

AWS Solutions Architect—Associate Level

Lesson 13: AWS Solutions Architect Exam



What You'll Learn



Key information on AWS Solutions Architect exam

Study tips for the exam

Important exam topics

AWS Solutions Architect Exam

Overview of AWS Solutions Architect Exam

AWS Solutions Architect Exam

AWS Solutions Architect is a computer-based exam with multiple choice questions and answers.

The duration of the exam is 80 minutes.

AWS doesn't report the number of questions as it can change. There are approximately 50–55 questions. The exam is available in English, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Korean, German, Russian, Spanish, and Brazilian Portuguese.

AWS Solutions Architect Exam Registration

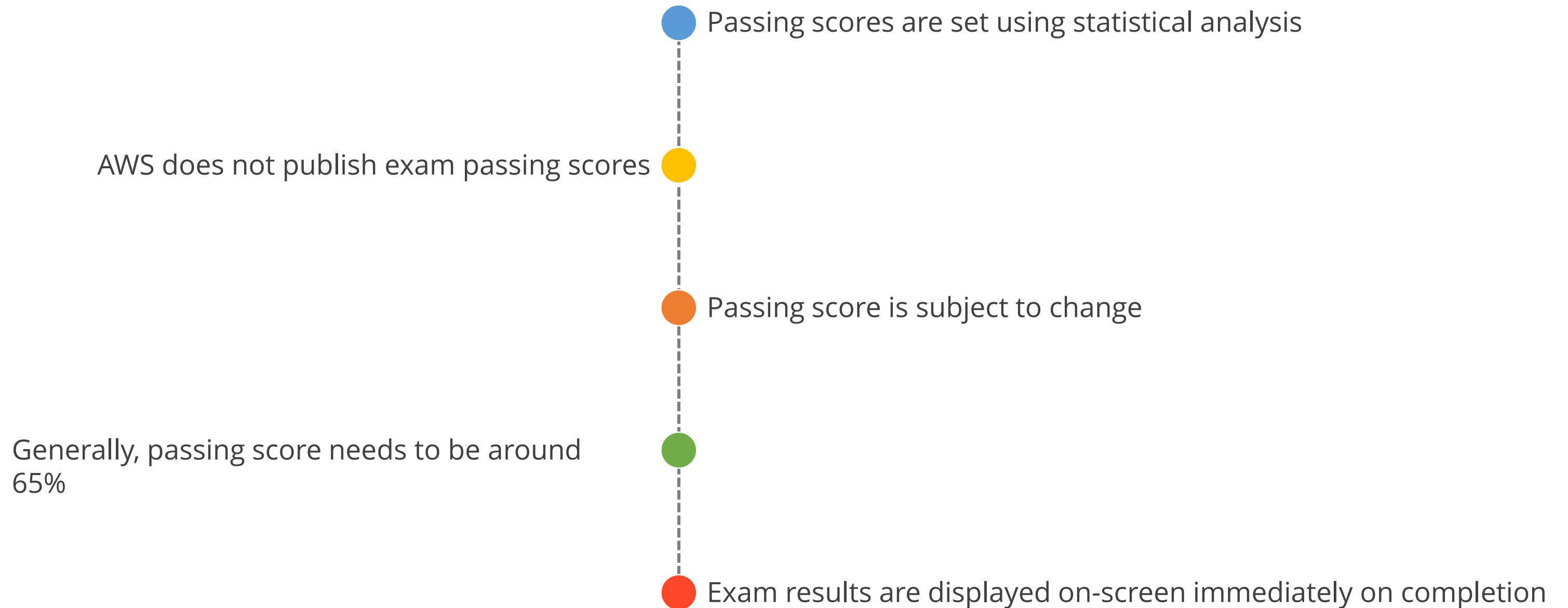
- Exam registration fee is \$150
- Exam to be taken at an approved testing center
- Visit <https://www.webassessor.com/> to register, create an account, and register for the exam at the nearby exam center

