

The GH-300 Exam's True Focus Isn't Code Generation. It's Governance.

A strategic analysis of the official GH-300 curriculum reveals a surprising truth: domains covering plans, data handling, and privacy exclusions constitute a commanding 61% of the total exam score.

Success requires mastering AI administration, not just AI assistance.

This Certification is Designed for the Next Next Generation of AI Stewards

GitHub has architected the GH-300 to validate the skills required to govern, manage, and securely deploy AI within a professional software development lifecycle. It's built for those who will manage AI, not just use it.



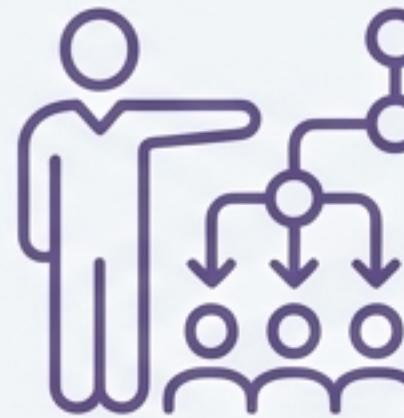
Developer

Seeking to boost productivity and adopt AI responsibly.



DevOps Engineer

Automating scripts and integrating AI into secure pipelines.



Technical Lead / Architect

Adopting Copilot responsibly across teams and pipelines.



Administrator / Manager

Implementing responsible AI practices and overseeing AI projects.

A Strategic Blueprint for the GH-300 Exam



The Governance Core (61%)

Mastering the policies, plans, and privacy controls that enable a secure and compliant enterprise rollout. This is about architectural administration.

- Copilot Plans: Individual vs. Business vs. Enterprise
- Data Handling, Telemetry, and LLM Interaction
- IP Protection & Context Exclusion Configuration



The Application Layer (39%)

Mastering the hands-on, daily-use workflows that accelerate the software development lifecycle. This is about practical application.

- Prompt Engineering & Custom Instructions
- SDLC Use Cases (Refactoring, Documentation)
- Testing & Debugging with Copilot CLI and Chat

The Governance Core: Mastering Copilot Plans & Features (31%).

The exam requires definitive knowledge of the feature and administrative differences across subscription tiers. Your primary focus should be on governance and control.

Capability	Copilot Individual	Copilot Business (\$19/user/mo)	Copilot Enterprise (\$39/user/mo)
Centralized Management	No	Yes	Yes
Org Audit Logs / SSO	No	Yes	Yes
Public Code Filter Control	User Controlled	Admin Controlled	Admin Controlled
Policy Enforcement Scope	N/A	Organization Level	Enterprise Level (Overrides Org)
Premium Request Allowance	Standard	Standard	Higher Allowance (for agents/advanced models)

Critical Distinction:

The ability to filter suggestions matching public code is a personal setting in the Individual plan, but becomes a centrally managed administrative control in Business and Enterprise plans. This is a frequent focus of exam questions.

The Governance Core: Data Handling & Privacy Exclusions (30%)

Protecting intellectual property is a paramount concern. The exam tests your knowledge of the specific mechanisms used to prevent sensitive code from being used as context by the Copilot service.

