

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

AWS

SAA-C03

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

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EDITION Free Set 1

QUESTIONS 10

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EXAM AWS SAA-C03, AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

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10 practice questions for the AWS SAA-C03 exam, AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate, each followed by its answer and a short explanation. More free sets and the full practice exam: www.aiexamcerts.com/aws/saa-c03. Spotted a mistake? Email support@aiexamcerts.com with the exam code SAA-C03 and the question number.

1. Which S3 storage class moves objects between frequent and infrequent access tiers automatically when access patterns are unknown?

- A S3 Standard
- B S3 Glacier Deep Archive
- C S3 Intelligent-Tiering
- D S3 One Zone-Infrequent Access

Answer: C

Intelligent-Tiering monitors each object's access and moves it between tiers without retrieval fees for the access tiers. S3 Standard does not move data at all, and Deep Archive is for data rarely retrieved. One Zone-IA stores data in a single Availability Zone and does not adapt to access patterns.

2. Amazon Route 53 _____ routing sends traffic to a primary endpoint and switches to a standby when health checks fail.

Answer: failover

Failover routing answers with the primary record while its health check passes and returns the secondary record when it does not. It is the standard pattern for active-passive disaster recovery across Regions or sites.

3. Which AWS service stores database credentials, rotates them on a schedule, and lets applications retrieve them through an API?

- A A standard Systems Manager parameter that stores the password in plain text
- B An S3 bucket policy
- C Environment variables baked into the AMI
- D AWS Secrets Manager

Answer: D

Secrets Manager stores secrets encrypted with KMS, rotates them automatically, and provides an API for retrieval at runtime. A plain-text parameter does not rotate or encrypt the value by default. Baking credentials into an AMI or using a bucket policy exposes them and offers no rotation.

4. Compute Savings Plans can apply to EC2 usage regardless of instance family, Region, or operating system.
- A True
 - B False

Answer: A (True)

Compute Savings Plans are the most flexible option, because the hourly commitment applies across instance families, Regions, sizes, operating systems, and tenancy, as well as to Fargate and Lambda. EC2 Instance Savings Plans are more restrictive and tie the commitment to a family and Region.

5. Which two services protect applications against distributed denial of service attacks? (Choose two.)
- A AWS Shield Standard
 - B AWS Shield Advanced
 - C Amazon Inspector
 - D Amazon Macie
 - E AWS Artifact

Answer: A, B

Shield Standard is enabled automatically for all accounts and defends against common network and transport layer attacks. Shield Advanced adds more protection, cost safeguards, and access to the response team. Inspector, Macie, and Artifact do not provide DDoS mitigation.

6. Which mechanism adds EC2 capacity when CPU rises above a target and removes it when demand falls?
- A EC2 Auto Scaling target tracking
 - B EC2 Reserved Instances bought for steady load
 - C Dedicated Hosts
 - D Placement groups

Answer: A

A target tracking scaling policy keeps a metric such as average CPU near a target by adding or removing instances in the Auto Scaling group. Reserved Instances change the price of capacity, not the amount. Dedicated Hosts and placement groups do not scale capacity with demand.

7. Instances in private subnets must read objects in an S3 bucket without traffic crossing the internet. Which configuration meets this?
- A A public IP on each instance
 - B A gateway VPC endpoint for S3
 - C VPC peering to the bucket owner account
 - D An internet gateway with an S3 ACL

Answer: B

A gateway VPC endpoint keeps S3 traffic on the AWS network and is added to the private route table, so no internet path is needed. Public IPs and an internet gateway send the traffic over the internet. VPC peering does not provide S3 access at all.

8. S3 _____ is the archive storage class with the lowest cost for data that can wait hours to be retrieved.

Answer: Glacier Deep Archive (also accepted: Deep Archive, S3 Glacier Deep Archive)

Glacier Deep Archive has the lowest storage price in S3 and retrieval takes hours, with a 180-day minimum storage duration. It suits records kept for years with rare access. Standard retrieval options are faster but cost more per gigabyte.

9. Which EBS volume type is the best default choice for a boot volume with balanced price and performance for a general workload?
- A Provisioned IOPS io2 Block Express
 - B Throughput Optimized HDD st1
 - C General Purpose SSD gp3
 - D Cold HDD sc1

Answer: C

The gp3 volume type gives solid-state performance at a lower price, with IOPS and throughput set independently of volume size. io2 Block Express is for high-end databases and costs more. HDD volumes suit throughput-heavy or infrequently accessed data and are not used for boot volumes.

10. A memory-intensive in-memory database runs on EC2. Which instance family is designed for this workload?
- A C7g compute-optimized
 - B T3 burstable
 - C M5 general purpose
 - D R7g memory-optimized

Answer: D

The R family is memory-optimized, with a high ratio of memory to vCPU, which suits in-memory databases and caches. C-family instances favor compute, T-family burstable CPU credits suit variable light workloads, and M-family is balanced. The memory ratio is what sets the R family apart.