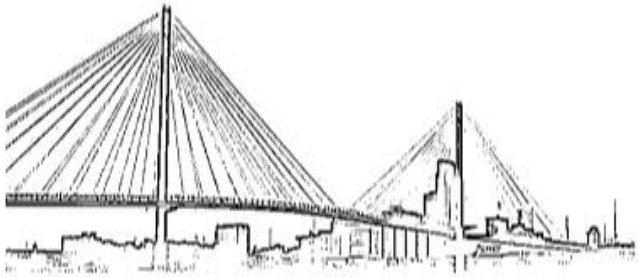
Accelerate your IT career with Azure Role-based certifications

VAIBHAV GUJRAL

OMAHA AZURE USER GROUP

About Omaha Azure User Group



Mission: Promote a community of people that are interested in understanding the benefits of Azure and to learn from others how they are leveraging the platform to solve business problems.

Open to IT professionals, architects, developers, administrators and anyone who is interested in Azure.

Omaha Azure User Group has become a part of Azure Tech Communities as of November'2019.

https://omahaaug.com/

https://www.meetup.com/Omaha-Azure-User-Group-Meetup/

omahaaug.slack.com

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info@omahaaug.com

About me

13+ years of experience across designing and developing enterprise-class applications

Microsoft Certified Azure Solutions Architect Expert

Currently working for Kiewit as a Cloud Architect

Based out of Omaha, NE

Speaker | Blogger

http://www.vaibhavgujral.com

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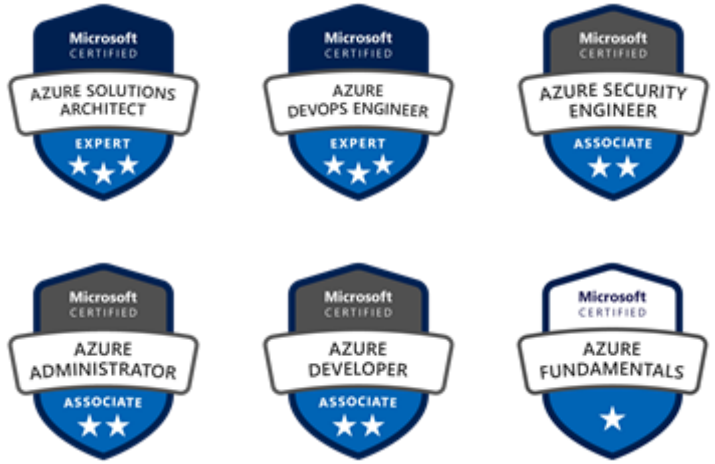


Agenda

- New Azure role-based certification paths
- New Azure role-based certifications
  - Different exams
- How to register for exams?
- Exam delivery options
- Exam structure and scoring
- Badges, Certificates and transcripts
- Getting started with preparation
- Learning Resources
- Do’s & Don’ts and Tips
- Benefits

Expectations

- We'll touch base on different certification paths and various certification exams without going deep into any certification, in particular
- The intent is to provide motivation and resources to get started with your preparation for Azure certifications
- If you need any guidance on your certification preparation, reach out to me offline

History of Microsoft Azure Certifications

Microsoft certified solutions expert(MCSE)/ Microsoft certified solutions associate(MCSA)

Some are retired and some are still active

Never expiring certifications

History of Microsoft Azure Certifications

3 Role-based certification exams –

Exam 532: Developing Microsoft Azure Solutions

- Intended for Developers

Exam 533: Implementing Microsoft Azure Infrastructure Solutions

- Intended for Administrators

Exam 534/535: Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions

- Intended for solution architects

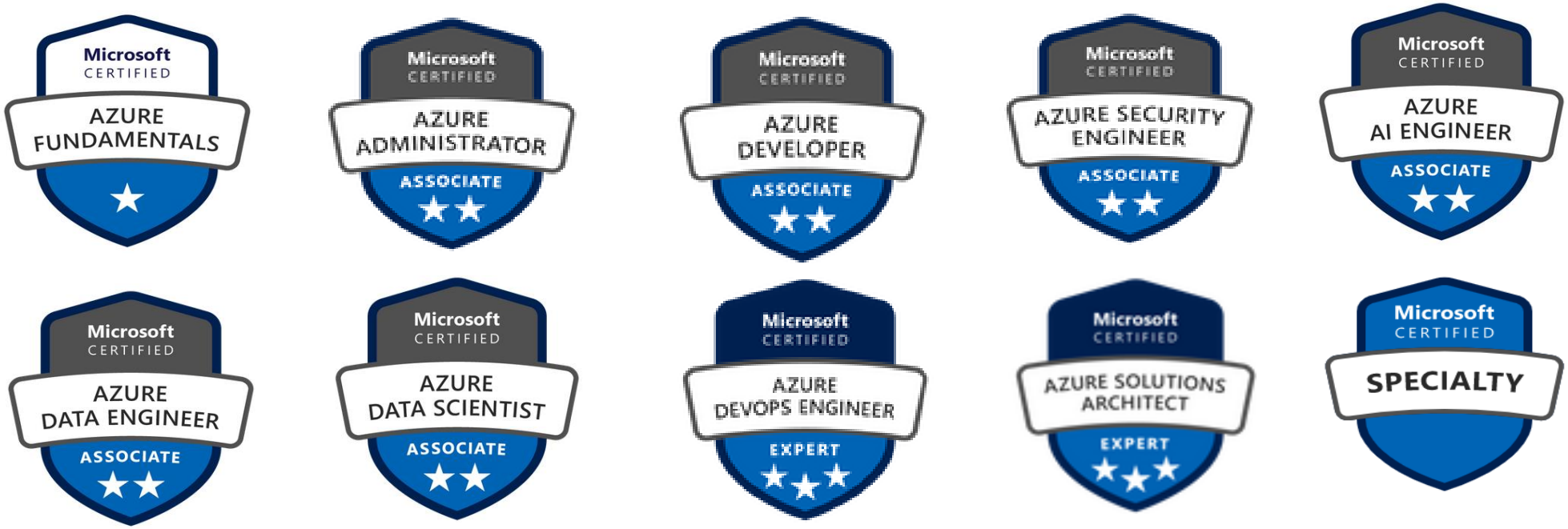
What about 70-* exams?

