



EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE | Implementing Citrix NetScaler 10.5 for App
and Desktop Solutions



Implementing Citrix NetScaler 10.5 for App and Desktop Solutions

1Y0-253 Exam

Preparation Guide 1.3
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This exam preparation guide is designed to provide candidates with necessary information about the exam, including study resources and sample questions which enable candidates to assess the types of questions that may be asked during the Citrix certification exam. Please be aware that the content of this guide in no way ensures a passing score on the certification exam.

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1 The Exam

1.1 Purpose of the Preparation Guide and Exam

This guide provides a detailed description of the exam, including intended audience and topics covered, as well as direct links to resources used to build the exam, information on how to prepare for the exam and details on the types of questions the exam contains. The guide is intended to help candidates prepare for the 1Y0-253 Implementing Citrix NetScaler 10.5 for App and Desktop Solutions exam. Candidates should read this guide carefully before attempting this exam.

The 1Y0-253 exam was developed to measure the minimum knowledge and skills required to implement Citrix NetScaler 10.5 for app and desktop solutions. Passing this exam means a candidate demonstrated the minimum level of knowledge and skills required to install, administer and/or operate enterprise environments consisting of NetScaler Gateway 10.5.

1.2 Standard Setting

The passing score for the Implementing Citrix NetScaler 10.5 for App and Desktop Solutions (1Y0-253) exam is based on the analysis of ratings provided by subject matter experts (SMEs) during a standard setting workshop. A professional analyzed the SME ratings to determine which questions should be kept in the final version of the exam. This analysis provided the basis for a recommended passing score and time limit for the exam.

1.3 Number of Questions

The 1Y0-253 exam is a 65-question exam written in English.

1.4 Passing Score

The passing score for this exam is 64%.

1.5 Time Limit

Type of Candidate	Time Limits Allowed	Notes
Native English Speakers	105 minutes	
Non-native English speakers who take exam in countries where English is a foreign language	105 minutes +30 minutes (time extension)	Time extension granted automatically
Non-native English speakers who take exam in countries where English is NOT a foreign language	105 minutes +30 minutes	Must call Pearson VUE or register in person to explicitly request the time extension <i>A \$7 USD surcharge will be added to phone registrations.</i>

1.6 Registration and Administration

This exam is administered at Pearson VUE testing centers worldwide. To learn more about the rules and process of taking an exam, please visit <http://training.citrix.com/exams>.

Worldwide, visit the Pearson VUE website (www.pearsonvue.com/citrix) to locate a testing center in your area and register for an exam. To register in the United States and Canada, you may also register in person at any Pearson VUE testing center or call 1-800-931-4084. *Note: A \$7 USD surcharge will be added to phone registrations.*

1.7 Certification Tracks

The 1Y0-253 exam is a requirement for the Citrix Certified Associate – Networking track.

This exam may also fulfill requirements for advanced certification tracks. For the most up-to-date certification information visit <http://training.citrix.com/cms/education/certification/>.

**1.8 Citrix Exam
Retake Policies**

Candidates must wait 24 hours from their original appointment time before they can register to retake an exam. After a second attempt, and any attempt thereafter, the candidate must wait 14 calendar days to retake the exam. Beta exams may only be taken once.

Citrix Education monitors retake activity for breaches of this policy. Breach of this policy can result in sanctions up to and including a temporary ban from taking Citrix exams and/or decertification.

For more information on the Citrix Exam Retake Policy, please visit <http://training.citrix.com/exams>.

**1.9 Citrix
Candidate
Conduct Policy**

All Citrix Certification candidates are required to read and agree to be bound by the Candidate Conduct Policy. This policy details specific information regarding what Citrix Education defines as cheating and breaches of security. Violations of this policy can result in actions including, but not limited to, classification of scores as invalid, decertification and testing bans.

To review the Candidate Conduct Policy, please visit <http://training.citrix.com/exams>.

