

# Preparing for the Professional Cloud Architect Examination

## Sections of the Professional Cloud Architect Exam



These are the sections of the exam. The first part of the exam, about design, and the second part about provisioning, are more inclined towards product and feature knowledge, and basic design -- when and how to use each product in specific cases. The middle two parts on security and optimizing, are about getting specific qualities into the solution. For example, in the first two parts you might make something function, in the second two parts you might make it secure and cost-effective. The last two parts are about operating the solution and all the procedures and features that can make the solution continue to operate reliably and to adapt and to change over time.

# Agenda

- 1 Understanding the Professional Cloud Architect Certification
- 2 Sample case studies for the Professional Cloud Architect exam
- 3 Designing and Implementing (Review and preparation tips)
- 4 Optimizing and Operating (Review and preparation tips)
- 5 Resources and next steps

*Security and cost/performance optimization are "lateral" and appear repeatedly at all stages of the Cloud Architect process, and consequently, across all sections of the exam. These subjects are covered in one place in this course for learning efficiency.*



There is a lot of ground to cover today.

You will begin by learning what the Certification is about -- where it is positioned relative to other certifications and more specifically how it is designed relative to your job role and experience in the industry.

Next you will explore the sample case studies provided to help prepare for the exam

You will spend most of the day reviewing and getting preparation tips in specific subject areas.

And at the end you will get pointers to resources and next steps to continue your preparation.

I think it seems pretty obvious from this list, but it should be called out that you can't learn everything you need to know for the certification exam in one day or from a single class. So the goal here is to help you prepare. But you won't be able to pass the exam based only on attending this class.

By the end of this class, if you have already been preparing for the examination, you will have a good sense of what else you need to study or do to prepare or whether you are ready to give it a shot!

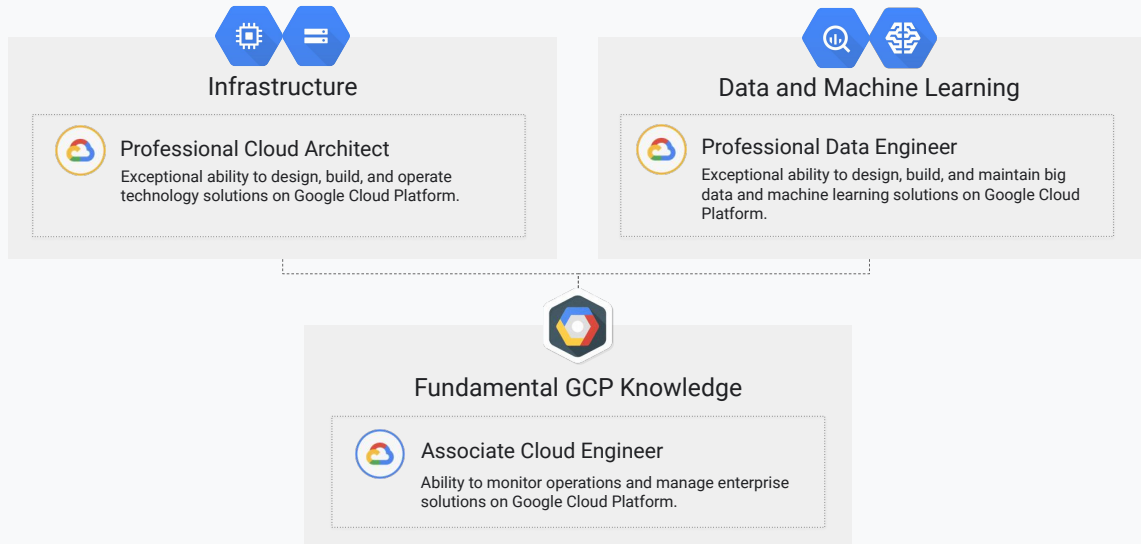
# Understanding the Professional Cloud Architect certification

The main thing you need to know about the Professional Cloud Architect Certification is that it isn't a theoretical test. This certification has been designed to confirm the skills required of a practitioner. Specifically, it tests if you know how to do the job of a Cloud Architect, not just if you know general information.

