - C. QuickSight
 - D. Lambda
- 10. What is the primary function of a load balancer in AWS?**
- A. To store backup data
 - B. To distribute incoming application traffic
 - C. To secure user credentials
 - D. To monitor network performance

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following descriptions fits AWS Lambda best?

- A. A framework for building applications
- B. A serverless compute service that runs code in response to events**
- C. A managed database service in AWS
- D. A service for deploying and managing virtual networks

AWS Lambda is best described as a serverless compute service that runs code in response to events. This means that it allows developers to execute code in response to specific triggers—such as changes to data in an Amazon S3 bucket or updates in a DynamoDB table—without having to provision or manage servers. The serverless design abstracts the underlying infrastructure, enabling users to focus solely on writing the code that powers their applications. The event-driven architecture of Lambda means that the code runs automatically when the defined event occurs, making it highly scalable and efficient for numerous applications. This model aligns with the modern approach of microservices and API-driven designs, where applications can react to a variety of events dynamically. In contrast, other options describe different AWS services. The first option refers to a framework for building applications, which doesn't capture the essence of Lambda being specifically a compute service. The third option describes a managed database service, which is not relevant to Lambda's role. Lastly, the fourth choice concerns virtual networks, which again is unrelated to the functionality of Lambda. Thus, the description of a serverless compute service that operates on events accurately encapsulates the unique capabilities of AWS Lambda.

2. Which of the following describes a characteristic of serverless computing?

- A. Requires management of server infrastructure
- B. Allows automated scaling of resources**
- C. Involves lengthy deployment times
- D. Depends on fixed server instances

Serverless computing is characterized by its ability to allow automated scaling of resources. In a serverless architecture, the cloud provider manages the infrastructure, and it dynamically allocates resources based on the current demand for application services. This means that when there is a spike in usage, the system can scale up automatically to handle the increased load without requiring manual intervention from developers or system administrators. Conversely, when demand decreases, the system can scale down accordingly, ensuring efficient resource utilization and reduced costs. In a serverless model, developers can focus on writing code rather than managing servers or virtual machines, which is a key advantage. This agility facilitates faster application development and deployment, making it possible for teams to innovate and respond to market changes more quickly. Therefore, the ability to automatically scale resources is a fundamental characteristic of serverless computing.

3. What type of applications can AWS CodeGuru improve with its recommendations?

- A. Applications built with any programming language**
- B. Web-based applications only
- C. Mobile applications exclusively
- D. Applications developed using AWS services

AWS CodeGuru is designed to provide intelligent recommendations for improving the performance and security of applications, and it supports applications built with a variety of programming languages, such as Java and Python. This versatility means that developers can utilize CodeGuru's insights across different types of applications, regardless of their specific framework or architecture. By analyzing the source code, AWS CodeGuru offers suggestions for optimizing code, identifying potential bugs, and implementing best practices for software development. This broad applicability allows teams to improve their applications by leveraging CodeGuru's AI-powered engine, enhancing both the quality and maintainability of code across diverse environments and use cases, whether they are web-based, mobile, or other software types. Other options are limited in scope, focusing only on specific categories of applications, while AWS CodeGuru's inherent design allows it to be used with a wide range of programming languages and application types, making it a flexible tool for developers.

4. Which type of AWS storage enables optional server-side encryption using KMS?

- A. Amazon S3
- B. AWS EFS (Elastic File System)
- C. AWS RDS (Relational Database Service)
- D. All of the above**

The correct answer indicates that all the mentioned AWS storage types, Amazon S3, AWS EFS, and AWS RDS, support optional server-side encryption using AWS Key Management Service (KMS). Amazon S3 allows users to store and retrieve any amount of data at any time, with the option to encrypt data server-side using KMS. This means that while the data is stored, it can be automatically encrypted and decrypted without needing to manage encryption keys personally. For AWS Elastic File System (EFS), server-side encryption can also be enabled, allowing users to be assured that data is protected while at rest by leveraging KMS for encryption key management, ensuring compliance and security requirements are met. Similarly, AWS Relational Database Service (RDS) supports encryption at rest by enabling server-side encryption using KMS keys. This ensures that the databases contain sensitive information can remain secure. By recognizing that all these storage solutions offer the capability of server-side encryption with KMS, it highlights AWS's commitment to data security across different services, conforming to best practices for data protection. The availability of encryption options in each of these services makes it easier for users to manage sensitive information securely while also meeting various regulatory requirements.

5. In DynamoDB, what reasons might lead to using the On-Demand read/write mode?

- A. Predictable workloads
- B. Unpredictable workloads without capacity planning**
- C. Lower cost than provisioned mode
- D. High and stable traffic

Using the On-Demand read/write mode in DynamoDB is particularly advantageous for scenarios where workloads are unpredictable and capacity planning is difficult. This mode is designed to automatically accommodate varying levels of request traffic, making it a flexible option for applications that experience spikes and drops in usage. In such cases, the On-Demand mode eliminates the need to pre-provision read and write capacity, which can lead to inefficiencies and increased costs if the anticipated demand is not met. It automatically scales up and down based on the actual request traffic, which means that users don't have to worry about estimating throughput needs and can benefit from a more cost-effective and responsive database solution. So, when the workload is unpredictable, the On-Demand mode stands out as the most suitable choice because it allows for seamless scaling on the fly, ensuring that applications remain available without the overhead of manual intervention or constant monitoring and adjustment.

