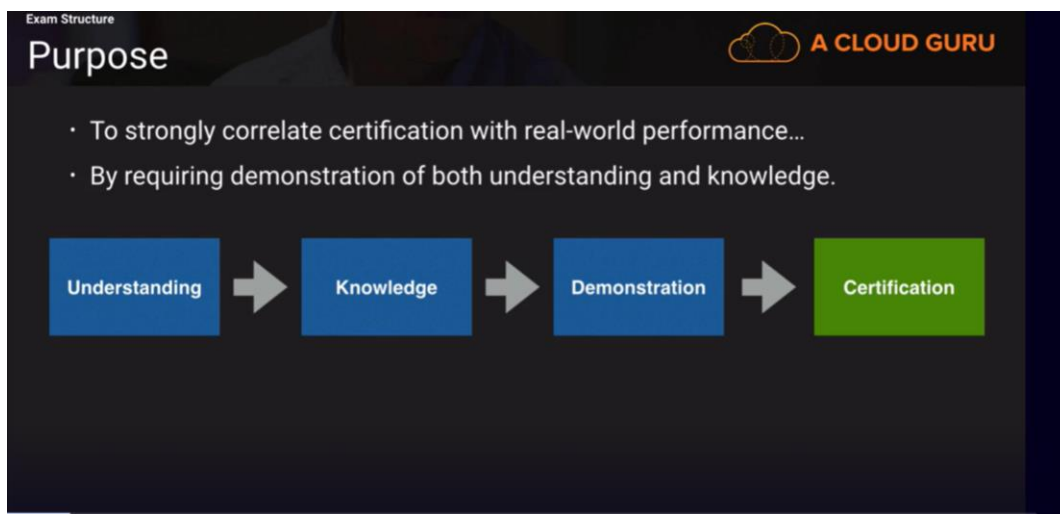


Exam Structure:



Exam Structure

Lifecycle

A CLOUD GURU

Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope defined in blueprint/outline• Huge number of new questions written
Beta	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates provide statistical info and feedback• AWS evaluates results
Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final questions chosen• Certification possible
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old questions broken by AWS changes are removed or corrected• New questions added for new services and changes

Question Structure:

Question Structure

Purpose

A CLOUD GURU

- Earn examiner's trust
- Enough to qualify for certification
- By demonstrating your ability
 - To identify what is possible
 - To identify what is impossible
 - To identify what is appropriate
 - To evaluate along several dimensions
 - To identify what is feasible
 - To balance tradeoffs

Could this work?
Why won't this work?
Does this solve the problem?
How would this work?

Question and Response Types

- Questions
 - Simple (abstract)
 - Scenario (concrete)
- Responses — Always 4–8 options
 - Single response
 - Multiple response
 - Independent
 - Working together
 - Constrained choices

Your Techniques - Assess Responses

- Read carefully and pay close attention to details
 - What are they actually suggesting should happen in the real world?
 - Explicitly
 - Implicitly — “Practically speaking, how would this work?”
 - Are there any fake terms?
 - Are any real things misused?
- Think through the data flow
 - Does it work?
 - Does it conflict with the key question?
 - Does it support or address the key question?

Your Techniques - Eliminate Responses

- Process of elimination!
- Find any (real) problem!
- Problem could be relative to other options
- Can almost always answer the question purely through elimination
 - Even Professional-level scenario questions

Your Techniques - Evaluate Responses



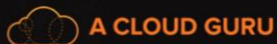
- Consider relationships between services or features
 - Positive (they have streamlined integration)
 - Negative (they don't work smoothly together)
- Understand what services can and can't do
 - But don't ignore "obvious"-but-still-correct answers for super-tricky ones
- Zoom in and out (See Bonus Section)
 - Imagine yourself spying on lower-level systems—watching data and decisions
 - What do the details impact or imply about the big picture?
 - What does the big picture imply or require about the details?
- Eliminate more options!

Your Techniques - Validation



- Self check
 - Especially after elimination or pattern distillation and logic
 - Reread the key question (e.g. cost optimization, HA, etc.)

Your Techniques - Response Patterns



- Responses may come in patterns
- Example:
 - A and B and C and D
 - A and NotB and C and E
 - NotA and B and C and D
 - NotA and NotB and C and E
- In this example
 - C is in every answer, so it is required
 - B always goes together with D
 - NotB always goes together with E
- Using logic
 - Does C conflict with any of A, B, D, or E?
 - If so, then you can rule them out
 - Is any of B, D, or E required? Or can you rule any of them out? One piece of data will determine all of the others
 - If C doesn't decide it, A vs. NotA is something you have to figure out on your own. It's not tied to the other parts.
 - When you're finished, double-check the answer you chose!

Handling Outdated Questions

- May get just a few uncertain questions
 - Exception, not the rule
 - Most questions will be current
- Not always as uncertain as they seem
 - E.g.: "SQS queue" is *always* standard version—or it would say "FIFO queue"
- Overprepare
 - Creates a buffer
 - Can sometimes let you deduce whether the question is current
 - Use proof by contradiction

Your Techniques - Structured Breakdown

Understand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine the key question—the "kicker"• Figure out what everything means—question and responses
Eliminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get rid of responses that have fake info or other errors• Get rid of responses that conflict with the key question
Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Think through all the tradeoffs for remaining responses• Consider both stated and implied dimensions
Choose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pick exactly the right number• Select the best options or eliminate the worst ones
Validate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure your responses <i>answer</i> the key question• Make sure your responses don't conflict with any details