COA Exam Advice

1. Manage time appropriately.

2. Be sure to read info about how to run the interface before taking the exam.

3. Make sure to get any communication with the proctor done before clicking the link to end the exam, as there is no way to do that after.

4. Most of the exam can be completed through the dashboard, be careful to select the correct project for each action.

5. You can access the openrc file by becoming the root user: sudo su -   or by creating the file from scratch. You can retrieve credential info by going to: Project > Access & Security > API Access

6. If you have difficulty selecting the correct project from the project switcher in the header, remember you can do the same from Identity > Projects.
This will only work for non-admins - Because the exam has you perform the tasks as admin user, test-taker will not be able to do this.
Phil or John, can you confirm the ability to scope via identity > projects in exam lab environment?

COA Exam Challenging Questions/Topics

1. Swift Acl questions

2. Swift ACLs, Associating Keystone groups with domains

3. Troubleshooting floating IPs

4. The syntax of the Heat template commands and network troubleshooting

5. Network access between two VMs one for time

6. Question asks you to find a log line. For some reason the WARNING log on the test had a different request identifier. I solved it my searching for "WARNING" which returned about 10 log lines manually filtered. Found log lines associated with the request id but they did not match the criteria the question demanded as they were "DEBUG" and "INFO" log lines.

7. Creating a provider network

8. Creating an external network. Ended up using the CLI to create the network which appeared to create successfully.

9. The grep'ing the logs was also tough just trying to remember what the exact code they were looking for. When I grep'd for what I thought was the RequestID I didn't find the right log file, but when I grep'd for the Error message I think I did.

10. Neutron networking related questions.

11. There was a question to get the WARNING of the nova.api object from the logs after a failure, the problem is that when we search using the ID of the request that line does not contain the warning, that is in a different line.

12. Another question about swift asked to allow the project to a particular container, but it wasn't clear, does that mean to allow all user from such project to have access?

13. Finally when trying to setup the external property in a network through the CLI I couldn't find the --router:external in the help, but it works it's simply not in the help options.

14. Networking

15. Floating IP and subnet topics

16. There was a multi-part question about a broken project with instances and networking

COA Exam Incidents to Watch For

1. Exam was broken where 3 questions were asking for actions on an existing instance and the instances in the objective did not exist as part of the environment.

2. Network connection, errors in the environments.

3. Connection problems to the exam. What corrected the window is reset to question 1 and there is no way to quickly advance to the question in progress when the connection failure occured.

4. Instructions for use of the terminal such as copy and paste need to be available from the exam interface. (NOTE: This does not affect Macs)

5. I also found that the needed context (project) occationally could not be found in the Horizon interface. I had to use the CLI to answer the question. I should have been able to do it using Horizon.

6. Horizon dashboard is in a smaller "mobile" view which exposes a different navigation. Some have reported thinking this is a different version of Horizon or OpenStack.

7. Session hung a few times(at least three) which the proctor had to reset. Proctor mentioned he stopped the time however, you do not get compensated for any work lost (mostly typed out commands that you were still writing up) as a result of the hung/reset.