

# ⚡ AWS SAA-C03 – Ultra-Short Memory Hooks + Phrase Decoder

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**Goal:** Rapid revision to gain 10–15% score improvement by pattern recognition. **How to use:** Read twice (now + just before exam). Don't overthink — match phrases.

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## 🧠 Compute & EC2

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### Ultra-short memory hooks

- User Data → runs once, first boot, root
- IAM on EC2 → Role only, never keys
- Instance Store → fastest I/O, data lost
- Burst workloads → ASG + On-Demand/Spot
- Steady 24×7 → Reserved Instances
- Spot jobs → Spot Fleet, not single spot

### If you see this phrase → pick this service

- "Runs code at launch only" → EC2 User Data
  - "No servers to manage" → Lambda
  - "Ultra-low latency compute" → EC2
  - "Fault-tolerant batch jobs" → Spot Fleet
  - "Temporary data, very high IOPS" → Instance Store
  - "Baseline + spikes" → RI + ASG (On-Demand/Spot)
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## 🗄️ Storage (S3 / Hybrid)

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### Ultra-short memory hooks

- S3 accidental delete → Versioning + MFA Delete
- S3 performance → scale via prefixes, not buckets
- S3 raw data → Glacier Deep Archive
- S3 analytics → Parquet / ORC
- Object Lock → per object version
- Explicit retention beats bucket default

- NFS on-prem → S3 → File Gateway

## If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “Accidental deletion protection” → **S3 Versioning**
  - “Compliance retention / WORM” → **S3 Object Lock**
  - “Cheap long-term archive” → **Glacier Deep Archive**
  - “Frequent analytics queries” → **Parquet / ORC**
  - “On-prem NFS to AWS” → **Storage Gateway – File**
  - “Block storage from on-prem” → **Volume Gateway**
  - “Unlimited scale object storage” → **S3**
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## File Systems

### Ultra-short memory hooks

- Linux shared files → **EFS**
- Windows / SMB / AD → **FSx Windows**
- HPC / Lustre → **FSx Lustre**
- High IOPS + ephemeral → **Instance Store**

## If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “Shared Linux file system” → **EFS**
  - “Windows file shares / DFS / NTFS” → **FSx for Windows**
  - “HPC workloads” → **FSx Lustre**
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## Databases

### Ultra-short memory hooks

- RDS Multi-AZ → sync, HA, no reads
- Read Replicas → async, scale reads
- Aurora reads → Reader Endpoint
- Aurora global users → Global Database
- Failover < 1 min → pre-provisioned infra

## If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “High availability” → **RDS Multi-AZ**
  - “Scale reads” → **Read Replicas**
  - “One writer, many readers” → **Aurora**
  - “Read traffic distribution” → **Aurora Reader Endpoint**
  - “Global users, fast failover” → **Aurora Global Database**
  - “Millisecond reads at scale” → **DynamoDB**
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## Networking

### Ultra-short memory hooks

- Encryption + low latency → **DX + VPN**
- Private cross-account service → **PrivateLink**
- Multi-VPC hub → **Transit Gateway**
- API Gateway IP filter → **Resource Policy**

### If you see this phrase → pick this service

- Dedicated + encrypted connection” → **Direct Connect + VPN**
  - “Private access to service across accounts” → **PrivateLink**
  - “Many VPCs hub-and-spoke” → **Transit Gateway**
  - “Block/allow IPs for API” → **API Gateway Resource Policy**
  - “DNS-based failover” → **Route 53**
  - “Low latency global users” → **CloudFront**
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## IAM & Security

### Ultra-short memory hooks

- Least privilege → always
- Privileged users → **MFA**
- Audit IAM → **CloudTrail**
- aws:SourceIp → caller IP
- aws:RequestedRegion → target region
- S3 Read-Only → bucket + bucket/\* ARNs

### If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “EC2 accessing AWS services” → **IAM Role**
  - “Temporary credentials” → **IAM Role**
  - “Audit API activity” → **CloudTrail**
  - “Restrict API by IP” → **Resource Policy**
  - “Caller IP condition” → **aws:SourceIp**
  - “Restrict region” → **aws:RequestedRegion**
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## AI / ML (No ML Team)

### Ultra-short memory hooks

- PDF → **text** → **Textract**
- Text → **sentiment/entities** → **Comprehend**
- Images/video → **Rekognition**
- No ML ops → avoid **SageMaker**

### If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “Extract text from PDF” → **Textract**
  - “Sentiment / entities from text” → **Comprehend**
  - “Image / face / video analysis” → **Rekognition**
  - “Build/train ML model” → **SageMaker**
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## Messaging & Streaming

### Ultra-short memory hooks

- Decouple apps → **SQS**
- Multiple subscribers → **SNS**
- Ordered + scale → **SQS FIFO + GroupId**
- Real-time stream → **Kinesis**

### If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “Decouple applications” → **SQS**
- “Multiple consumers” → **SNS**
- “Strict ordering” → **SQS FIFO**
- “Parallel ordered streams” → **FIFO + MessageGroupId**

- “Real-time data ingestion” → **Kinesis**
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## 💡 Disaster Recovery

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### Ultra-short memory hooks

- Lowest RTO → Warm / Hot Standby
- Failover ≠ provisioning → pre-create infra
- Minimal cost DR → Backup & Restore

If you see this phrase → pick this service

- “Lowest RTO” → Warm/Hot Standby
  - “Pre-provisioned resources” → Fast failover
  - “Minimal cost DR” → Backup & Restore
  - “Seconds RPO” → Aurora Global Database
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## 🏁 Final Exam Super-Rule

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If two answers look right, choose the one that is:

Managed + Serverless + Least Ops + Least Cost + Fastest Recovery

### How you should use it now (highest impact)

- Read once tonight
- Read once just before the exam
- Don’t analyze — pattern match and move on
- This doc is designed to:
  - Eliminate wrong answers fast
  - Reduce overthinking
  - Boost confidence under time pressure