- Still Valid exams and content for some of the exams is still relative

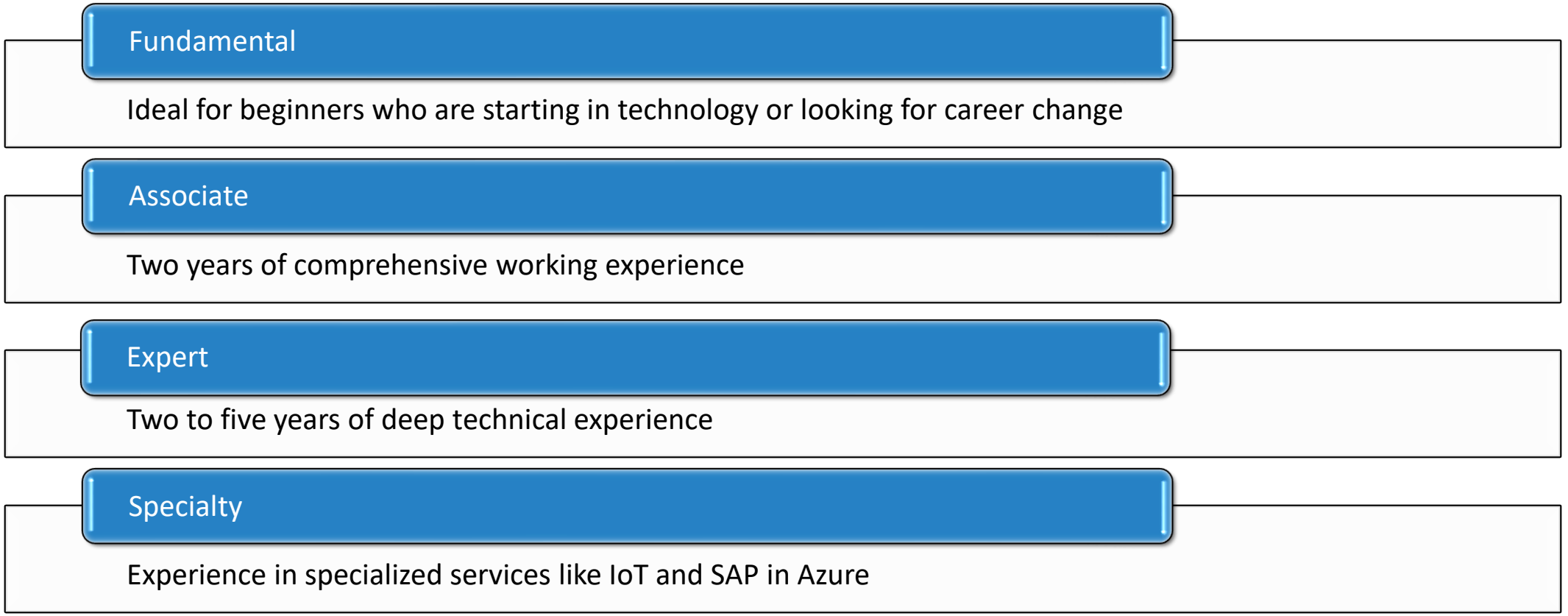
New Azure Role-based Certifications

New certifications based on job-roles

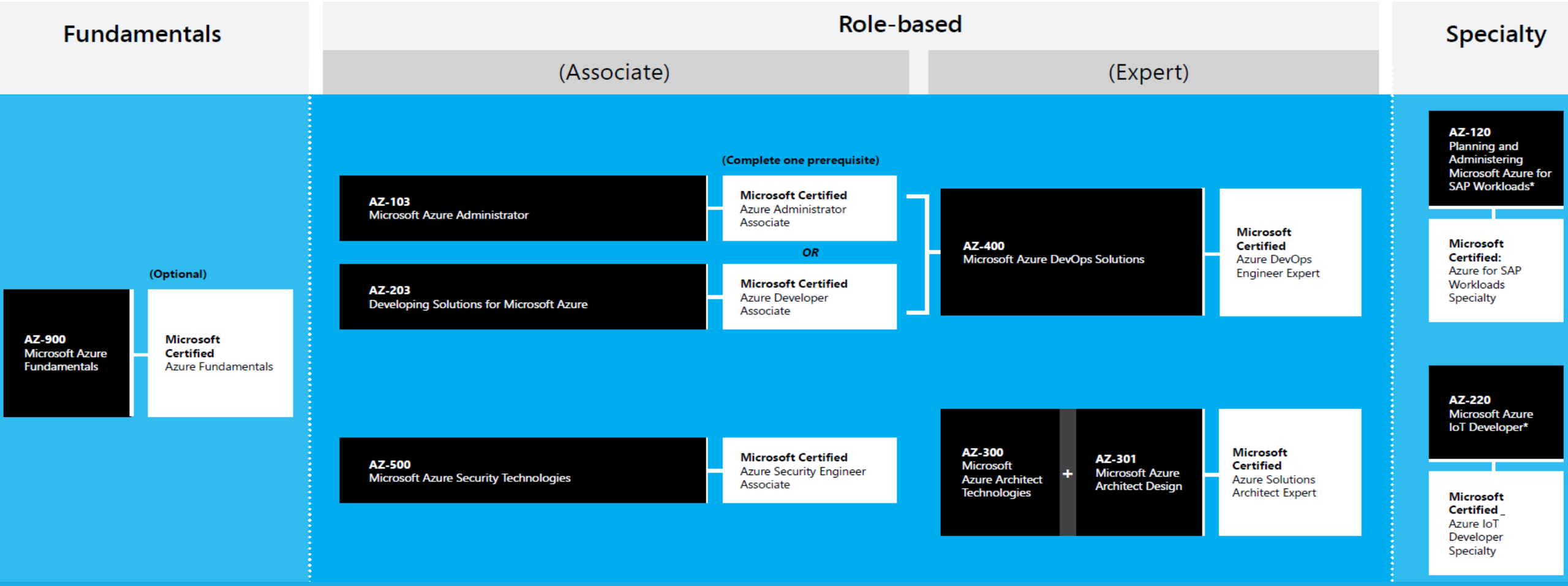
Most of the certifications come with an expiry date of two years



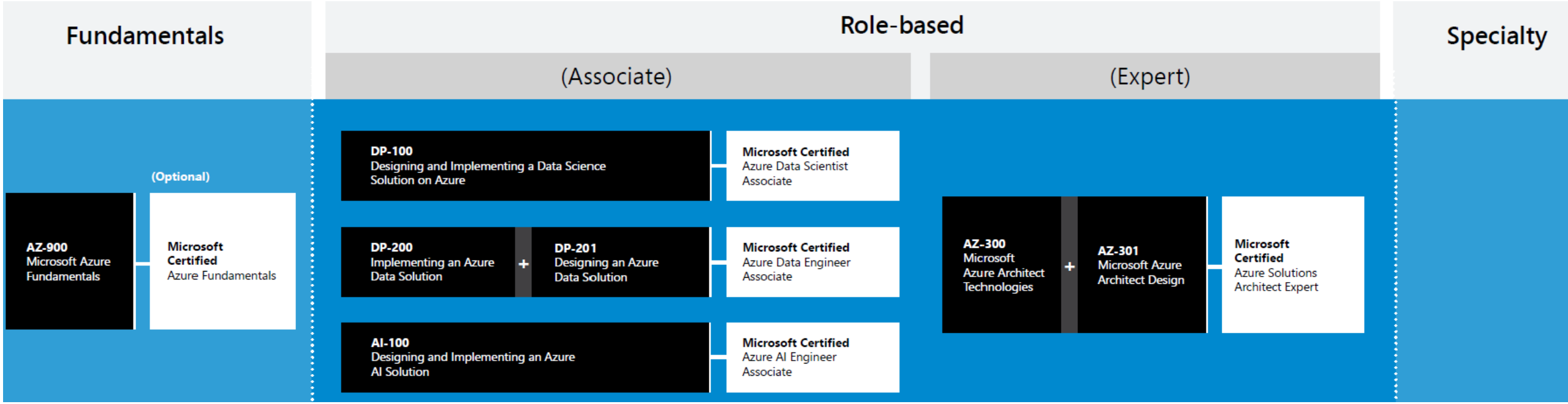
New Role-based certification paths



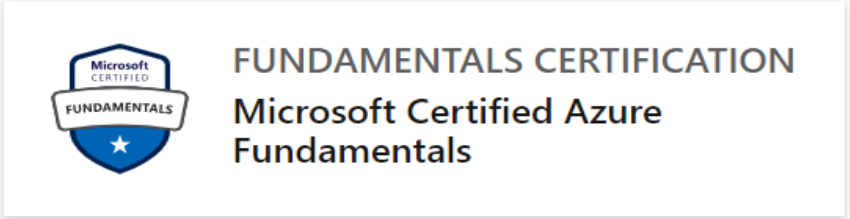
Azure role-based certifications



Azure role-based certifications



Fundamentals Certification

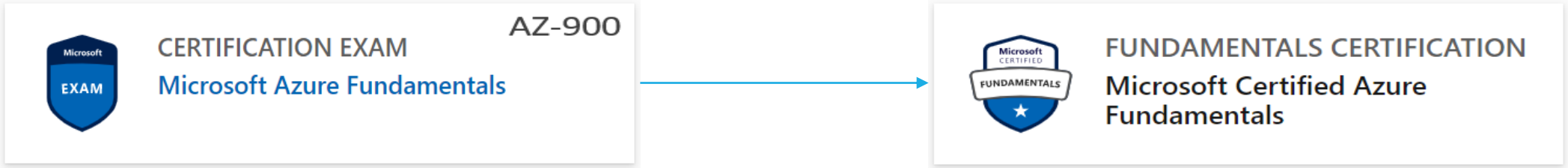


Demonstrate foundational-level knowledge of cloud services and how those services are provided with Microsoft Azure.

