

It's just a long name

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MongoDB Certified Developer Associate

Recently I took the MongoDB Certified Developer Associate level examination and currently awaiting (successful) result.

Exam Basics

- Price is \$150 (currently).
- It's an exam based remotely which can be scheduled in the exam window week.
- This exam is structured to test the basics but comprehensive understanding.
- You need an ID proof and an image of that.

Exam Environment

- It's a proctored examination.
- You need stable internet connection.
- You need a laptop with working mic and webcam.
- You need a desk to keep the laptop on.
- Most importantly you need secluded environment where no one can disturb you.

Exam Proctoring

- You can schedule the timing of your liking, at that time you can connect to a proctor.
- The proctor would guide you and sort of take control of the system so that he can monitor your system activity
- The proctor would ask for 360 degree scan through webcam and also ask you to move webcam below desk to avoid any foul play.
- Once he/she is satisfied he would ask you to put your password and then he would put his password to start the exam.

Exam considerations

- Make sure that there are no person around you
- Make sure no person comes and talks to you
- Do not take break during exam, In case of urgency you can ask the proctor but it's a big deal so avoid it at all cost.
- It's wise to be concentrating on your screen for exam duration as most likely they would be recording your webcam.
- Do not try to open any website or software.

Exam Format

- It was 90 minute exam
- There were 60 questions divided by different topics
- Questions were either multiple choice or select all which are applicable.
- You can move to any question or topic any point of time and make amendments.
- You can submit the exam at any point of time, it will prompt you if you missed any question.
- No negative marking (as of now).

Exam Topics

- BSON (2-3 question)
- CRUD (13-15 questions)
- Indexing and Performance (9-11 questions)
- Aggregation (6-8 questions)
- Data Modeling (6-8 questions)
- Replication (5-6 questions)
- Sharding (3-5 questions)
- Common (4-5 questions) (I might be missing the correct name, it deals with some mongo commands and config/debugging stuff)

Note - Please take into consideration that the question break up and topics might be different for different examines.

Exam questions

- Questions were NOT easy. They weren't that tough either but some options can create doubts.
- Some questions were more theoretical and some were practical in the sense that you cannot remember the answers for example question related to queries or schema.
- Replication and Sharding though seems tough topics, the questions covers the basic understanding.

- To get the type of question refer to MongoDB study guide and mongo university courses quiz and exams.
- There are no questions to test as how much you have memorized (well, except 1 or 2).
- There are no 'gotcha' question (whatever that means)

Exam Cover-up

- As you can see CRUD, Indexes and Aggregation contribute to major part, but relying only on these three is also not going to seal the deal.
- It basically assures that without commanding above mentioned topics you cannot clear the certification, however having a command over only these three can not guarantee it either.

Exam suggestions

- In my opinion MongoDB (free) course is a must, you must have completed at least beginner level.
- Hands on experience is critical, you must have executed queries and aggregation on your own.
- Basic knowledge of replication, why and when of it.
- Basic knowledge of Sharding, understanding cardinality and selectivity.
- Make sure you know the key difference between storage engines in MongoDB
- MongoDB - the definitive guide (2nd ed.) by Kristina Chodrow is a highly recommended book though be mindful that MongoDB updates faster than the book does.
- Do go through the study guide suggestions related to the certification specially when you are close to exam schedule.
- Do not lose your money by being overconfident. Do your homework and cover the basics.

Exam Result

- They mention that it will take three weeks. (I would update this portion when my results are declared)

Updated

- Finally I received my result stating that I have/am passed/certified.
- What basically I got was a certificate number, through which I can generate the certificate.
- It also showed me a bar-graph denoting how much percentage I scored in each topic, for example my worst prepared topic was Indexes and Performance, denoting that I need to work on that.
- It lets you know how much you scored and how much was the passing marks but NOT how much was the total marks, but you kind of guess it out.

Hope this helps.

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