Look -- that means the certification is going to be more challenging than other certifications you may have heard about that only test on information. But it also means that the certification means something -- and that is one reason it is valued in the industry. The practical nature of the exam makes it challenging, but also makes it valuable.

And with the experience you will have in this course -- hopefully you will see it is not too challenging but more fun and exciting because it DOES reflect real-world cases and experience.

# What certs does Google offer for GCP?

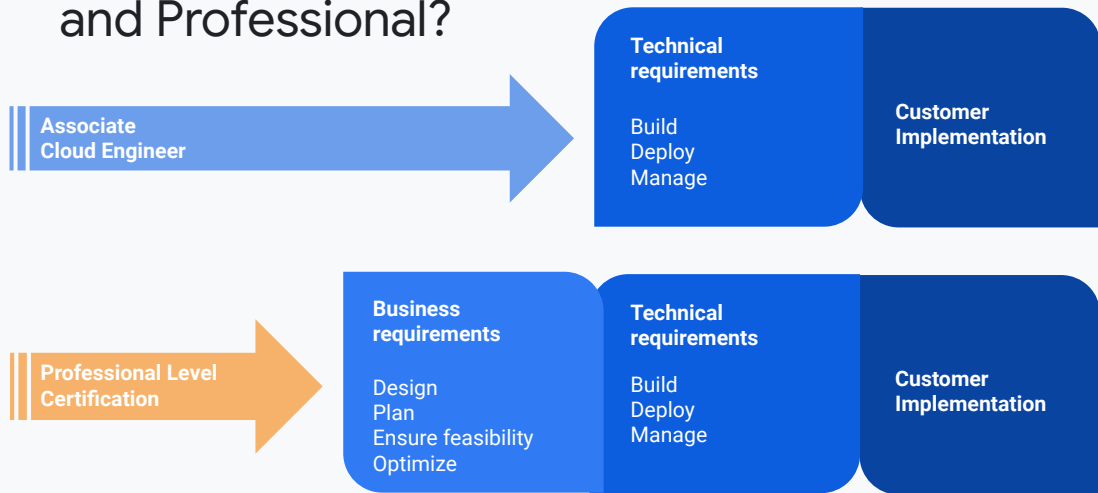


I just want to caution you that the Associate Cloud Engineer is not a simpler and easier Architect exam.

All of these certifications are based on real-world practical job skills required and used by practitioners in the industry.

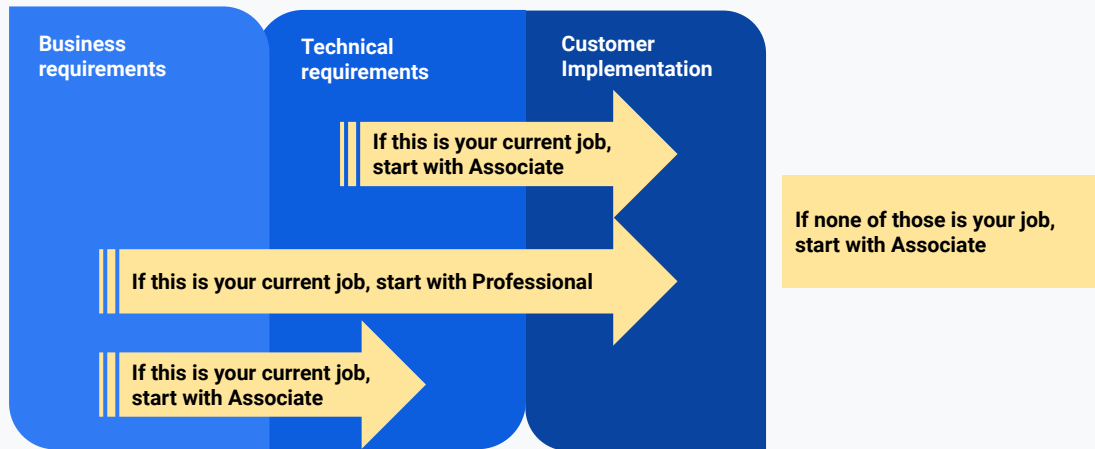
So -- which certification or certifications you might want depends on your job role -- the job you have or the job you want to have.