Intended for –

- Candidates with non-technical backgrounds
- Candidates with a technical background who have a need to validate their foundational-level knowledge around cloud services.

Microsoft Certified Azure Fundamentals

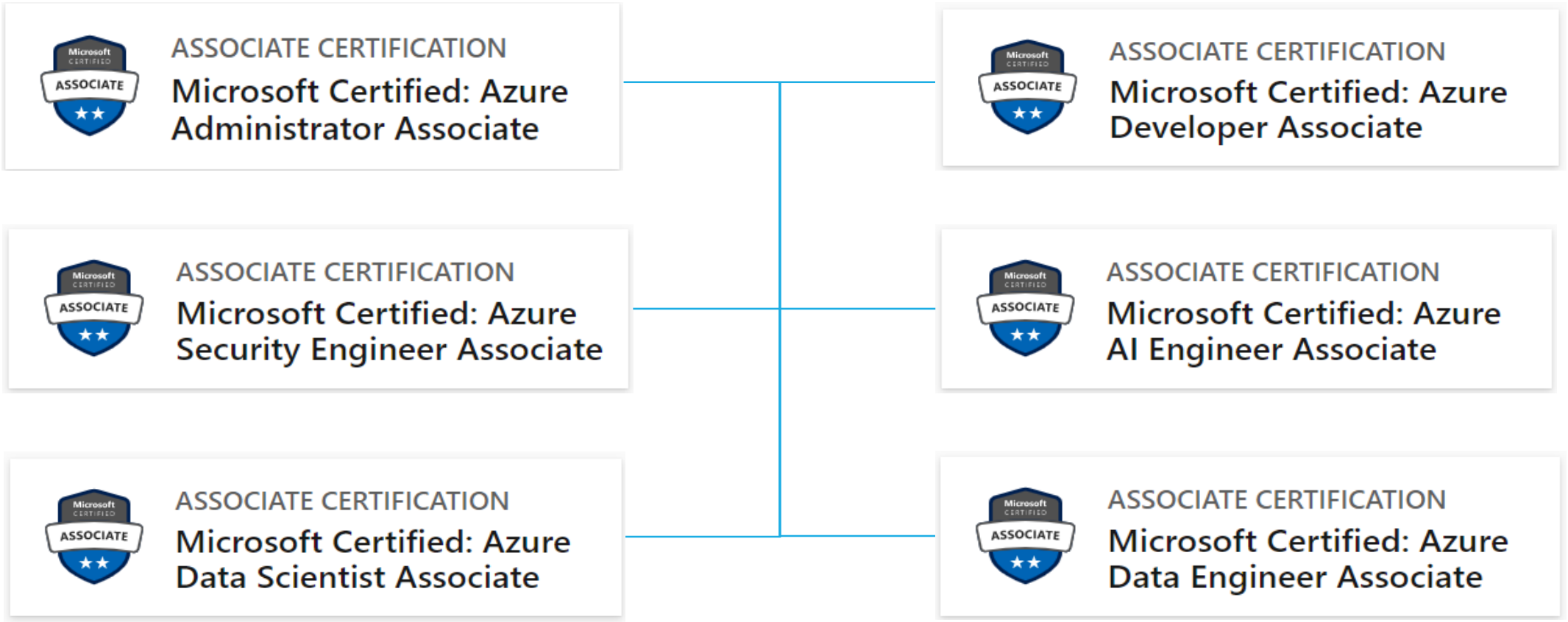


Skills Measured –

- Understand cloud concepts (15-20%)
- Understand core Azure services (30-35%)
- Understand security, privacy, compliance, and trust (25-30%)
- Understand Azure pricing and support (20-25%)

**– This is an optional exam and it is not a pre-requisite for any other Azure-based certifications*

Associate Certifications



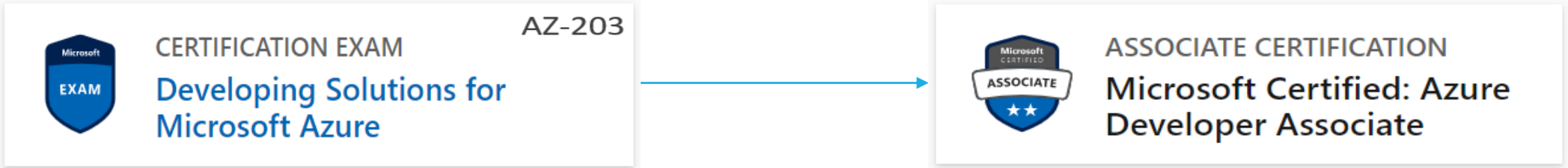
Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate

Intended for Azure Administrators who implement, monitor and maintain Azure solutions.

Skills Measured –

- Manage Azure subscriptions and resources
- Implement and manage storage
- Deploy and manage virtual machines (VMs)
- Configure and manage virtual networks
- Manage identities

Microsoft Certified: Azure Developer Associate

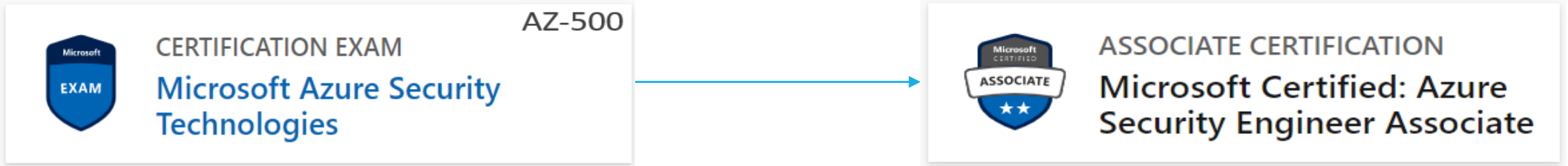


Intended for Azure developers who design, build, test and maintain cloud solutions.

Skills Measured –

- Develop Azure Infrastructure as a Service compute solution
- Develop Azure Platform as a Service compute solution
- Develop for Azure storage
- Implement Azure security
- Monitor, troubleshoot, and optimize solutions
- Connect to and consume Azure and third-party services

Microsoft Certified: Azure Security Engineer Associate



Intended for Security engineers who implement security controls and threat protection, manage identity and access, and protect data, applications and networks in cloud & hybrid environments.

Skills Measured –

- Manage identity and access
- Implement platform protection
- Manage security operations
- Secure data and applications

Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Engineer Associate

Intended for AI Engineers who use Cognitive Services, Machine Learning, and Knowledge Mining to architect and implement Microsoft AI solutions involving natural language processing, speech, computer vision, bots, and agents.

