AWS Compute Services Cheat Sheet (Exam Focused)

Service	What It Is	Key Exam Points / Traps
ECS	AWS container orchestration service	Uses Task Definition; supports EC2 & Fargate; ECS on EC2 requires instance management
EKS	Managed Kubernetes service	AWS manages control plane; use when Kubernetes-native tools required
Lambda	Serverless event-driven compute	Max 15 min runtime; uses Execution Role; auto-scales; watch concurrency limits
Fargate	Serverless compute for containers	No EC2 management; works with ECS & EKS; pay per vCPU & memory
Docker	Containerization platform	Packages app + dependencies; stored in ECR; not an orchestrator
API Gateway	Managed API front door	Throttling, IAM/Cognito auth, integrates with Lambda
Lightsail	Simplified VPS with fixed pricing	Best for small predictable workloads; not for complex scaling architectures