

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate

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EDITION	Free Set 2
QUESTIONS	10
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EXAM	HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate

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

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1. Why do IaC teams keep their configuration in a version control system?
 - A To track who changed what, review changes before they apply, and return to a known revision
 - B To make provider plugins load faster during plan
 - C To store the live state file where every engineer can edit it
 - D To replace the need for a remote backend in production

Answer: A

Version control gives an audit trail, peer review, and a rollback point for infrastructure changes. Storing the live state file in the repository is the tempting distractor, but state holds sensitive data and concurrent edits corrupt it. Plugin speed and backend replacement are not reasons to use version control.

2. A terraform.tfvars file is a common place for a non-secret, environment-specific value such as a region.
 - A True
 - B False

Answer: A (True)

Variable definition files are designed for per-environment values that are not sensitive. Putting secrets there is the tempting mistake, since the file is convenient, but that is a separate concern. The answer is therefore True.

3. Which category best describes Terraform compared with a configuration management agent such as Ansible?
 - A An agent that runs inside each guest operating system to enforce packages
 - B A provisioning tool that manages resource lifecycles through provider APIs
 - C A container orchestrator that schedules workloads onto nodes
 - D A continuous integration runner that builds application artifacts and pushes container images to a registry

Answer: B

Terraform creates and changes cloud or platform resources by calling provider APIs, so it is a provisioning tool. Agent-based guest configuration is the closest distractor, and it is a different job even though both are often used together. Orchestrators and CI runners solve other problems in the delivery pipeline.

4. The file that stores the record of resources Terraform manages in local use is named _____.

Answer: terraform.tfstate (also accepted: tfstate, state file)

Terraform keeps its record of managed objects in terraform.tfstate when the local backend is used. The backup file is a tempting alternative, since it has a similar name, but it holds the prior state. The accepted variants include the bare extension form and the descriptive phrase.

5. Which two statements about the lifecycle meta-argument are correct? (Choose two.)

- A create_before_destroy is the default for every resource
- B prevent_destroy blocks terraform state rm for that resource
- C ignore_changes tells Terraform to disregard drift in the named attributes
- D ignore_changes removes the named attributes from state
- E prevent_destroy makes a plan fail when it would destroy the resource

Answer: C, E

Ignore changes suppresses planned updates for named attributes, and prevent destroy stops plans that would delete the resource. The create-before-destroy default is a tempting distractor because replacement order matters, but the default is destroy first. The other options misstate what state removal and ignore_changes do.

6. Which meta-argument creates a numbered set of resource instances indexed by integers?

- A for_each
- B count
- C lifecycle
- D depends_on

Answer: B

The count meta-argument creates instances addressed by count.index, which starts at zero. The for_each argument is the tempting distractor because it also creates multiple instances, but it indexes them by map or set keys. The lifecycle and depends_on arguments control behavior, not instance numbering.

7. Which command rewrites .tf files to the canonical HCL formatting?

- A terraform validate
- B terraform fmt
- C terraform show
- D terraform get

Answer: B

Fmt rewrites HCL files to the standard style, and terraform fmt -check reports files that would change without rewriting them. Validate is the tempting distractor because it is part of code hygiene, but it reports errors and does not reformat. Show and get do not alter file formatting.

8. After terraform destroy completes, the state file still exists in the backend.

- A True
- B False

Answer: A (True)

Destroy removes the managed objects but keeps a state record with no resources, so Terraform still knows about the workspace. Many people assume the state is deleted, which is the tempting misconception. The answer is therefore True.

9. Which command must run first in a new working directory to download providers and modules and set up the backend?

- A terraform plan
- B terraform import
- C terraform init
- D terraform console

Answer: C

Init downloads provider plugins and module sources, creates the lock file, and configures the backend. Plan is the tempting distractor because it is the next step in the workflow, but it requires init to have run. Import and console also need an initialized directory before they can be used.

10. What does the source argument of a module block specify?

- A Where Terraform fetches the module code, such as a local path, a registry address, or a Git URL
- B The name of the state file the module writes to
- C The provider the module's resources use by default
- D The HCP Terraform workspace that runs the module

Answer: A

The source argument tells Terraform where to find the module code, and init downloads remote sources. The provider option is the tempting distractor because providers are configured for modules, but source is a location, not a provider. State file names and workspaces are configured elsewhere.