Skills Measured –

- Analyze solution requirements
- Design AI solutions
- Implement and monitor AI solutions

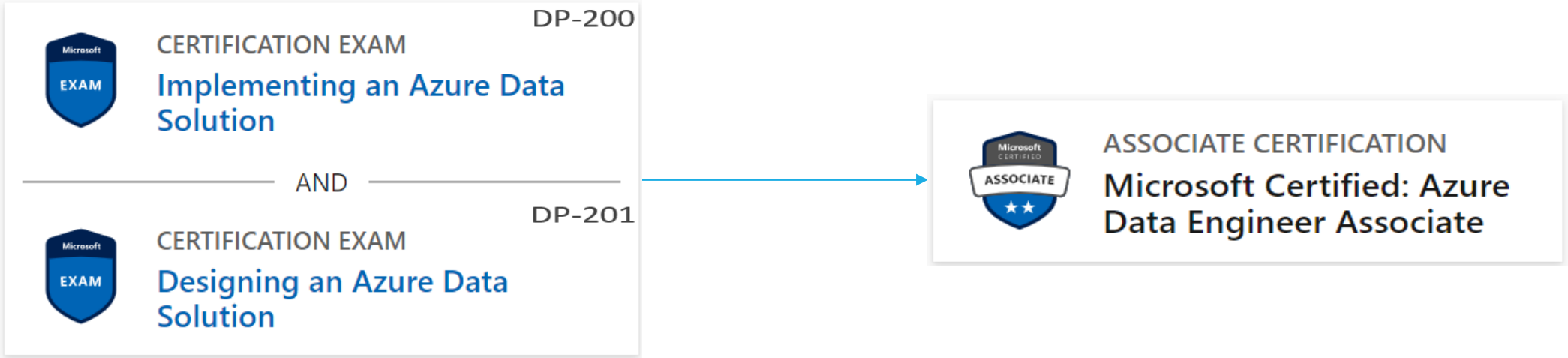
Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Scientist Associate

Intended for Data Scientists who apply Azure's machine learning techniques to train, evaluate, and deploy models that solve business problems.

Skills Measured –

- Define and prepare the development environment
- Prepare data for modeling
- Perform feature engineering
- Develop models

Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Engineer Associate



Intended for data engineers who design and implement the management, monitoring, security, and privacy of data using the full stack of Azure data services to satisfy business needs.

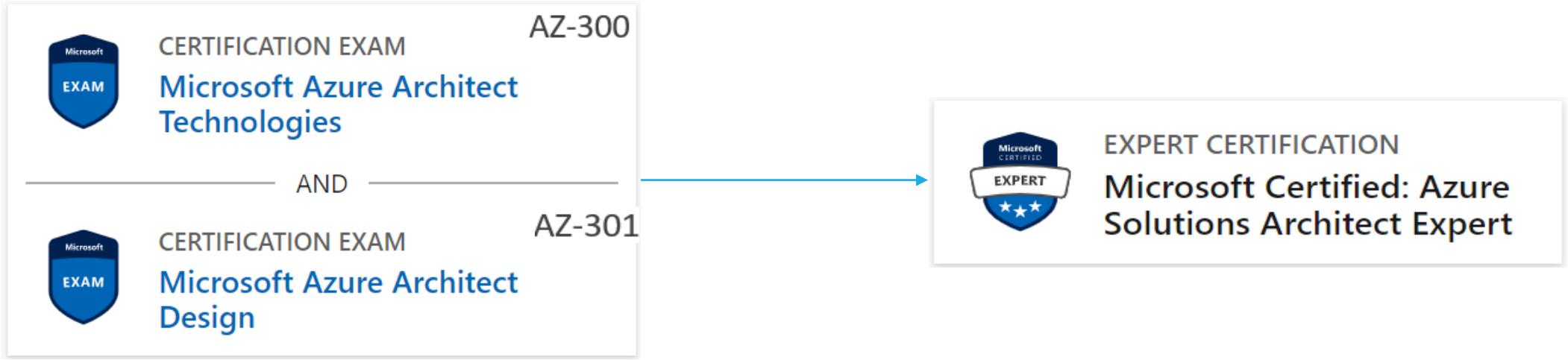
Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Engineer Associate

Skills Measured -

- Implement data storage solutions
- Manage and develop data processing
- Monitor and optimize data solutions
- Design Azure data storage solutions
- Design data processing solutions
- Design for data security and compliance

Expert Certifications

Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert



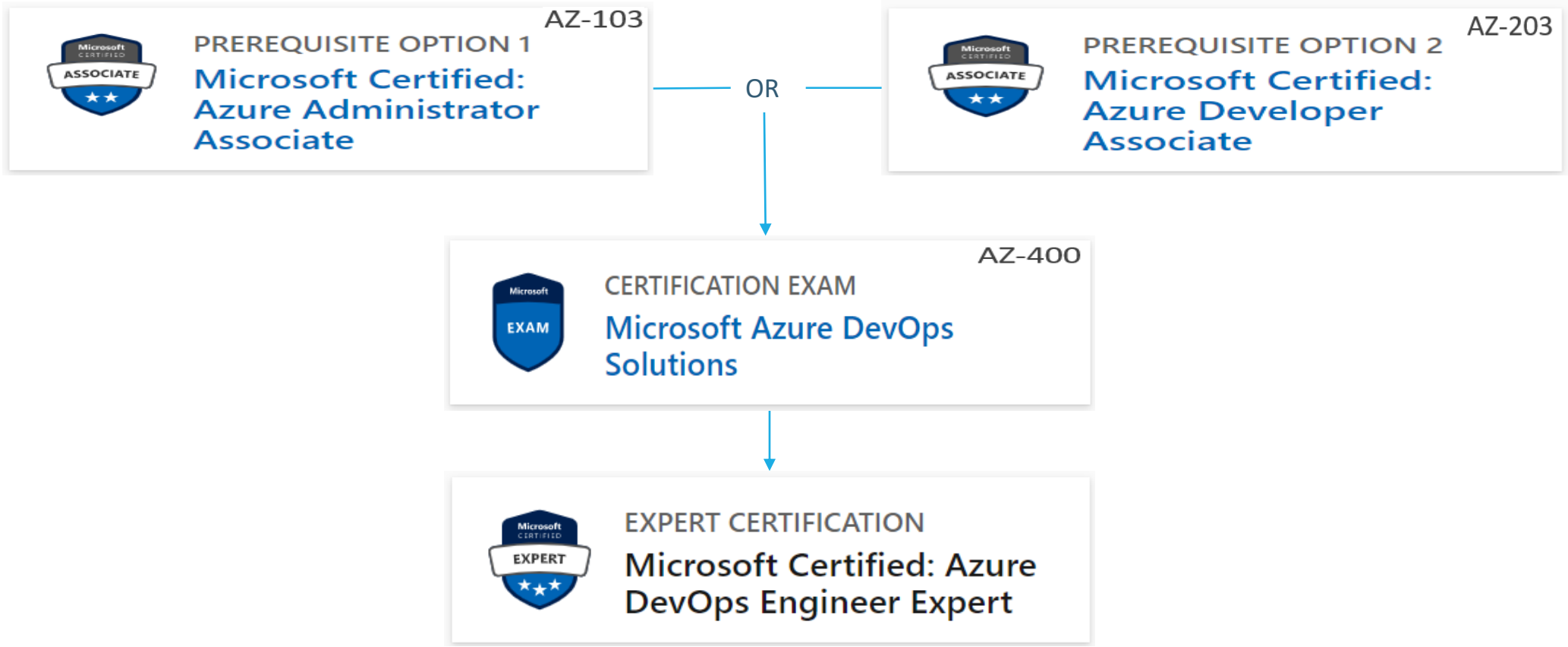
Intended for Solutions Architects who have expertise in compute, network, storage, and security so that they can design solutions that run on Azure.

Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert

Skills Measured –

- Deploy and configure infrastructure
- Implement workloads and security
- Create and deploy apps
- Implement authentication and secure data
- Develop for the cloud and for Azure storage
- Determine workload requirements
- Design for identity and security
- Design a data platform solution
- Design a business continuity strategy
- Design for deployment, migration, and integration
- Design an infrastructure strategy

Microsoft Certified: Azure DevOps Engineer Expert



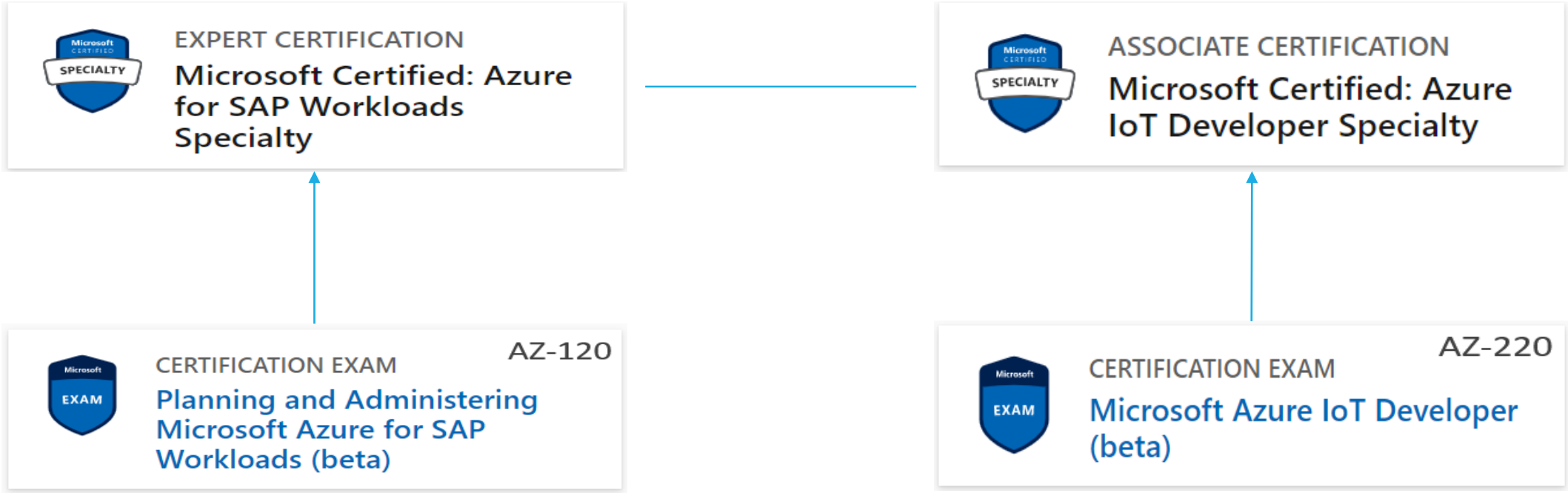
Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert

Intended for DevOps professionals who combine people, processes, and technologies to continuously deliver valuable products and services that meet end user needs and business objectives.

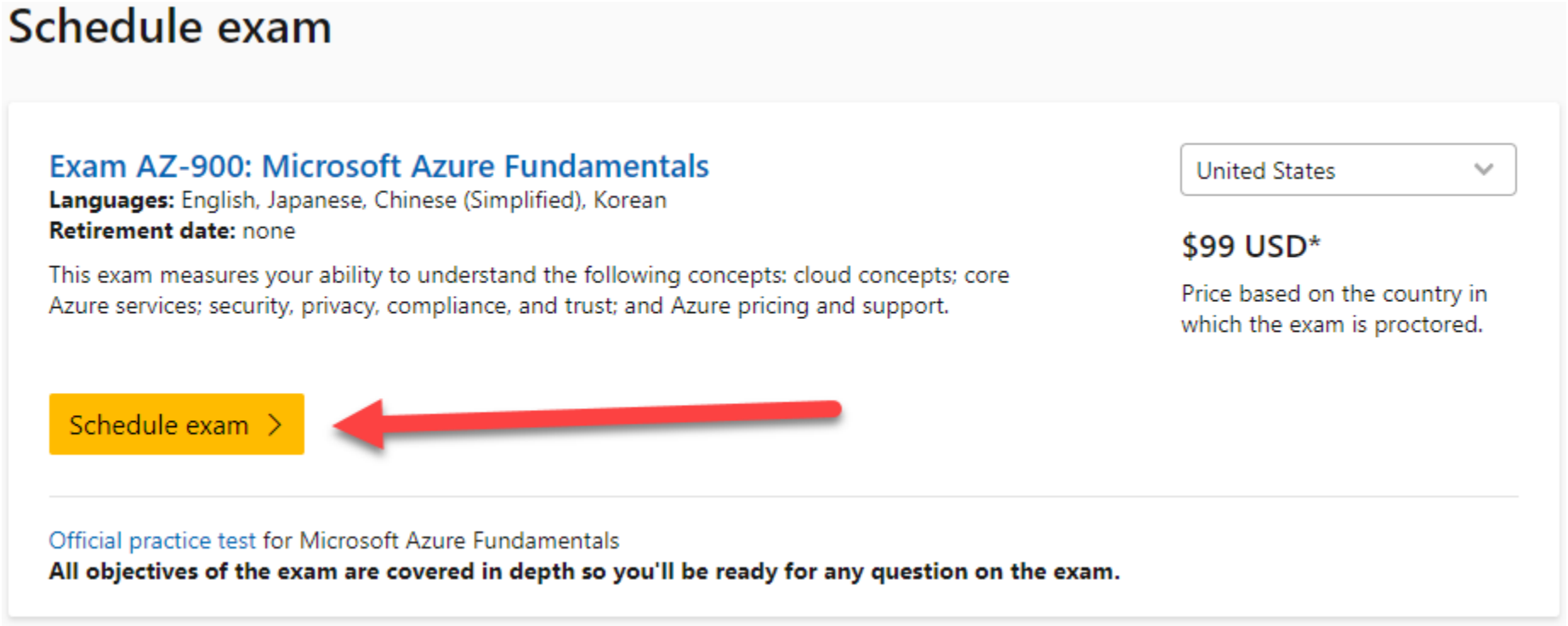
Skills Measured –

- Design a DevOps strategy
- Implement DevOps development processes
- Implement continuous integration
- Implement continuous delivery
- Implement dependency management
- Implement application infrastructure
- Implement continuous feedback