AWS Solutions Architect Exam Breakdown

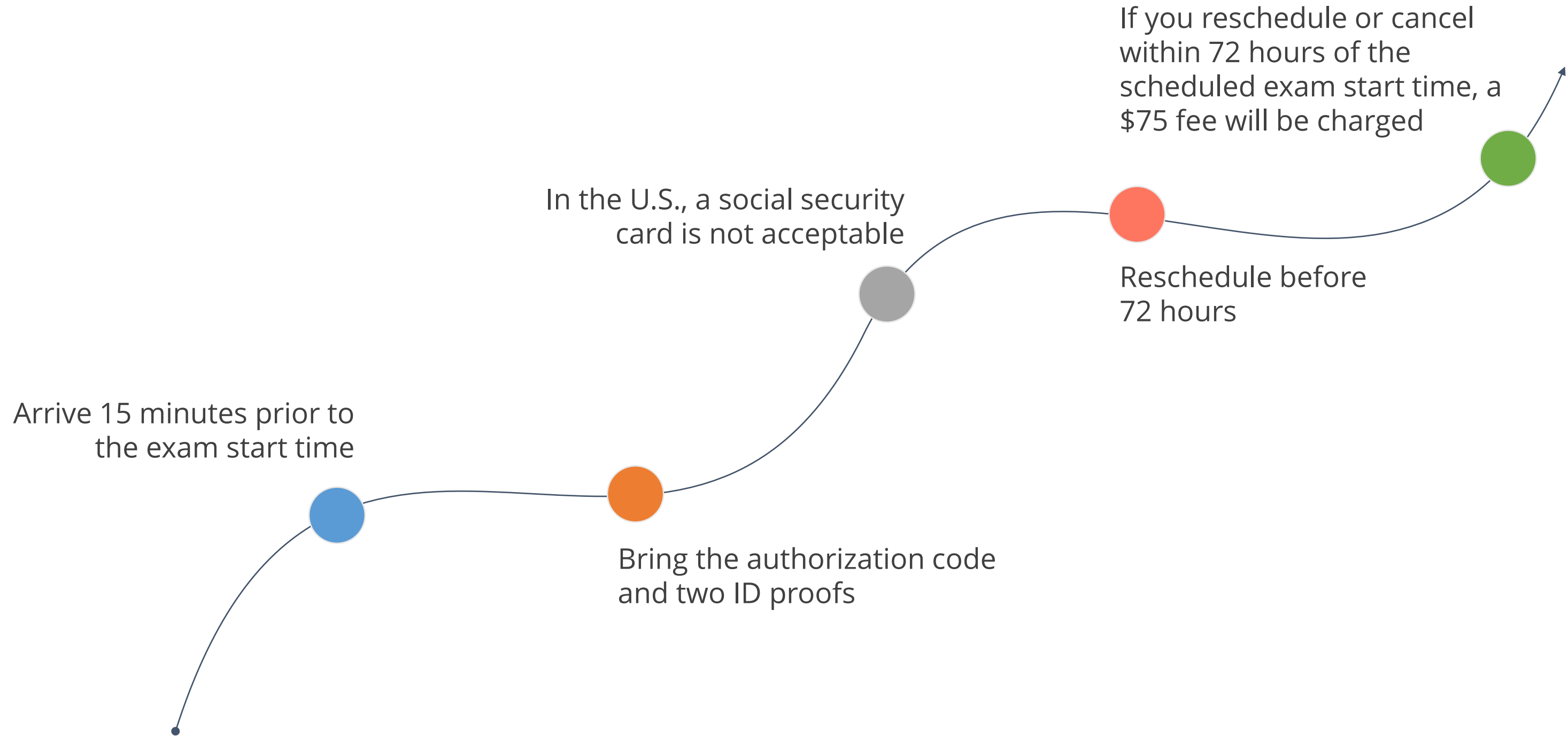
The exam is divided into the following four knowledge sections:

Domain	% of Examination
1.0 Designing highly available, cost-efficient, fault-tolerant, scalable systems	60%
2.0 Implementation/Deployment	10%
3.0 Data Security	20%
4.0 Troubleshooting	10%
TOTAL	100%

AWS Solutions Architect Exam Pass Mark



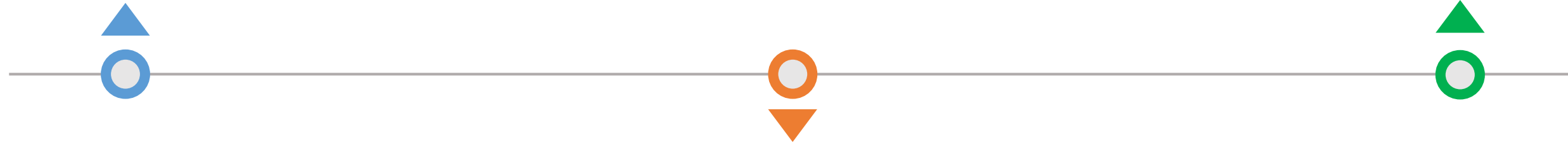
AWS Solutions Architect Exam Best Practices



AWS Solutions Architect Exam Retakes

If you fail the exam, you can retake it, subject to the following conditions:

You must wait 14 days from the day you fail to schedule your next exam



You'll have to pay the full exam fee each time you retake it

You can attempt the exam up to three times in one year from the date of the first attempt

AWS Solutions Architect Exam Recertification

You need to recertify every two years and the exam fee is \$75.