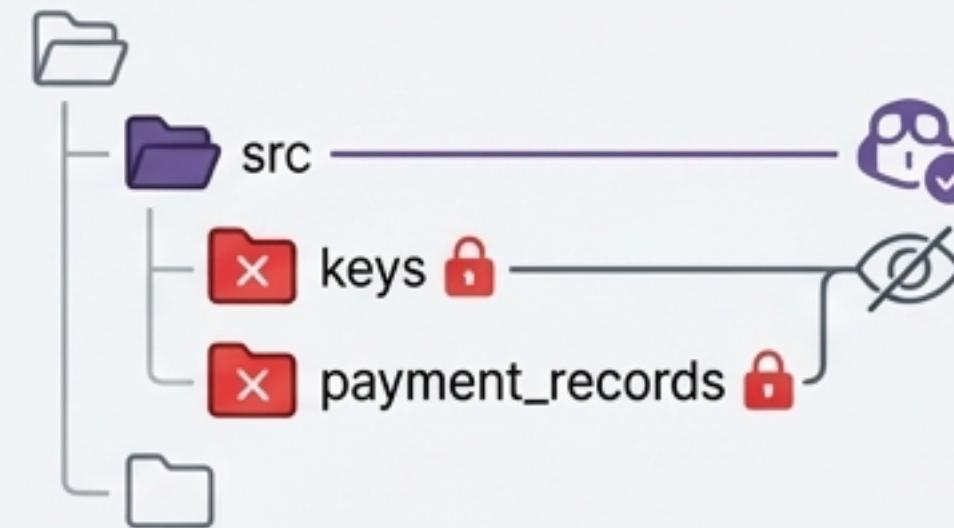


How Copilot Handles Your Code

Copilot transmits relevant snippets from your active context for inference but does not retain this content for long-term storage or use it to train the public models. For Business/Enterprise, prompts and suggestions are not retained.

Admin Controls

Organization admins can manage policies for "user feedback collection" and "preview features" to control data sharing.



Preventing Contextual Access

To ensure Copilot does not read directories containing sensitive content (e.g., payment records, private keys), use **organization or repository content exclusions**. This blocks specified files and folders from being used as context while keeping Copilot available for the rest of the codebase.

⚠ Common Pitfall: `.gitignore` only controls what Git tracks; it does **not** prevent Copilot from reading local files.

The Application Layer: Must-Know Tactical Skills

Beyond concepts, the exam validates your hands-on experience with specific Copilot tools and configurations that accelerate daily workflows.

Custom Instructions

File:

```
.github/copilot-instructions.md
```

Purpose: Provide project-specific coding guidelines, style rules, or functional requirements to tailor Copilot's suggestions for consistency.

Copilot in the CLI

```
copilot help
```

 - Lists all available CLI commands.

```
copilot suggest
```

 - Requests a single, one-time command suggestion.

```
copilot explain .
```

 - Provides a summary of the repository, its dependencies, and test coverage.

```
copilot fix tests
```

 - After a failed run, proposes a fix for review.

Copilot Chat (in IDE)

```
/summarize
```

 - Creates a brief overview of the currently open file.

Contextual History: Keeping follow-up questions in the same chat thread allows Copilot to use prior messages for better, more focused suggestions.

The Application Layer: From Vague Prompts to Precise Results

Effective prompting is a core skill. When a completion misses the mark, the solution is to provide **more specific context: state the input, the rules, and the expected output.**

Generate a function to filter a list of support tickets by priority.

Ineffective Prompt

```
// create a function to filter tickets
```



Vague, forces Copilot to guess, leading to off-target code.

Effective Prompt

```
// Write a JavaScript function called  
// filterHighPriority that  
// accepts an array of ticket objects (each with  
// a 'priority' property)  
// and returns a new array containing only  
// tickets where priority is 'high'
```

Specific, defines language, function name, input type, filter rule, and return value, leading to a correct implementation.

A Recommended Precursor: The GitHub Foundations Certification

While not a formal prerequisite, experts recommend the GitHub Foundations certification as a strategic starting point. Mastering these fundamentals streamlines GH-300 preparation by securing your ground-level familiarity with the environment where Copilot operates and policies are enforced.

