

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Elastic Certified Engineer

SHARED BY [u/jollylambda1993](#) on aiexamcerts

EDITION	Free Set 1
QUESTIONS	10
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EXAM	Elastic Certified Engineer

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10 practice questions for the Elastic Certified Engineer exam, each followed by its answer and a short explanation. More free sets and the full practice exam:

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1. A cluster shows health status yellow. What does that normally indicate?
- A At least one primary shard is missing, so some data cannot be searched
 - B All primary shards are assigned, but at least one replica shard is not assigned
 - C The cluster has run out of disk space on every node in the cluster
 - D The cluster is in read-only mode because a snapshot is running and blocks all index writes

Answer: B

Yellow means every primary is allocated but one or more replicas are not, so data is available but not fully redundant. A red status means a primary is missing, and an exhausted disk on every node is a different problem. A running snapshot does not set the status to yellow.

2. A master-eligible node is one with the _____ role, which allows it to be elected as the cluster master.

Answer: master (also accepted: master role)

A node with the master role is master-eligible, and the elected master manages cluster state. Nodes with only the data or ingest roles cannot become master. The role is named master and is set in the node's roles configuration.

3. Which setting decides whether a document with an unknown field is rejected, accepted, or accepted without indexing that field?
- A The refresh_interval setting on the index, which controls how often new documents become searchable
 - B The number_of_replicas setting on the index
 - C The dynamic mapping setting, with strict, true and false values
 - D The routing_partition_size setting on the index

Answer: C

The dynamic setting controls how unknown fields are handled: strict rejects them, true adds them to the mapping, and false keeps them in _source without indexing them. Refresh interval controls search visibility, and replicas and routing partitions control shard layout. None of those decide how unknown fields are treated.

4. Dynamic mapping set to strict causes Elasticsearch to reject documents that contain unmapped fields.
- A True
 - B False

Answer: A (True)

The strict setting refuses any document with a field that is not in the mapping, which protects the schema from accidental drift. The default dynamic behavior would add the field instead. Strict mode is common where data must follow a known schema.

5. Which two statements about bulk requests are correct? (Choose two.)
- A A bulk response reports errors per item, and the errors flag is true when any item fails
 - B A bulk request must contain exactly one document per request
 - C Bulk actions use newline-delimited JSON with an action line followed by a source line
 - D Bulk requests can only update documents and cannot index new ones
 - E Bulk requests always roll back every item when one item fails

Answer: A, C

The bulk API returns per-item results and sets errors to true when any item fails, so clients must inspect the items. The request format pairs an action line with a source line in newline-delimited JSON. Bulk requests can hold many documents, can index, and do not roll back all items automatically.

6. Which processor parses a timestamp string into a date value for the @timestamp field?
- A timestamp
 - B date
 - C time_string
 - D datetime_value

Answer: B

The date processor reads a value with the formats you name and writes a date into the target field, which is usually @timestamp. The other names are not Elasticsearch processors. Parsing into the correct date type matters for time-based queries and index routing.

7. Which query clause should hold the conditions that restrict results without affecting the score?
- A must inside a bool query
 - B filter inside a bool query
 - C should inside a bool query
 - D must_not inside a bool query

Answer: B

Filter clauses restrict documents without computing a relevance score, and Elasticsearch can cache them. Must clauses also restrict results but contribute to scoring. Should adds optional scoring, and must_not excludes documents from the results.

8. The default relevance scoring model that Elasticsearch uses for full-text queries is _____.

Answer: BM25

BM25 is the default similarity used to score full-text matches in Elasticsearch, combining term frequency with document length normalization. Mappings can configure other similarities, but BM25 is the default. The answer is written as BM25.

9. Which aggregation returns an approximate count of distinct values, with a precision setting?
- A terms
 - B percentiles
 - C cardinality
 - D histogram

Answer: C

The cardinality aggregation estimates the number of distinct values, and its precision_threshold setting trades memory for accuracy. Terms returns the buckets themselves, percentiles estimates a distribution point, and histogram groups numbers into intervals. The count of unique values is the cardinality job.

10. An analyst wants the 99th percentile of latency for each day. Which combination is correct?
- A date_histogram with a terms sub-aggregation on latency
 - B terms on day with a cardinality of 99 buckets
 - C range with an avg sub-aggregation and a 99 bound
 - D date_histogram with a percentiles sub-aggregation set to 99

Answer: D

A date histogram creates a bucket per day, and percentiles with 99 inside each bucket gives the daily 99th percentile. Terms on latency would group by distinct latency values rather than percentiles. Cardinality and average do not return percentiles.