**Scenario**

As a newly hired Azure solutions architect at Fabrikam Inc., you need to educate the IT team about your responsibilities. The team is unfamiliar with how your role differs from traditional sysadmins or DevOps engineers.

**Objectives**

* Explain the core responsibilities of an Azure solutions architect.
* Differentiate the role from adjacent IT roles.
* Create a workflow diagram for a sample project.

**Instructions**

1. **Role Breakdown**: List 5 key responsibilities of an Azure solutions architect (e.g., designing scalable solutions, cost optimization) and describe each in 50 words. Contrast these with tasks handled by sysadmins (e.g., maintenance) or DevOps engineers (e.g., CI/CD pipelines).
2. **Scenario Mapping**: Use a hypothetical project (e.g., migrating a legacy app to Azure). Map out the architect’s tasks (designing the topology) vs. DevOps (setting up deployment pipelines) in a Venn diagram.
3. **Stakeholder Communication**: Draft a 150-word email to the IT team explaining how your role will collaborate with them, emphasizing decision-making authority (e.g., choosing PaaS over IaaS).

**Evaluation Criteria**

* Accuracy of role definition (30%).
* Clarity of differentiation (30%).
* Practicality of workflow diagram (20%).
* Professional communication (20%).

**Role Breakdown: 5 Key Responsibilities of an Azure Solutions Architect**

1. **Solution Design & Architecture**

Architect scalable, secure, and resilient Azure-based systems by selecting the right services, designing for high availability, and aligning with business goals. This involves choosing between compute options (e.g., App Services vs. Kubernetes), data storage, and networking patterns to meet performance and compliance requirements.

1. **Cost Optimization**

Analyze usage patterns and recommend cost-effective services. Implement scaling strategies, reserved instances, and monitoring to avoid unnecessary spending. Architects ensure the solution stays within budget while meeting performance requirements—unlike sysadmins who focus more on keeping systems running.

1. **Security & Compliance**

Integrate security at every design phase by enforcing access controls, data encryption, and identity management via Azure AD. Architects also ensure compliance with internal policies or industry standards, while sysadmins typically handle patching and system-level security.

1. **Technology Evaluation**

Continuously assess Azure’s evolving services to adopt the best-fit technologies. Architects must choose between IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS options based on long-term strategy—something outside the purview of DevOps engineers focused on pipelines and automation.

1. **Integration & Interoperability**

Design solutions that integrate legacy systems, APIs, and third-party services. This ensures seamless interoperability across hybrid or multi-cloud environments. While DevOps may script API connections, architects define **what** should connect and **why**.

**Scenario Mapping: Legacy App Migration to Azure**

**Project**: Migrate a legacy on-prem app to Azure.

**Venn Diagram – Azure Solutions Architect vs DevOps Engineer**

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Stakeholder Communication Email**

**Subject**: Collaborating for Scalable Azure Success – My Role at Fabrikam

Hi Team,

I’m excited to join Fabrikam as your Azure Solutions Architect. My role focuses on designing scalable, secure, and cost-efficient cloud solutions that align with our long-term goals. I’ll work closely with you to define technical direction—such as selecting between Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) or Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)—based on performance, cost, and compliance.

While sysadmins and DevOps engineers handle daily operations like deployment pipelines, patching, and automation, I’ll be responsible for high-level decisions, such as system topology, integration strategies, and selecting Azure services.

I look forward to collaborating on upcoming projects and making sure everyone’s work aligns to a unified architecture. Let’s ensure our cloud journey is smooth, strategic, and collaborative.

Best,  
Luba Moura  
Azure Solutions Architect  
Fabrikam Inc.