6. What advantage does the integration of serverless query services and QuickSight provide?

- A. Reduced storage costs
- B. Enhanced data processing speed
- C. Simplified dashboard creation and reporting**
- D. Increased security features

The integration of serverless query services with QuickSight significantly enhances the experience of creating dashboards and generating reports. Serverless query services, such as Amazon Athena, allow users to run SQL queries on data stored in various formats without the need to manage the underlying infrastructure. This means that users can quickly access and analyze data without worrying about the complexities of provisioning servers or scaling resources. QuickSight, being a business analytics service, enables users to create visualizations and dashboards easily from various data sources. When paired with serverless query services, it streamlines the process of pulling in data for analysis. As users can quickly run queries to aggregate and filter data, they can rapidly generate insights, visualize trends, and produce reports. This integration makes it much simpler for non-technical users to engage with data and derive actionable insights, leading to enhanced data-driven decision-making. The ease of dashboard creation and reporting is therefore a direct benefit of leveraging both technologies together, catering to business needs without the need for extensive data engineering or administrative overhead.

7. What is the primary function of Amazon API Gateway?

- A. To store large amounts of data
- B. To create, publish, maintain, monitor, and secure APIs**
- C. To manage containerized applications
- D. To enable real-time analytics

The primary function of Amazon API Gateway is to create, publish, maintain, monitor, and secure APIs. This service allows developers to define the APIs that will serve as the interface for their applications to interact with backend services and resources. API Gateway facilitates the API lifecycle by providing tools for designing, deploying, monitoring usage, and managing security policies and access for APIs. By using API Gateway, developers can easily handle tasks such as traffic management, authorization and access control, and version management. This enables them to create robust and scalable APIs that can connect various services, including AWS Lambda functions, other AWS services, and on-premises resources, thus enhancing the application development process. The other options do not accurately represent the primary function of API Gateway. For instance, while data storage is crucial in many applications, Amazon S3 and other services are designed specifically for that purpose. Managing containerized applications aligns more with services like Amazon ECS or EKS, and real-time analytics is better served by services such as Amazon Kinesis. Thus, the correct answer highlights the specific role of API Gateway in API management and security, emphasizing its importance in modern application architectures.

8. What is an Elastic Load Balancer (ELB)?

- A. A tool for automated backups
- B. A service that automatically distributes incoming application traffic across multiple targets, such as EC2 instances**
- C. A firewall configuration service
- D. A static content hosting service

An Elastic Load Balancer (ELB) is a service that plays a crucial role in managing application traffic and ensuring high availability. It automatically distributes incoming application traffic across multiple targets, such as Amazon EC2 instances, containers, and even IP addresses. This balancing act helps ensure that no single instance is overwhelmed with too much traffic, which can lead to performance issues or downtime. By intelligently routing requests, ELB enhances the scalability and reliability of applications hosted on AWS. The ability of ELB to adjust to varying levels of traffic in real time means that applications can handle sudden spikes in demand without manual intervention. This service is vital for maintaining a smooth user experience and is particularly beneficial for applications that require high availability and reliability in their operation. In contrast, the other options describe different services or functionalities that do not align with the primary purpose of an Elastic Load Balancer. Automated backups, firewall configurations, and static content hosting pertain to different aspects of cloud infrastructure management but do not relate directly to traffic distribution or load management.

9. Which AWS service is commonly used in conjunction with the serverless query service for reporting and dashboards?

- A. EC2
- B. RDS
- C. QuickSight**
- D. Lambda

The correct answer, QuickSight, is a business analytics service provided by AWS that allows users to create visualizations, dashboards, and reports from their data. When combined with serverless query services such as Amazon Athena, which enables users to run SQL queries on data stored in Amazon S3, QuickSight can easily retrieve the queried data for reporting and visualization purposes. Using QuickSight with a serverless query service streamlines the process of turning raw data into actionable insights without the need to manage infrastructure. This integration supports data analysis and visualization seamlessly, making it an ideal choice for organizations looking to implement interactive dashboards and reports without having to manage the underlying hardware or software infrastructure. In contrast, while EC2 and RDS are valuable services within the AWS ecosystem for running applications and relational databases respectively, they do not directly facilitate the creation of dashboards or reporting in conjunction with serverless query capabilities. Lambda, which is a serverless compute service that runs code in response to events, also does not directly provide reporting capabilities. Therefore, QuickSight stands out as the most appropriate service for this purpose.

10. What is the primary function of a load balancer in AWS?

- A. To store backup data
- B. To distribute incoming application traffic**
- C. To secure user credentials
- D. To monitor network performance

The primary function of a load balancer in AWS is to distribute incoming application traffic across multiple targets, such as Amazon EC2 instances or containers. This distribution ensures that no single instance or resource becomes overwhelmed with too much traffic while others remain underutilized. By balancing the load, the load balancer enhances the availability and reliability of applications, as it can route incoming requests to healthy instances and improve response times by using the available resources efficiently. In addition to balancing traffic, load balancers can also provide features like SSL termination, health checks, and support for sticky sessions, making them a vital component in maintaining application performance and user experience. These capabilities help in managing varying loads effectively, ensuring high availability and scalability for applications hosted on AWS.

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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