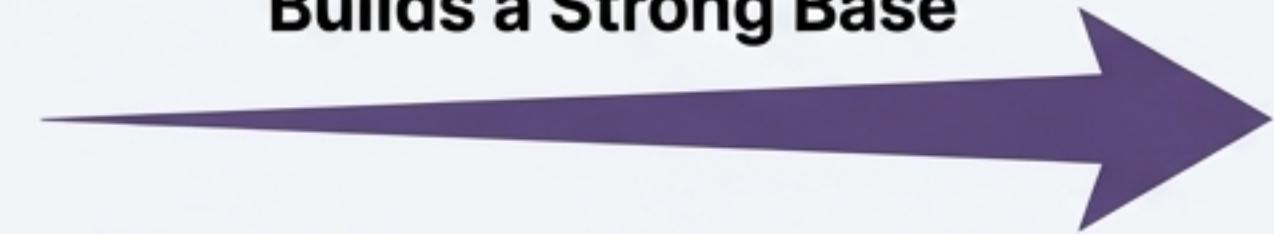


GitHub Foundations

Covers: Git Basics, Collaboration, GitHub Products, Repository Workflows.

Benefit: Minimizes distractions during GH-300 prep, allowing you to focus on the advanced, AI-specific topics.

Builds a Strong Base



GitHub Copilot (GH-300)



Critical Exam Constraint: The GH-300 is NOT an Open-Book Exam.

Unlike some Microsoft role-based exams, access to external reference materials, including Microsoft Learn, is **prohibited** during the GH-300 assessment. Preparation must prioritize high-speed fact recall, especially for the policy-heavy governance domains.

The Time Pressure Calculation



100 Minutes



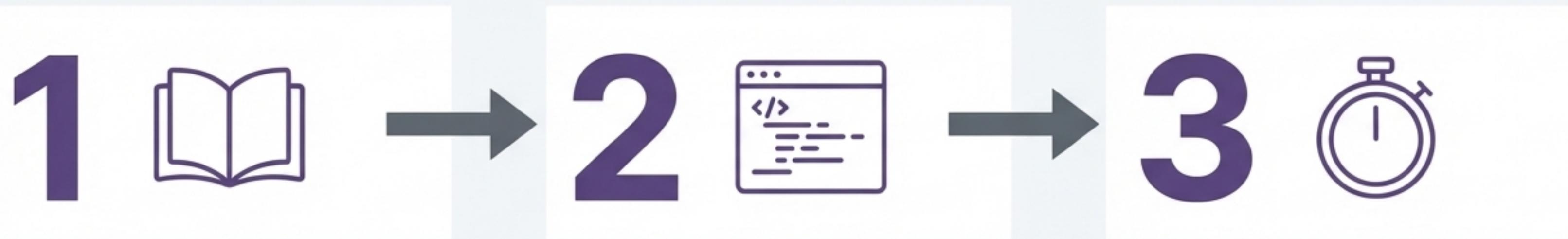
~65 Questions



**~92 Seconds
Per Question**

Reliance on on-the-spot lookups is not an option. Your recall of policy details, licensing differences, and configuration paths must be instantaneous.

Your 3-Step Roadmap to Certification Success



LEARN

Start with the official GH-300 study guide and complete the self-paced training modules on Microsoft Learn. These provide the necessary structured background on all key domains.

PRACTICE

Get relentlessly hands-on. Use Copilot daily in your IDE (VS Code, JetBrains). Practice writing contextual prompts, generating unit tests, and experimenting with the advanced features like the CLI.

SIMULATE

This is the crucial final step. Use the official Practice Assessment on Microsoft Learn to understand the question style. Leverage high-quality third-party practice exams to drill the specific details required for the 61% governance core and ensure rapid recall under pressure.

The GH-300 Exam: At a Glance.

Exam Code

GH-300

Exam Price

\$99 USD

Duration

100 Minutes

Number of Questions

~65 Questions

Passing Score

700 / 1000

Certification Validity

2 Years

Level

Intermediate

Delivery Partner

Pearson VUE

More Than a Tool: A Credential in AI-Powered Development

Earning the GH-300 certification validates more than your ability to prompt an AI. It demonstrates your expertise in leveraging AI-driven development efficiently, securely, and responsibly. It is a credential that showcases your readiness to lead in a software landscape being fundamentally reshaped by artificial intelligence.

"With GitHub Certifications, you can showcase your expertise in GitHub technologies and workflows. Earning a GitHub Certification gives you a competitive edge in the job market."

— GitHub Docs