# What's the difference between Associate and Professional?



In addition to the Business requirements, there are differences in the Technical requirements. For example, a Cloud Engineer might need more practice operating and maintaining a solution, whereas a Cloud Architect might need to know more about how different solution options will change how the solution is operated and maintained. It is the same technical skills, but seen from a different perspective.

## Should I start with Associate Cloud Engineer or Professional Cloud Architect?



Here is some direct advice to help you decide where to start. If your job focuses mainly on Business requirements and not so much on implementation, you will want to start with ACE. If your job doesn't involve Business requirements, you will want to start with ACE. And if your job involves all three areas -- design, develop, and deliver -- then you will want to start with CA.

## How is the Professional Cloud Architect exam administered?

- Visit <https://cloud.google.com/certification/cloud-architect> for more info and to register.
  - Exam length: 2 hours
  - Exam cost: US \$200
  - Available globally [Must be taken in-person at a Kryterion testing center]
  - If you are a Google partner, be sure to **register with your partner domain**.
    - You may need to create a new Webassessor account if you do not already have one for Google Cloud certifications.



The exam is \$200, 2 hours, and taken in person.

No scratch paper or pen -- no notes.

No drinks.

Bathroom breaks are allowed, but the clock keeps ticking.

Many people report they use the complete two hours.



## Tips and Tricks

First -- draw on your own personal experience.

Review the Exam Guides.

Read the Case Studies (on exam guides).

Take the practice test.

Pace Yourself; there is a timer.

If you are concerned about time, run through the exam and answer the shortest, easiest questions first. Go back to the ones that are more difficult or require multiple answers (there is no partial credit!).



### Tips Document:

- Practice, practice, practice. Become familiar with the style of testing and comfortable with being timed.
- **Pace yourself. Calculate the amount of time you have to answer each question and avoid getting bogged down on any one question.**
- If you're stuck on a question, move on to the next question. You can always return to the question later.
- **If you are concerned about time, run through the exam and answer the shortest, easiest questions first. Go back to the ones that are more difficult or require multiple answers (there is no partial credit!).**
- If you have time left over at the end of the exam, review your answers. Only change your answer if you are 100% certain you made an error. Don't second guess yourself!
- Make an educated guess: for multiple choice questions, eliminate any answers that you know are incorrect and make a guess.
- Consider all of the answer choices before writing down your final answer. If one of the answers is an all-of-the-above choice, make sure there isn't more than one correct answer. If you've identified at least two correct answers, choose the all-of-the-above response.
- **Read each question as if you had to answer it without choosing from a list of alternative answers.**
- Read the stem with each option
- Treat each option as a true-false question, and choose the "most true"
- Katie's favorite: Get some sleep the night before and eat a good, high-protein

- breakfast :)

## Testing Strategy

What if you leave an item blank?

You can't take notes during the exam

You can mark items for later review

No breaks (clock continues)

No food or drink

Answer each question. Mark those you are unsure about.

Review unanswered questions and unsure questions.

Review answered questions and make sure they still seem right



Should you guess or are you better off leaving an item blank?  
There is no advantage to leaving a question unanswered.

## Key Tip...



Use everything you know to sort out exactly what is being asked and surface which information is important.



Many of the tips you will learn about today are intended to help you sort out the case information and identify the core question. That is not just an exam-taking skill. It is part of the skills required of a Professional Cloud Architect.

<https://pixabay.com/en/solve-jigsaw-problem-concept-2636254/>

