Interview Answer Guide – EC2 + S3 (For Students & Observers)

Duration per mock: 15–25 minutes
Purpose: Use this as a reference after the mock interview. It shows how you could have answered each
question in a real job interview.
Keep your answers: Short and confident (2–3 lines) - With examples where possible - Avoid just giving definitions—share experience or what you practiced in labs

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1. ➤ What is EC2?

"EC2 stands for Elastic Compute Cloud → It lets me launch virtual servers. I used it to host websites and try backend apps during AWS practice."

2. ➤ How do you launch an EC2 instance?

"Select an AMI (e.g., Ubuntu) → Choose instance type (t2.micro) → Configure key pair and security group → Launch. I practiced this in labs."

3. ➤ What instance types do you know?

"Common types: t2.micro, t3.medium, m5.large. I mostly used t2.micro as it's free under the AWS Free Tier."

4. ➤ Difference between Stop and Terminate?

"Stop: Instance shuts down but can be restarted.
Terminate: Instance is deleted and data is lost unless saved to EBS."

5. ➤ How do you connect to EC2?

"For Linux, I use SSH with a .pem key. For Windows, RDP. In labs, I connected via SSH and installed Apache."

6. ➤ What are Security Groups?

"They act like firewalls. For SSH, I opened port 22; for web servers, port 80. I configured them during practice."

7. ➤ What is an AMI?

"Amazon Machine Image – It's a prebuilt OS image. I used Ubuntu AMI with Node.js during testing."

8. ➤ EC2 Pricing Models?

"On-Demand (flexible), Reserved (cheaper long-term), Spot (lowest cost, not always reliable). I used On-Demand mostly."

9. ➤ How do you troubleshoot a website on EC2?

"I check if the instance is running, public IP is right, security group allows HTTP, and web server is running."

10. ➤ Example Use Case?

"I hosted a basic static website using EC2 and Apache. Also deployed a Flask app from GitHub."

✅ S3 – Interview Answers (0–1 Year Experience)

1. ➤ What is S3?

"Simple Storage Service – I used it to store files like images, resumes, and logs in projects."

2. ➤ What is a Bucket?

"It's a container for storing files. The bucket name must be globally unique."

3. ➤ How do you upload to S3?

"I used drag-and-drop in AWS Console. Also tried AWS CLI (`aws s3 cp`) in one lab."

4. ➤ Storage Classes?

"Standard – for regular use
IA – for less frequent access
Glacier – for long-term backup"

5. ➤ How to make an object public?

"Change bucket policy and object permissions to allow public read access. Used this for static site hosting."

6. ➤ Hosting a Static Website?

"Enabled 'Static Website Hosting' → Uploaded `index.html` → Updated bucket policy → Used for my portfolio project."

7. ➤ Object vs Block Storage?

**"S3 is object storage (stores full files).
Block storage like EBS is used with EC2 (more like a hard drive)."**

8. ➤ S3 Security?

"Supports encryption (SSE-S3, SSE-KMS). I kept buckets private and used IAM roles when needed."

9. ➤ Folder-Level Access?

"IAM policies with prefixes (e.g., `bucket/folder/*`) can restrict access to specific folders. I learned this in labs."

10. ➤ Example Use Case?

"I stored uploaded resumes and static images in S3. Used it in a student portal mini project."

Scenario-Based Questions

1. Ask: 🗣 **"You uploaded an image file to S3, but it's not opening in your browser. What could be the issue?"**

✔️ **Expected Answer: "The object may be private. I need to make it public or configure proper bucket policy."**

💡 **Hint: "Did you change any permissions or public access settings?"**

2. Ask: 🗣 **"You launched an EC2 instance, but can't access it using SSH. What will you check first?"**

✔️ **Expected Answer: "I will check if port 22 is allowed in the Security Group and if I'm using the correct key pair."**

💡 **Hint: "It's usually a networking or credential issue."**

3. Ask: 🗣 **"You want to store logs from your app running on EC2. Where would you store them for durability?"**

✔️ **Expected Answer: "I will send logs to an S3 bucket so they are stored safely and can be retrieved later."**

💡 **Hint: "Think low-cost storage for long-term data."**

4. Ask: 🗣 **"You uploaded a file to S3 but can't find it by 'folder name'. What's happening?"**

✔️ **Expected Answer: "S3 is flat — folders are simulated using prefixes. I can use the correct key/path to locate it."**

💡 **Hint: "There are no real folders in S3."**

Project-Based Questions

5. Ask: 🗣 **"You want to build a personal portfolio website. How would you do it using AWS?"**

> ✔️ **Expected Answer: "I'll upload the HTML/CSS files to an S3 bucket, enable static website hosting, and set permissions to public."**

> 💡 **Hint: "S3 can act as a basic web host!"**

6. Ask: 🗣 **"You are given a task to create a test server and upload a file to cloud storage. What would you do?"**

> ✔️ **Expected Answer: "I would launch an EC2 instance, connect via SSH, and upload a file to S3 using the AWS CLI."**

> 💡 **Hint: "Think EC2 + S3 + basic CLI command."**