

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Elastic Certified Engineer

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EDITION	Free Set 2
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. Which API shows why a particular shard is unassigned?

- A GET _cat/nodes?v
- B GET _nodes/stats/os
- C GET _cluster/allocation/explain
- D GET _snapshot/_status

Answer: C

The allocation explain API reports the decision for an unassigned shard and the reasons each node was rejected. The nodes listing shows node names and roles, the OS stats show resource usage, and snapshot status shows backup progress. None of those explain a placement decision.

2. Replica shards can be added or removed on a live index with a settings update.

- A True
- B False

Answer: A (True)

The `number_of_replicas` setting can be changed on an open index, and Elasticsearch creates or removes copies accordingly. This is a routine operation for adding redundancy or freeing disk. Primary shard counts do not change this way.

3. A string field must support both full-text search and exact-value sorting. Which mapping is the standard approach?

- A A keyword field only, so full-text search uses wildcard queries
- B A date field with a format that matches the string values
- C A binary field with the store option enabled for sorting
- D A text field with a keyword subfield for sorting and aggregations

Answer: D

A text field with a keyword subfield gives analyzed search on the main field and exact values for sorting and aggregations on the subfield. A keyword-only field loses full-text analysis, a date field is for timestamps, and a binary field is not sortable. Multi-fields are the usual solution.

4. The keyword subfield for a dynamically mapped string is created with a default `ignore_above` value of _____ characters.

Answer: 256 (also accepted: two hundred fifty-six)

Dynamic mapping adds a keyword subfield with `ignore_above` set to 256 characters. Longer values remain in `_source` but are not indexed in that subfield. Teams that need longer exact values set `ignore_above` explicitly.

5. Which two statements about bool queries are correct? (Choose two.)

- A Filter clauses do not contribute to the relevance score
- B Must clauses contribute to the score of matching documents
- C Should clauses are ignored whenever a must clause is present
- D Must_not clauses add points to the score of the documents they exclude
- E Filter clauses are always evaluated after scoring

Answer: A, B

Filter clauses restrict results without scoring, and must clauses restrict results while adding to the score. Should clauses still count when must is present, unless `minimum_should_match` says otherwise. Must_not excludes documents and adds no score to them, and filters run in filter context before scoring.

6. A pipeline should continue even when one processor fails on a bad document. Which setting allows this?

- A refresh set to `wait_for` on the index
- B replicas set to zero on the pipeline
- C `ignore_failure` set to true on that processor
- D shards set to one on the pipeline

Answer: C

`ignore_failure` lets a processor fail without stopping the pipeline, and `on_failure` can route the document to handling steps. Refresh, replicas and shards do not control processor errors. Failure handling belongs to the processor configuration.

7. Which API tests a pipeline against sample documents without indexing them?

- A `POST my-index/_refresh`
- B `POST _snapshot/my-repo/_restore`
- C `POST _reindex?wait_for_completion=false`
- D `POST _ingest/pipeline/my-pipeline/_simulate`

Answer: D

The simulate endpoint runs the pipeline on the documents in the request body and returns the transformed output. Refresh makes recent writes searchable, restore brings back snapshot data, and reindex copies documents into an index. Only simulate tests the pipeline without storing documents.

8. A term query on a text field reliably finds documents by a word from the middle of a sentence.
- A True
 - B False

Answer: B (False)

A term query looks up the exact term in the index, and analyzed text is stored as lowercase tokens, so the match depends on the stored token form. The reliable choice for words in analyzed text is a match query. Term queries work best on keyword fields.

9. A pipeline aggregation needs to compute a moving average of daily totals from a histogram. Which kind of aggregation is this?
- A A pipeline aggregation that runs on the output of a sibling or parent bucket aggregation
 - B A metric aggregation that runs on raw documents only, never on bucket output
 - C A bucket aggregation that creates a new index per day
 - D A query that filters documents before aggregation starts

Answer: A

Pipeline aggregations work on the results of other aggregations, such as moving averages over histogram buckets. Metric aggregations work on raw documents, and bucket aggregations create groups rather than compute on them. Filtering documents is a query task that happens before aggregation.

10. A dashboard needs the number of documents in each response code bucket, including buckets with zero documents. Which setting is used?
- A refresh set to true on the index
 - B min_doc_count set to 0 on the terms or histogram aggregation
 - C track_total_hits set to false
 - D size set to zero on the search request

Answer: B

Setting min_doc_count to 0 keeps empty buckets in the result, which charts need for gaps. Refresh affects visibility of new documents, track_total_hits controls total counting, and a size of zero on the search request only suppresses returned hits. The empty-bucket setting is min_doc_count.