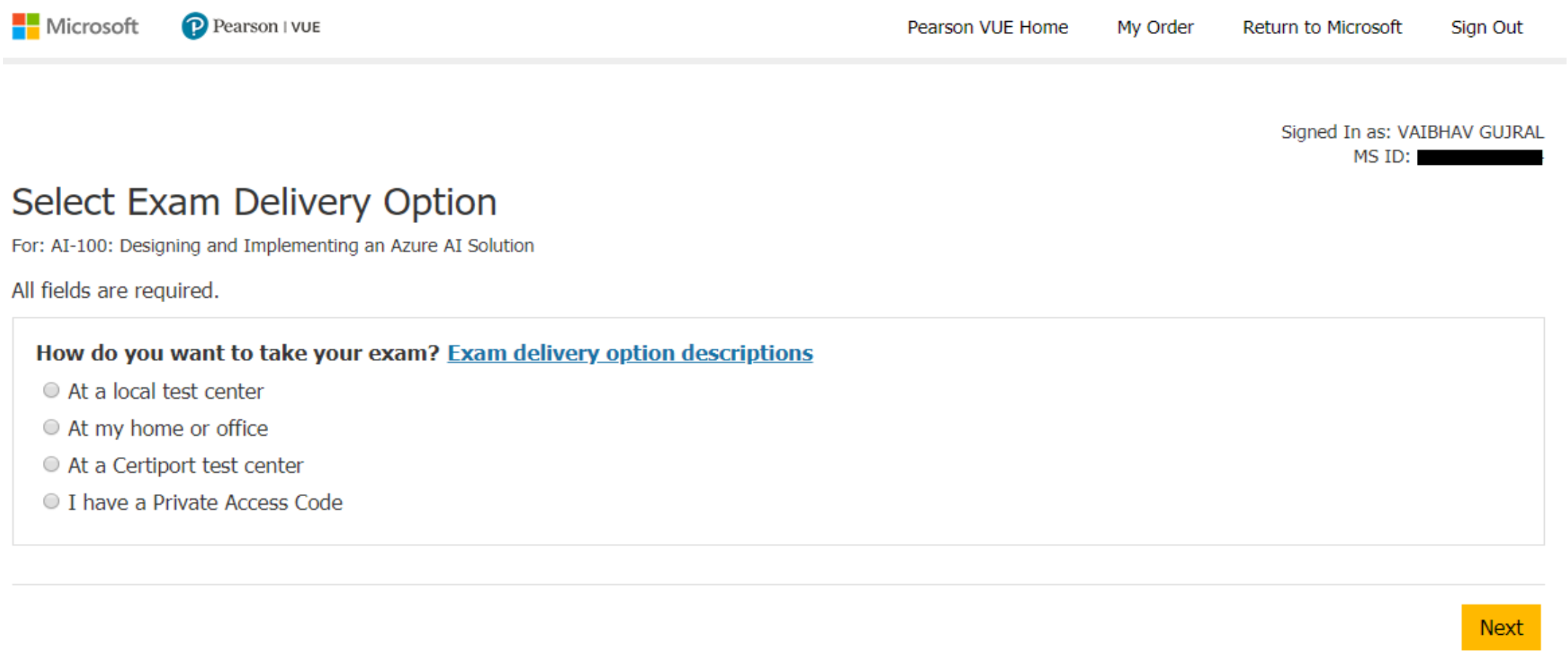
Specialty Certifications



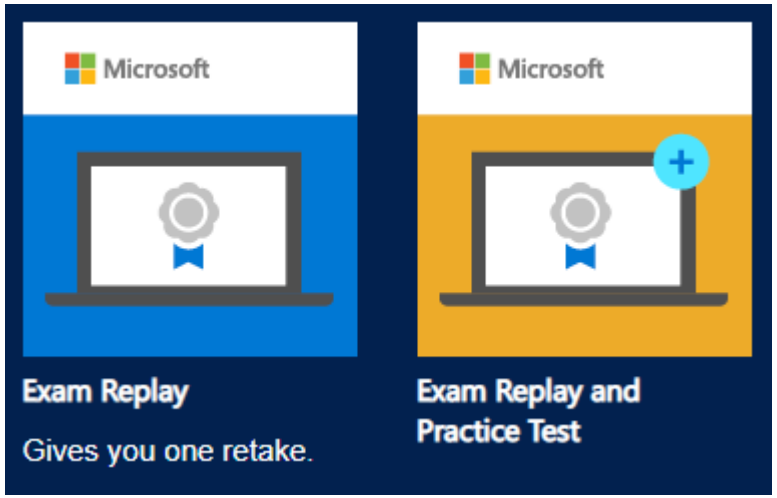
How to register for an exam?



Exam Delivery Option



Exam Replay Bundles



Two bundles

1. Exam replay – Get two attempts to clear the exam
2. Exam replay + Practice Test – Get two attempts to clear the exam + access to one practice test

*- Though most of the vouchers come with a 12-month validity, it is important to check the validity before buying

Exam Structure

All the exams are time-bound – ranging from 90 minutes to 210 minutes

There could be a combination of –

- Multiple-choice questions (with one or more correct answers)
- Drag-and-drop code snippets
- Live labs
- Case-studies based questions
- Plain Yes/No questions

Some (not all) questions can be marked for review and can be revisited later before the submission

Total number of questions differ for each exam

2 Months' revision cycle

Exam Scoring

Minimum Passing Score – **700**

No negative marking

Most of the questions have partial scoring – meaning out of 3 correct options, if you opt for 2 correct and 1 incorrect option, you get score for the 2 correct options

Never leave questions unanswered

You receive the result immediately

Number of correct questions you need to pass differ for every exam

Beta Exams

Newly launched exams available at a discounted price (generally 80% off)

Available to first 300/400 candidates

Results are not shared immediately

No need to take the exam again till the time the result is valid

Exam Score Sheet

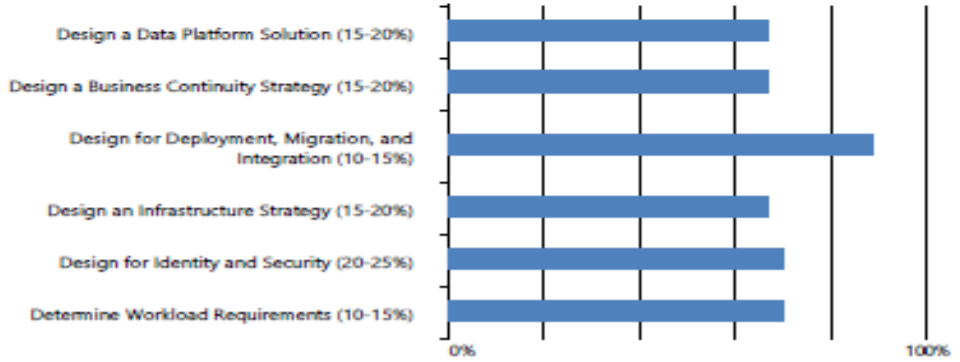
Microsoft

AZ-301
Microsoft Azure Architect Design

Candidate: VAIBHAV GUJRAL
Candidate ID: [redacted]
Result: PASS
Passing Score: 700
Your Score: 780

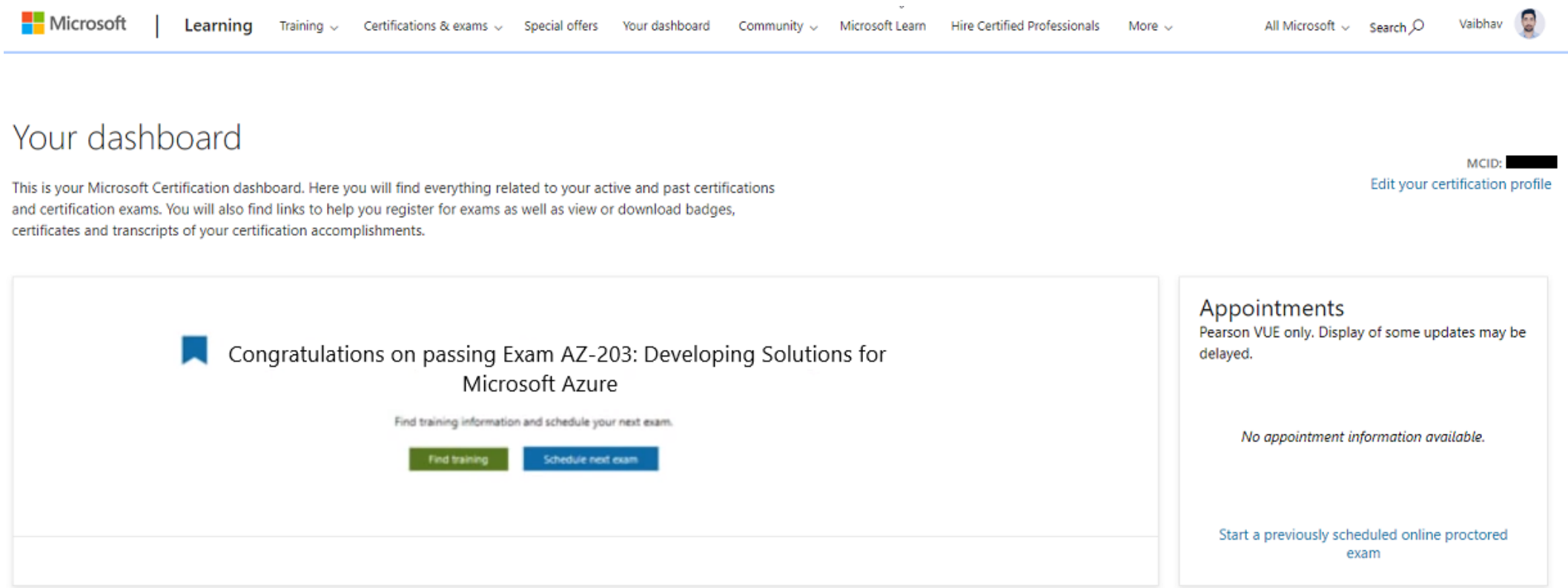
Date: Sunday, November 3, 2019
Site Number: [redacted]
Registration: [redacted]

