

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate (SAA-C02) Exam Guide

Introduction

The AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate (SAA-C02) examination is intended for individuals who perform in a solutions architect role. This exam validates an examinee's ability to effectively demonstrate knowledge of how to architect and deploy secure and robust applications on AWS technologies.

It validates an examinee's ability to:

- Define a solution using architectural design principles based on customer requirements.
- Provide implementation guidance based on best practices to an organization throughout the lifecycle of a project.

Recommended AWS Knowledge

- 1 year of hands-on experience designing available, cost-effective, fault-tolerant, and scalable distributed systems on AWS.
- Hands-on experience using compute, networking, storage, and database AWS services.
- Hands-on experience with AWS deployment and management services.
- Ability to identify and define technical requirements for an AWS-based application.
- Ability to identify which AWS services meet a given technical requirement.
- Knowledge of recommended best practices for building secure and reliable applications on the AWS platform.
- An understanding of the basic architectural principles of building in the AWS Cloud.
- An understanding of the AWS global infrastructure.
- An understanding of network technologies as they relate to AWS.
- An understanding of security features and tools that AWS provides and how they relate to traditional services.

Exam Content

Response Types

There are two types of questions on the examination:

- **Multiple choice:** Has one correct response and three incorrect responses (distractors).
- **Multiple response:** Has two correct responses out of five response options.

Select one or more responses that best complete the statement or answer the question. Distractors, or incorrect answers, are response options that an examinee with incomplete knowledge or skill would likely choose. However, they are generally plausible responses that fit in the content area defined by the test objective.

Unanswered questions are scored as incorrect; there is no penalty for guessing.

Unscored Content

Your examination may include unscored items that are placed on the test to gather statistical information. These items are not identified on the form and do not affect your score.

Exam Results

The AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate (SAA-C02) examination is a pass or fail exam. The examination is scored against a minimum standard established by AWS professionals who are guided by certification industry best practices and guidelines.

Your results for the examination are reported as a score from 100-1,000, with a minimum passing score of 720. Your score shows how you performed on the examination as a whole and whether or not you passed. Scaled scoring models are used to equate scores across multiple exam forms that may have slightly different difficulty levels.

Your score report contains a table of classifications of your performance at each section level. This information is designed to provide general feedback concerning your examination performance. The examination uses a compensatory scoring model, which means that you do not need to “pass” the individual sections, only the overall examination. Each section of the examination has a specific weighting, so some sections have more questions than others. The table contains general information, highlighting your strengths and weaknesses. Exercise caution when interpreting section-level feedback.

Content Outline

This exam guide includes weightings, test domains, and objectives only. It is not a comprehensive listing of the content on this examination. The table below lists the main content domains and their weightings.

Domain	% of Examination
Domain 1: Design Resilient Architectures	30%
Domain 2: Design High-Performing Architectures	28%
Domain 3: Design Secure Applications and Architectures	24%
Domain 4: Design Cost-Optimized Architectures	18%
TOTAL	100%

Domain 1: Design Resilient Architectures

- 1.1 Design a multi-tier architecture solution
- 1.2 Design highly available and/or fault-tolerant architectures
- 1.3 Design decoupling mechanisms using AWS services
- 1.4 Choose appropriate resilient storage

Domain 2: Design High-Performing Architectures

- 2.1 Identify elastic and scalable compute solutions for a workload
- 2.2 Select high-performing and scalable storage solutions for a workload
- 2.3 Select high-performing networking solutions for a workload
- 2.4 Choose high-performing database solutions for a workload

Domain 3: Design Secure Applications and Architectures

- 3.1 Design secure access to AWS resources
- 3.2 Design secure application tiers
- 3.3 Select appropriate data security options

Domain 4: Design Cost-Optimized Architectures

- 4.1 Identify cost-effective storage solutions
- 4.2 Identify cost-effective compute and database services
- 4.3 Design cost-optimized network architectures