

# DP-300 Exam 4-Week Study Plan (2025)

## Introduction

This study plan is designed to help candidates pass the Microsoft DP-300 exam (Administering Relational Databases on Microsoft Azure) in 4 weeks. It provides a detailed week-by-week breakdown of topics, hands-on labs, and practice strategies to ensure a first-time pass.

## Week 1 - Understand the Basics

- Study Azure SQL deployment models: PaaS, IaaS, Managed Instances
- Use Microsoft Learn modules: 'Introduction to Azure SQL'
- Create a free Azure account and explore the portal
- Install SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) and/or Azure Data Studio
- Practice creating SQL databases on Azure
- Review Azure SQL pricing tiers and compute models (DTU vs vCore)

## Week 2 - Security & Monitoring

- Study Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), firewall rules, and authentication methods
- Learn about Azure Defender for SQL and Advanced Threat Protection
- Use Query Performance Insight to analyze query execution
- Monitor DTUs, vCores, wait stats, and index recommendations
- Explore Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, and Alerts
- Perform hands-on exercises with auditing and threat detection

## Week 3 - Backup, Restore & High Availability

- Understand Point-in-Time Restore (PITR) and long-term backup retention
- Study geo-redundant backups and storage redundancy options
- Learn Failover Groups and Active Geo-Replication configuration
- Explore High Availability models: Availability Zones, Always On (IaaS)
- Hands-on lab: Configure automatic backups and HA groups
- Review Microsoft SLAs and RTO/RPO values

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## Week 4 - Practice & Review

- Take daily practice tests (RealExamCollection recommended)
- Focus on Performance-Based Questions (PBQs) and case studies
- Review weak areas using Microsoft Docs and community tutorials
- Practice with PowerShell & Azure CLI for automation tasks
- Review JSON templates for Azure deployments
- Final mock exam: Simulate full 100-minute session
- Relax and revise cheat sheets before test day

## Final Tips

- Use official Microsoft documentation as your main reference
- Prioritize understanding concepts over memorization
- Simulate real-world environments by doing labs in Azure
- Don't underestimate the CLI and PowerShell components
- Rest well before exam day and trust your preparation

Good luck - your Azure certification journey starts here!