

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

AWS

SAA-C03

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

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EDITION	Free Set 2
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. A three-tier application must let only the web tier reach the database on port 3306. What should the database security group allow?
- A Inbound TCP 3306 from the web tier's security group ID
 - B Inbound TCP 3306 from 0.0.0.0/0 for every client address
 - C Outbound TCP 3306 to the web tier
 - D All traffic from the internet gateway

Answer: A

Referencing the web tier's security group as the source limits access to instances in that group, even when their IP addresses change. Opening 3306 to 0.0.0.0/0 exposes the database to everyone. Outbound rules on the database do not admit connections from the web tier.

2. AWS Organizations service control policies grant permissions to IAM users and roles in member accounts.
- A True
 - B False

Answer: B (False)

Service control policies set the maximum permissions that accounts can use, but they never grant access by themselves. An identity policy must still allow the action. Mixing up SCPs with grants is a common mistake.

3. A web application stores user sessions on each EC2 instance's local disk, so users are logged out when instances are replaced. What is the best fix?
- A Use sticky sessions on the load balancer only
 - B Store sessions in ElastiCache or DynamoDB
 - C Move to a larger instance type
 - D Disable Auto Scaling

Answer: B

Keeping sessions in a shared store such as ElastiCache or DynamoDB lets any instance serve any user, so instance replacement does not log anyone out. Sticky sessions tie users to one instance, which fails when that instance is replaced. A larger instance and disabling Auto Scaling do not address the design problem.

4. Amazon Cognito _____ pools authenticate application users and issue tokens for them.

Answer: user (also accepted: user pool)

A Cognito user pool is a user directory that handles sign-up, sign-in, and token issuance for web and mobile apps. Identity pools exchange tokens for temporary AWS credentials, which is a separate job.

5. Which two options improve read throughput for a relational database that is read-heavy? (Choose two.)

- A Add read replicas
- B Enable Multi-AZ deployment only
- C Put ElastiCache in front of the database for frequent reads
- D Increase the backup retention period
- E Enable storage encryption

Answer: A, C

Read replicas spread read queries across more instances, and caching frequent reads reduces the number of queries that reach the database. Multi-AZ improves availability and its standby does not serve reads. Backup retention and encryption do not change read capacity.

6. A relational database on EC2 needs very high, consistent IOPS with low latency. Which EBS option fits best?

- A Cold HDD sc1
- B Throughput Optimized HDD st1
- C Provisioned IOPS SSD io2
- D Standard HDD

Answer: C

Provisioned IOPS SSD volumes let you set a guaranteed IOPS rate with low latency, which suits demanding relational databases. HDD volumes are optimized for sequential throughput, not random IOPS. A standard HDD is the lowest-performing option.

7. A company runs steady 24/7 workloads on EC2 and wants a lower price for a one-year commitment, with flexibility across instance families. Which option fits?

- A Spot Instances for interruptible workloads
- B Dedicated Hosts for licensing and isolation
- C On-Demand Instances billed by the second
- D Compute Savings Plans

Answer: D

Compute Savings Plans give a lower hourly rate for a committed amount of usage and let the discount move across instance families and Regions. Spot Instances can be interrupted, which is unsuitable for steady production work. Dedicated Hosts and On-Demand do not offer this commitment discount.

8. IAM Access Analyzer helps identify resources that are shared with external accounts or the public.

- A True
- B False

Answer: A (True)

Access Analyzer evaluates resource policies and reports findings for resources such as S3 buckets, IAM roles, and KMS keys that grant access outside your zone of trust. It supports reviewing and fixing unintended sharing.

9. Which Route 53 routing policy returns several healthy IP addresses in a single answer, so clients can choose among them?

- A Multivalue answer routing
- B Geolocation routing
- C Latency routing
- D Simple routing with one record

Answer: A

Multivalue answer routing returns up to eight healthy records and is paired with health checks so unhealthy addresses are removed from answers. Geolocation and latency routing choose one answer based on the user's location. Simple routing returns a single record without health checks.

10. Which S3 feature reduces storage cost for objects automatically after a set number of days?

- A Cross-Region replication of every object
- B Bucket versioning that keeps old object copies
- C Lifecycle rules for colder storage
- D S3 Object Lock with a fixed retention period

Answer: C

Lifecycle rules move objects to cheaper classes such as Standard-IA, Glacier, or Deep Archive after a set age. Replication copies data and adds cost. Versioning keeps extra copies, and Object Lock prevents deletion without lowering cost.