Performance by exam section
Each section, and its corresponding percentage of the exam, appears to the left of the chart. The length of the bars represents your section-level performance. Shorter bars reflect weaker performance, and longer bars reflect stronger performance.



Learning Dashboard

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/dashboard.aspx



Learning Dashboard

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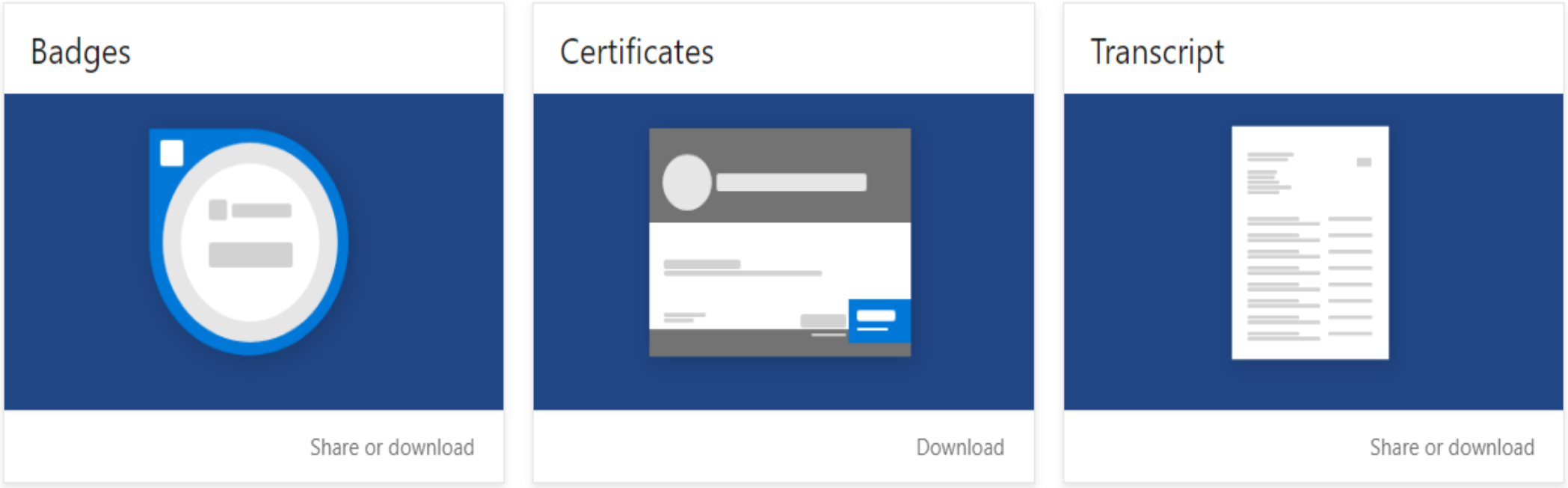
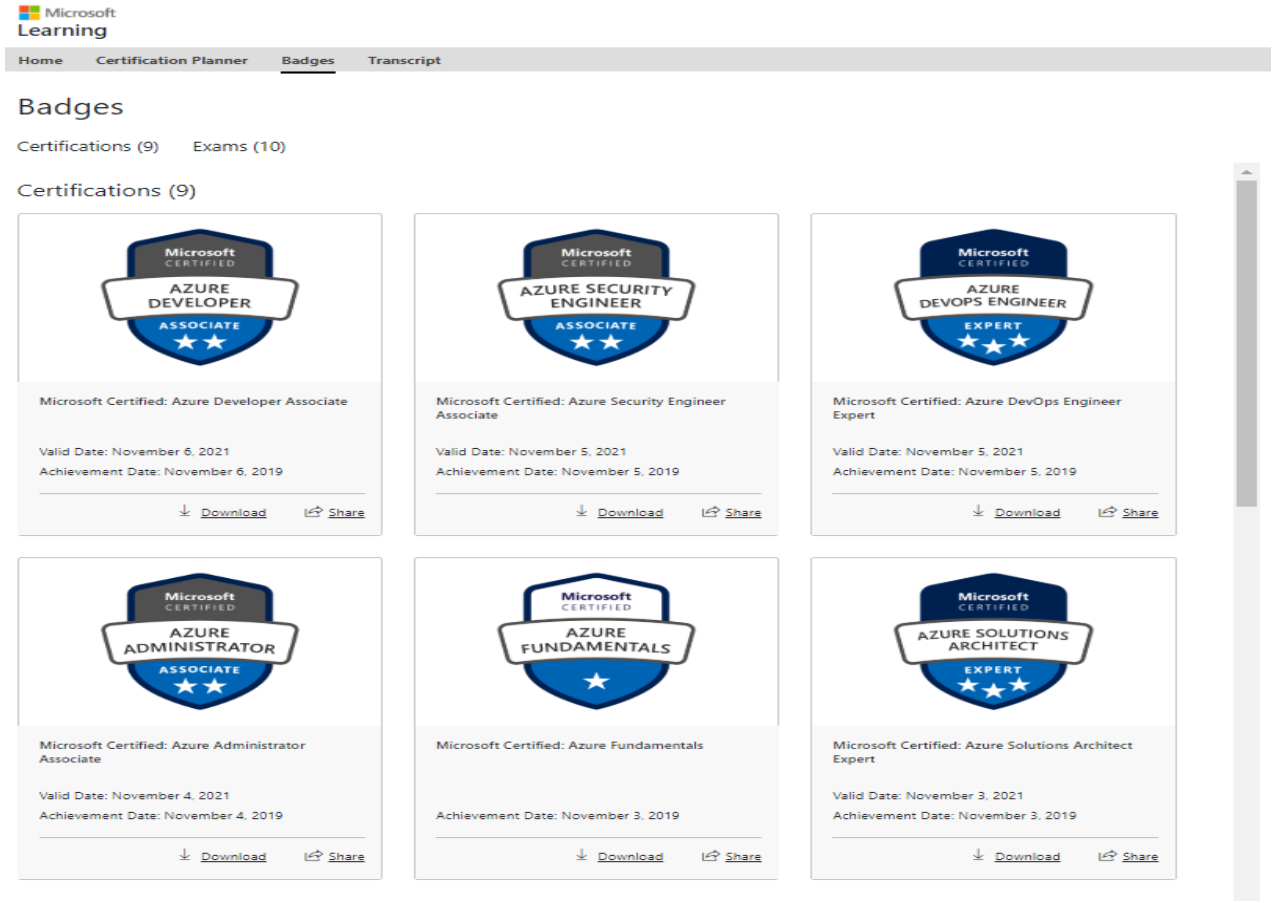


