

Introduction

The AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate examination (SA1-C01) is intended for individuals who have the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively demonstrate knowledge of how to design distributed systems on AWS.

This exam validates an examinee's ability to:

- Define a solution using architectural design principles based on customer requirements.
- Provide implementation guidance based on best practices to the organization throughout the lifecycle of the project

Recommended AWS Knowledge

- One year of hands-on experience designing large, cost efficient, fault tolerant, and scalable distributed systems on AWS
- Hands-on experience using compute, networking, storage, and database AWS services
- Hands-on experience with AWS deployment and management services
- Ability to identify and define technical requirements for an AWS-based application
- Ability to identify which AWS services meet a given technical requirement
- Knowledge of recommended best practices for building secure and reliable applications on the AWS platform
- An understanding of the basic architectural principles of building on the AWS cloud
- Understanding of the AWS global infrastructure
- Understanding of network technologies as they relate to AWS
- A good understanding of all security features and tools that AWS provides and how they relate to traditional services

Exam Preparation

These training courses and materials may be helpful for examination preparation:

AWS Training (aws.amazon.com/training)

- Architecting on AWS instructor-led, live or virtual 3 day [course](#)
- Advanced Architecting on AWS instructor-led, live or virtual 3 day [course](#)
- Exam Readiness Workshop: AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate instructor-led, live or virtual 4 hour [class](#)

AWS Whitepapers (aws.amazon.com/whitepapers) Kindle and .pdf

- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#), November 2016
- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#) - Security Pillar, May 2017
- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#) - Reliability Pillar, November 2016
- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#) - Performance Efficiency Pillar, November 2016
- [AWS Well-Architected Framework](#) - Cost Optimization Pillar, November 2016
- Architecting for the Cloud: Best Practices [whitepaper](#), Feb 2016

Exam Content

Response Types

There are two types of multiple choice questions on the examination. The traditional type has one correct response and three incorrect responses (distractors). The second type has two correct responses out of a total of five options. Always choose the best response(s). Incorrect responses will be plausible, and are designed to be attractive to candidates who do not know the correct response. Unanswered questions will be scored as incorrect; there is no penalty for guessing.

Your examination may include non-scored items that are placed on the test to gather statistical information. These items will not be identified on the form, and will not affect your score.

Content Outline

This examination blueprint includes weighting, test objectives, and example content. Example topics and concepts are included to clarify the test objectives. They should not be construed as a comprehensive listing of all of the content on this examination.

The table below lists the main content domains and their weighting on the examination.

Domain	% of Examination
Domain 1: Design Resilient Architectures	34%
Domain 2: Define Performant Architectures	24%
Domain 3: Specify Secure Applications and Architectures	26%
Domain 4: Design Cost-Optimized Architectures	10%
Domain 5: Define Operationally-Excellent Architectures	6%
TOTAL	100%

Domain 1: Design Resilient Architectures

- 1.1 Choose reliable/resilient Storage
- 1.2 Determine how to design decoupling mechanisms using AWS services
- 1.3 Determine how to design a multi-tier architecture solution
- 1.4 Determine how to design high availability and/or fault tolerant architectures

Domain 2: Define Performant Architectures

- 2.1 Choose performant storage/database
- 2.2 Apply caching to improve performance
- 2.3 Determine how to design solutions for elasticity and scalability

Domain 3: Specify Secure Applications and Architectures

- 3.1 Determine how to secure application tiers
- 3.2 Determine how to secure data
- 3.3 Define the networking infrastructure for a single VPC application

Domain 4: Design Cost-Optimized Architectures

- 4.1 Determine how to design cost-optimized storage
- 4.2 Determine how to design cost-optimized compute

Domain 5: Define Operationally-Excellent Architectures

- 5.1 Choose design features in solutions that enable operational excellence

The AWS Solutions Architect – Associate exam is a pass or fail exam. The examination is scored against a minimum standard established by AWS professionals guided by certification industry best practices and guidelines.

Your results for the examination are reported as a score from 100-1000, with a minimum passing score of 700. Your score shows how you performed on the examination as a whole as well as whether or not you passed. Total scaled scores allow for the comparison of scores across different versions of the same examination.

V1 SA1-C01