**1.10
Commenting
During Live
Exam**

Citrix Education is committed to continually monitoring and updating our exams as needed. As a practice, Citrix Education regularly reviews and revises exams even after closing the beta period. Comments typed into the exam interface during an exam are considered when making decisions about revising questions.

Candidates are encouraged to use the commenting feature to provide feedback to Citrix Education. However, candidates should be mindful of the time used to provide comments on an exam as it will be subtracted from the allocated time of the test. Candidates can refer to the time clock at any time to view and be cognizant of the test time remaining.

2 The Intended Audience

2.1 Intended Audience

The 1Y0-253 exam is focused on those topics that are most important to those who install, administer and operate NetScaler Gateway 10.5 environments. Citrix Education selected these topics based on feedback from subject matter experts (SMEs) who perform these tasks in the field. Those who install, administer and operate NetScaler Gateway 10.5 environments may hold various job titles such as:

- Network Administrator
 - Network Engineer
 - Systems Administrator
 - Sales/System Engineer (SE)
 - Citrix Administrator
-

3 Preparatory Recommendations for the Exam

3.1 Introduction Citrix Education recommends that prior to taking this exam candidates have the knowledge, skills and abilities required to install, administer and operate an enterprise environment that contains NetScaler Gateway 10.5.

**3.2
Recommended
Knowledge and
Skills**

Specifically, candidates should have the following knowledge and skills prior to taking this exam:

- Understanding of the OSI model
 - Basic knowledge of application and network protocols (e.g. IP, HTTP and DNS), devices, and commonly used tools
 - Basic knowledge of network management and auditing protocols (such as SNMP and SysLog)
 - Working knowledge of basic routing and layer 2 switching concepts
 - Strong working knowledge of commonly used network appliances (NetScaler appliances, load balancers, firewalls, routers, switches)
 - Practical experience with troubleshooting tools such as protocol analyzers (e.g. Ethereal (Wireshark) and NetMon)
 - Knowledge of AAA (authentication, authorization and accounting) protocols such as LDAP or RADIUS
 - Basic knowledge of command-line interfaces
 - Basic knowledge of VPN concepts
 - Knowledge of desktop operating systems (Windows and Mac) and desktop security concepts (e.g. antivirus software and personal firewalls)
 - Basic knowledge of XenDesktop, XenApp, XenMobile web servers and file servers
 - Knowledge of certificate management and basic understanding of SSL
-

**3.3
Recommended
Product
Experience**

We recommend that candidates have about six months of experience with the following tasks in a NetScaler Gateway 10.5 environment:

- Assessing the infrastructure needs for a NetScaler implementation
- Designing the NetScaler implementation
- Building the solution to enable remote access

- Securing the NetScaler
 - Integrating with Citrix, Microsoft and third-party technologies
 - Configuring redundancy
 - Customizing traffic in the NetScaler implementation
 - Setting up auditing, monitoring and reporting for the NetScaler implementation
 - Troubleshooting issues on NetScaler
-

3.4 Recommended Course

Citrix Education recommends that candidates have hands-on experience with NetScaler Gateway 10.5 prior to taking this exam. One of the best ways to do this is by taking formal Citrix training courses. The following courses provide basic training on administrative tasks.

- CNS-207: Implementing Citrix NetScaler 10.5 for App and Desktop Solutions (instructor-led training course or self-study)

As with all Citrix exams, it is recommended that candidates get hands-on experience by working directly with the products covered on the exam.

While this hands-on experience can be done on the job, Citrix Education official courses offer a safe and robust environment to learn these tasks. Thus they are one of the best ways to prepare for the exam.

3.5 Unauthorized Preparation Materials

At this time, Citrix Education does not offer practice tests. While there are companies who advertise practice tests and have a money-back guarantee that customers will pass the exam, most of these companies are selling unauthorized preparation materials that include stolen exam questions and answers.