Digital Badges



Digital Badges – Acclaim

https://www.youracclaim.com/

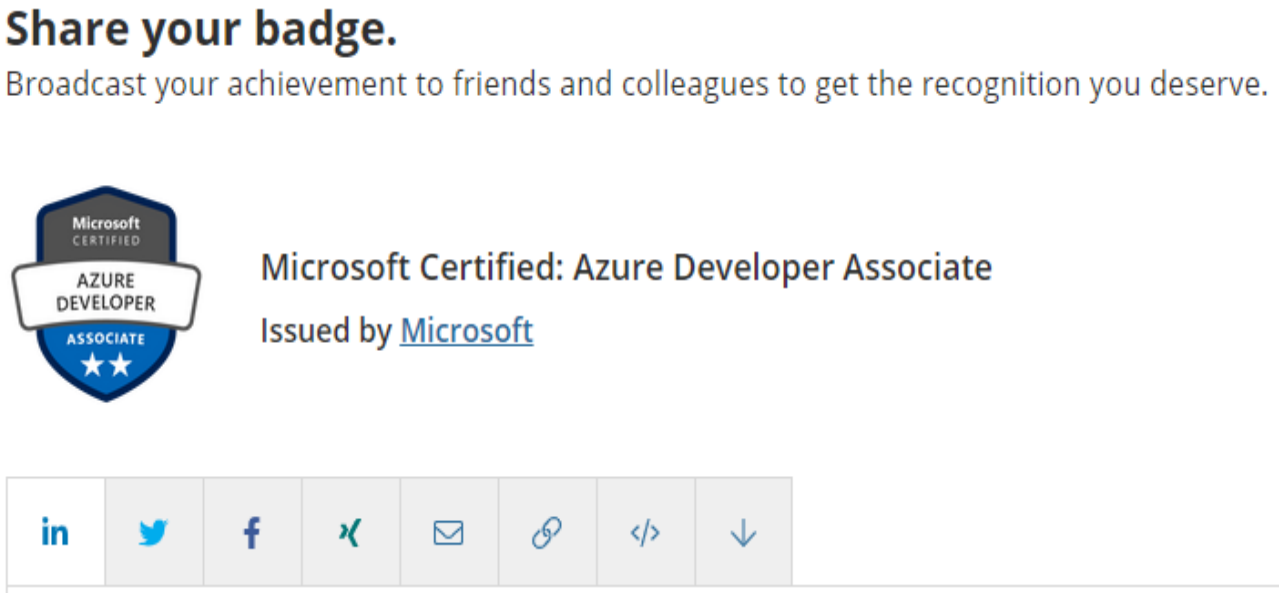
Validated credential

Shareable on social media

Embed in your website

Download & add in your resume

Email your peers



Certificates

Preview PDF English

Transcripts

Email | Share | PDF | English

Microsoft Certification Official Transcript

Microsoft Certification ID: [redacted]

Microsoft

VAIBHAV GUJRAL
[redacted]
[redacted]
Omaha, Alabama, US, [redacted]
gujral.vaibhav@hotmail.com

Active Certifications		Achievement Date
Microsoft Certified: Azure Developer Associate Certification Number: [redacted]	Valid until	November 6, 2019 November 6, 2021
Microsoft Certified: Azure Security Engineer Associate Certification Number: [redacted]	Valid until	November 5, 2019 November 5, 2021
Microsoft Certified: Azure DevOps Engineer Expert Certification Number: [redacted]	Valid until	November 5, 2019 November 5, 2021
Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate Certification Number: [redacted]	Valid until	November 4, 2019 November 4, 2021
Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals Certification Number: [redacted]		November 3, 2019
Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert Certification Number: [redacted]	Valid until	November 3, 2019 November 3, 2021

Get started with preparation

1. Identify a certification based on your role and past work experience
2. If you haven't worked with Azure before and planning for an Azure certification, get yourself an Azure subscription as the first step
3. Walkthrough the exam objectives thoroughly
4. Identify the study resources that you are going to use for your preparation
5. Create a plan and put a target date when you want to appear for your certification

Certification Study Pyramid

Credit – http://timw.info

Learning Resources

1. Microsoft Azure Documentation
   - Source of authority
   - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/
2. Microsoft Learn
   - Learning paths available for most of the certifications
   - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn/
3. Exam Refs by Microsoft Press
   - Available on Amazon and leading book-stores
4. Study Guides by different authors and publishers
   - Available on Amazon and leading book-stores
5. Online blogs
   - My blog - https://vaibhavgujral.com/
   - And others……

Learning Resources

1. Pluralsight
   - Free content https://www.pluralsight.com/partners/microsoft/azure
   - Learning paths https://www.pluralsight.com/search?q=azure%20certifications
2. SkillmeUp -or- OpsGility
   - Learning paths https://skillmeup.com/Course/certification-prep/microsoft-azure
3. LinkedIn Learning (previously Lynda.com) - https://www.linkedin.com/learning
4. Udemy - https://www.udemy.com/
5. Channel 9 - https://channel9.msdn.com/
6. YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/
7. And other online learning platforms……

Do’s and Don’ts

1. Check out Microsoft’s exam policies & FAQs before appearing for any exam
   - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn/certifications/certification-exam-policies
2. Each exam is time-bound. Some questions take more time than others, so plan your time well
3. Mark the questions that you are not sure of for review and revisit them later.
4. Maintain a journal to take notes during your preparation so that you can revisit them later
5. Practice each-and-every concept you learn
6. Buy practice tests which are authorized by Microsoft
   - https://www.mindhub.com/shop/microsoft
7. Don’t get tempted to buy and use brain dumps
8. Share your digital badge with your peers and friends as soon as you pass an exam or earn a certification

Tips

1. Nothing can beat your experience. If you have been working on Azure for sometime now, you already have an edge.
2. Next comes your hard work. Before you start putting in your hours, its critical to have an action plan ready with the resources you're going to use for your certification preparation.
3. To prepare an action plan, the first step is to identify the skills that the certification evaluates. You can check it on my blog posts as well.
4. Next, list down the skills you are strong in and the skills you are not strong. Then, prepare an action plan based on the following two action-items –
   - Revise the concepts you already know
   - Learn the concepts you don’t know or are not comfortable with
5. Your action plan should include hands-on labs and practice sessions, apart from the reading sessions. My recommendation for your lab practice would be to get well-versed with Azure portal, CLI and powershell. For example - if you are practicing creation of Virtual machines, try it on portal, with CLI and powershell.
6. Go through FAQs provided in Microsoft documentation.
7. Don't look for shortcuts. Depending upon your speed, keep at least 4 weeks of time in your hand before you plan to appear for a certification.

Benefits

1. Certifications help getting hired or promoted by giving you an advantage compared to those who are not certified
2. Certifications are credentials that helps illustrate your knowledge in a specific technology and bring professional credibility
3. Certifications force you to learn technologies and concepts outside your day-to-day project work
4. Certifications forces you to learn technologies you know already in-depth increasing your efficiency and productivity
5. Certifications help you keep up-to-date with the latest technologies
6. ……

High-growth opportunity

Upon earning a certification, 23% of Microsoft certified technologists reported receiving up to a 20% salary increase. What's more, certified employees are often entrusted with supervising their peers—putting them on the fast track for a promotion.

- 2017 Pearson VUE Value of Certification white paper

Download whitepaper

Q&A

Global Azure Day 2020 - Omaha

The **Global Azure Day 2020 – Omaha** will take place on **April 24, 2020** at **Kiewit University**.

Free full-day event hosted by community members for community.

Event will be open to IT professionals, architects, developers, administrators and anyone who is interested in Azure.

Registration will open in March first week.

If you are interested in speaking/volunteering, please reach out on slack channel or email at info@omahaaug.com

Thank
You!