Citrix Education continuously monitors these sites, and when possible, takes appropriate actions.

Citrix Education also monitors exam results to ensure that candidates are not using unauthorized materials to prepare for exams. If it is determined that a candidate used unauthorized materials to prepare for an exam, the candidate's score will be invalidated and his or her certification will be revoked.

When looking for materials in addition to authorized Citrix training to prepare for certification, Citrix Education recommends visiting <http://www.certguard.com> to verify the legitimacy of the site. This site flags sites that are acting as brain dumps.

4 Exam Sections and Weights

4.1 Introduction The 1Y0-253 exam is divided into nine (9) sections.

Each section of the exam is weighted as follows, totaling 100%.

**4.2 Section
Titles and
Weights**

Section	Weight
Assessing Infrastructure Needs for the NetScaler Implementation	5%
Designing the NetScaler Implementation	10%
Building the Solution to Enable Remote Access	26%
Securing the NetScaler	11%
Integrating with Citrix, Microsoft and Third-party Technologies	9%
Configuring Redundancy	9%
Customizing Traffic in the NetScaler Implementation	7%
Setting Up Auditing, Monitoring and Reporting for the NetScaler Implementation	5%
Troubleshooting Issues on NetScaler	18%
Total	100%

**4.3 How Section
Weights Relate
to Questions on
the Exam**

The section weights included in this guide are intended to help you in understanding how much of the exam is devoted to the topics listed. In fact, the percentages directly map to the number of questions on the exam. For example, if an exam has 60 questions, and Section 1 is weighted at 50%, then 30 of the questions on the exam will relate to Section 1 ($60 \times 50\% = 30$).

Please be warned that section weights are NOT used to calculate your score. Scoring is far more complicated as exam questions may be given different weights based on their overall importance. Because some questions may have different point values assigned to them, section weights and exam scores do not always have a one-to-one correlation.

For example, in an exam where each question is worth one point, a candidate's exam score can be calculated using the arithmetic mean. The candidate's final score would be:

Section	Number of Questions	Maximum Points per Question	Number of Questions Correct	Percentage Score per Section	Arithmetic Mean Score ((Section 1 + Section 2)/2)
1	4	1	2	50%	=(50%+50%)/2 = 50%
2	8	1	4	50%	

In the example above, the arithmetic means worked. However, if the same concept is used with questions that are weighted differently, that is, they have different maximum point values, this calculation would not work. See the example below.

Section	Number of Questions	Maximum Points per Question	Number of Questions Correct	Percentage Score per Section	Arithmetic Mean Score ((Section 1 + Section 2)/2)
1	10	1	7	70%	=(70%+30%)/2 = 50%
2	10	10	3	30%	

The final score produced above is incorrect because 30 points in Section 2 weigh far more than 7 points in Section 1. On Citrix exams, we tend to calculate the final score as a percentage of:

$$\text{Total Points Earned} / \text{Total Points Possible}$$

Which means, the correct score should be:

$$(7 * 1) + (3 * 10) / (10 * 10) + (10 * 1)$$

Which is equal to: 37/110

And thus, the final score is 34%.

For more information on how scoring works in Citrix exams read the blog [The Scoring Secrets for Citrix Exams - Divulged](#).

5 Exam Objectives and Resources for the Exam

5.1 Introduction All questions on this exam were developed based on objectives identified by subject matter experts. Exam tasks are used to focus the exam on the most important concepts. The tasks for this exam can be found in section 5.3.

In this guide we list all of the tasks and provide you with suggested reading material to help prepare for the exam. In some cases, the tasks require that candidates have field experience including hands-on experience installing, administering and operating NetScaler Gateway 10.5 in enterprise environments. By obtaining this experience, candidates are more likely to pass this exam.

5.2 Resources Used to Develop the Exam

The following resources were used to develop this exam:

Citrix Knowledge Base Article	
Resource	Location*
CTX Article	http://support.citrix.com/search?searchQuery=NetScaler+Gateway+10.5
Citrix eDocs	
Key Features	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-key-features-con.html
Understanding the NetScaler	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-getting-started-map-10-5/ns-gen-wrapper.html
System Requirements	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-system-requirements-con.html
Integration	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-xa-xd-integration-edocs-landing.html
Customization	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-advanced-wrapper-con.html
Maintenance and Monitoring	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-maintain-appliance-wrapper-con.html

Installation Configurations	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-install-wrapper-con.html
NetScaler Configuration	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-configuration-mgmt-wrapper-con.html
User Connections	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-connect-users-wrapper-con.html
Traffic Management	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-10-5/ns-tmg-wrapper-10-con.html
NetScaler FAQs	http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-10-5/ns-faq-wrapper-con.html

*Links are subject to change

5.3
Sections and
Objectives

The following table provides a list of the exam objectives. Below each objective are examples of what you should know for each objective. These examples do NOT encompass all potential topics that can be tested and are only provided as examples.

Section 1: Assessing infrastructure needs for the NetScaler implementation	
Objective Number	Objective
1.02	Determine the services to provide including the resources to access
	Understand what NetScaler services are needed if you have XenDesktop deployed to remote users.
	Understand what NetScaler services are needed if you have a XenApp deployed to remote users.
	Understand what NetScaler services are needed if you have a XenMobile deployed to remote users.
1.03	Determine user access needs
	Understand if users access secure VPN.
	Understand which servers/services require load balancing.
	Understand which servers/services require Acceleration/Optimization/Security-Protection.
	Understand if Citrix Receiver is used to access the environment.
1.04	Identify connection types
	Understand the external connection types used in the environment.
	Understand the internal connection types used in the environment.
	Understand if ICA, VPN or MicroVPN is used in the environment
Section 2: Designing the NetScaler implementation	
2.01	Develop the implementation plan
	Understand the security requirements.
	Understand which networks are involved in the implementation.
	Understand the existing network architecture.
2.02	Determine the authentication methods in the environment
	Understand the order of two-factor authentication.
	Understand how to configure and secure LDAP.

	Understand the appropriate configuration method in Directory Services.
	Understand how and where to implement certificate-based authentication.
2.03	Identify the feature requirements for the environment that impact the NetScaler implementation
	Understand the access requirements for the environment.
	Understand how to design acceleration features.
	Understand how to design optimization features.
	Understand how to design security-protection features.
2.04	Identify prerequisites for implementing certain features
	Understand the monitor method used to control traffic route.
	Understand the prerequisites for implementing Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB).
	Understand how to administrate NetScaler Gateway in a dedicated network.
Section 3: Building the solution to enable remote access	
3.01	Prepare the NetScaler for initialization
	Understand how to obtain and install licenses.
	Understand how to configure date and time (time server or manual).
	Understand how to configure NetScaler IP (NSIP).
	Understand how to configure basic routes.
3.02	Configure Domain Name Service's (DNS) and Virtual IP (VIP) for Load Balancing
	Understand how to configure DNS monitor.
	Understand how to configure the A record.
3.03	Determine when to use Subnet IP (SNIP)
	Understand when to use SNIP.
3.04	Bind services/service groups to Virtual Servers
	Understand how to create an HTTP virtual server.
	Understand how to create a backup virtual server.
3.05	Create custom monitors or modify existing monitors
	Understand how to create a custom XenApp XML monitor.
3.06	Install/configure SSL Certificates
	Understand how to create a private key for new certificates in critical security parameters.

	Understand how a public certificate is associated with the Virtual IP (VIP).
	Understand how to generate new certificates.
3.07	Create/bind policies to services/service groups
	Understand how to setup policies for Web Access and Citrix Receiver (including StoreFront settings).
	Understand how to prioritize conflicting policies.
3.08	Configure different authentication methods
	Understand how to configure LDAP.
	Understand how to configure a Smart Card.
	Understand how to configure RADIUS.
3.09	Create Virtual Servers
	Understand how to configure HTTP parameters.
	Understand how to configure Security Parameters (SSL Renegotiations, Cipher Groups, etc.).
3.10	Configure policies pre/post authentication.
	Understand how to retrieve client type (device IP address, OS, client version, etc.).
3.11	Configure NetScaler Gateway settings
	Understand how to setup ICA proxy.
	Understand how to configure smart access.
	Understand how to configure maximum authentication users.
3.12	Customize the User Experience
	Understand how to deploy SSL/VPN clients.
	Understand how to customize client options.
	Understand how to customize the Portal Page.
	Understand how to customize the location of important files (ns.conf, SSL certs, Licensing, web pages).
3.13	Integrate Citrix mobile products
	Understand how to configure XenMobile MicroVPN.
3.14	Identify when to configure advanced TCP Parameters (either Global or Net Profile)
	Understand how to isolate traffic monitoring.
3.15	Configure basic networking
	Understand how to create a virtual server.
	Understand how to configure NetScaler routing.
	Understand how to configure VLANs.
Section 4: Securing the NetScaler	
4.01	Configure the compliance and security capabilities that are native to NetScaler

	Understand how to configure the NetScaler to conform to be PCIDSS compliant.
	Understand how to configure Rate Limiting.
	Understand how to configure Access Control Lists (ACL).
	Understand how to secure management access for NetScaler.
4.02	Import, link and verify certificates
	Understand how to generate new certificates.
	Understand how to import SSL certificates.
	Understand how to implement a certificate chain.
4.03	Configure Authentication, Authorization, Accounting (AAA) for NetScaler administration and traffic management
	Understand how NetScaler is integrated with Active Directory.
	Understand how to configure command-line (CLI) policies.
	Understand how to integrate NetScaler with token authentication.
4.04	Set up two factor authentication
	Understand how to setup two-factor authentication using RADIUS.
	Understand how to setup two-factor authentication using TACACS.
	Understand how to setup two-factor authentication using LDAP.
Section 5: Integrating with Citrix, Microsoft and third-party technologies	
5.01	Configure NetScaler for integration with Citrix products
	Understand how to configure Secure Ticket Authority (STA) for integrating NetScaler with XenDesktop/XenApp.
	Understand how to configure XML load balancing.
	Understand how to configure NetScaler for integration with XenMobile.
	Understand how to use wizards to integrate XenDesktop/XenApp with NetScaler.
	Understand how to configure Web Interface.
Section 6: Configuring Redundancy	
6.01	Understand the options between high availability (HA), Cluster and GSLB as a form of redundancy

	Understand the location requirements for redundancy.
	Understand the bandwidth requirements for redundancy.
	Understand the sizing/growth constraints for redundancy.
6.02	Configure high availability
	Understand how to test HA.
	Understand the configuration requirements for HA.
6.03	Configure clustering
	Understand what nodes can be added to an existing cluster.
6.05	Configure redundancy for the virtual server
	Understand how to configure a backup load balancing virtual server.
	Understand how to configure a backup URL.
Section 7: Customizing Traffic in a NetScaler implementation	
7.01	Configure Responder, Rewrite or URL transform
	Understand how to use a virtual server to configure HTTP to HTTPS redirect.
7.02	Implement and Configure SSL and identify when it should be used
	Understand how to configure SSL bridge.
	Understand how to configure SSL offload.
	Understand when to use SSL proxy.
	Understand when to use SSL renegotiation.
7.03	Configure Content Switching
	Understand how to setup access to multiple websites on a server.
	Understand the Content Switching binding options.
7.05	Administer caching
	Understand how to invalidate objects.
	Understand how to apply a no-cache policy.
	Understand how to change a pre-fetch.
	Understand when to use caching.
Section 8: Setting up auditing, monitoring and reporting for the NetScaler implementation	
8.01	Determine what services/servers need to be monitored
	Understand how to create account monitors.
8.02	Identify which reporting tool to use for monitoring

	Understand when to use EdgeSight for monitoring purposes.
	Understand when to use Syslog for monitoring purposes.
	Understand when to use NetScaler Insight Center for monitoring purposes.
8.04	Configure auditing and alerts
	Understand how to use Syslog for monitoring purposes.
	Understand how to use NSlog for monitoring purposes.
Section 9: Troubleshooting issues on NetScaler	
9.01	Debug Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA)
	Understand how to use the aaad.debug file for troubleshooting.
	Understand how to use the CLI to identify authentication problems.
9.02	Troubleshoot license issues
	Understand how to review the license.log file.
9.03	Troubleshoot certificates
	Understand how to resolve issues related to trusts between certification authorities.
	Understand how to verify certificate expiration dates.
	Understand how to verify certificate links.
9.04	Troubleshoot network related issues
	Understand how to use traceroute commands.
	Understand how to verify network settings.
	Understand how to determine the root cause of network failures.
	Understand how to use the Visualizer to view the network configuration on a node.
9.05	Read and interpret logs
	Understand how to review logs to identify problems.
	Understand how to export a log from NetScaler.
9.06	Use "show techsupport" command
	Understand when to use the "show techsupport" command.
9.07	Troubleshoot redundancy issues
	Understand how to resolve HA issues.
	Understand how to resolve clustering issues.
	Understand how to resolve GSLB issues.

9.10	Upgrade a NetScaler
	Understand how a NetScaler can be upgraded via the NetScaler Configuration Utility.
	Understand how a NetScaler can be upgraded via CLI.
	Understand how a NetScaler can be upgraded with/without HA.

6 Appendix: Interpretation of Objectives

6.1 Sample Questions

Sample Question 1

Which two tasks must a Citrix Administrator complete to enable Client Certificate Authentication on the NetScaler Gateway? (Choose two.)

- A. Create a pre-authentication policy.
- B. Create an LDAP authentication policy.
- C. Import the root certificate onto the NetScaler Gateway.
- D. Import all client certificates onto the NetScaler Gateway.
- E. Enable the Client Authentication option on the virtual server.

Answers: C and E

Objective: Determine the authentication methods in the environment

Source: Citrix eDocs - <http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netscaler-gateway-105/ng-client-cert-configuration-tsk.html>

Sample Question 2

Which two default key formats of SSL certificates could be installed by the NetScaler system? (Choose two.)

- A. PFX
- B. P7B
- C. PEM
- D. DER

Answers: C and D

Objective: Install/configure SSL Certificates

Source: Citrix Support – <http://support.citrix.com/article/CTX109260>

Sample Question 3

What is required to configure a NetScaler Gateway cluster?

- A. Striped IP addresses
- B. Strict option is enabled
- C. Sticky option is enabled
- D. Enterprise or Platinum license

Answer: C

Objective: Configure Clustering

Source: Citrix eDocs - <http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/ns-system-10-5-map/ns-cluster-node-groups-behav-con.html>

Sample Question 4

Scenario: A Citrix Administrator is upgrading a high availability pair to NetScaler 10.5. After upgrading the secondary appliance, the administrator forces a failover to test the new firmware, but the show ha node command shows the sync state and propagation as disabled.

Why are the settings showing as disabled?

- A. The appliances did NOT properly failover.
- B. The NSIPs are no longer able to communicate.
- C. The settings are automatically disabled until the other appliance is upgraded.
- D. The upgrade process failed to run to completion on the secondary appliance.

Answer: C

Objective: Upgrade a NetScaler

Source: Citrix eDocs - <http://support.citrix.com/proddocs/topic/netScaler-migration-10-5/ns-instpk-upgrd-high-avail-pair-tsk.html>