Knowledge Check

KNOWLEDGE
CHECK

Which of the following sections of AWS Solutions Architect Associate Level exam carries most weight?

- a. Troubleshooting
- b. Designing highly available, cost-efficient, fault tolerant, scalable systems
- c. Data Security
- d. Implementation/Deployment



KNOWLEDGE
CHECK

Which of the following sections of AWS Solutions Architect Associate Level exam carries most weight?

- a. Troubleshooting
- b. Designing highly available, cost-efficient, fault tolerant, scalable systems
- c. Data Security
- d. Implementation/Deployment



The correct answer is **b.**

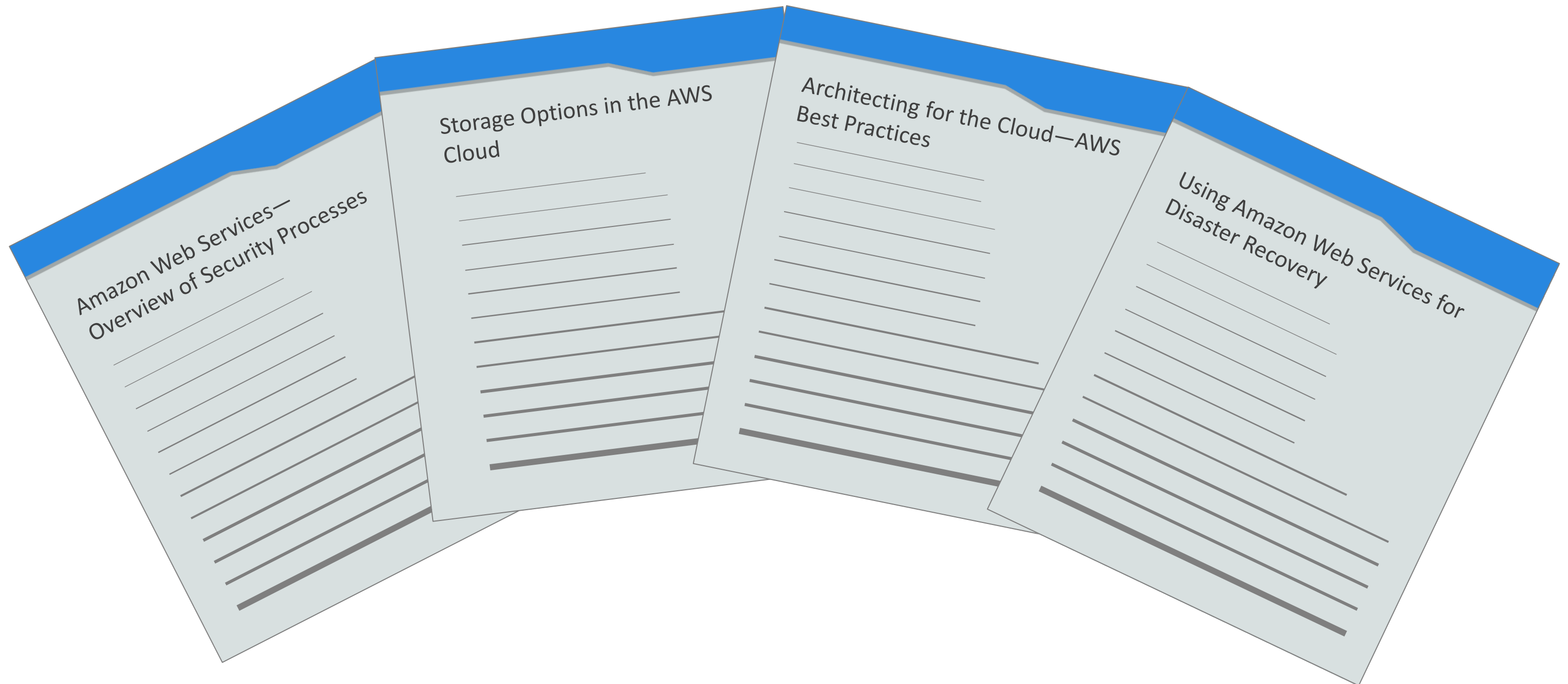
Designing highly available, cost-efficient, fault tolerant, scalable systems carries 60% of the exam questions.

Study Tips

Details about AWS Solutions Architect Study Tips

White Papers

AWS has white papers to provide information. It's advisable to review the following white papers:



Practice Exams

Take the practice exams provided with this course to understand the format of the AWS questions.

To protect S3 data from both accidental deletion and accidental overwriting, you should:

- A. enable S3 versioning on the bucket
- B. access S3 data using only signed URLs
- C. disable S3 delete using an IAM bucket policy
- D. enable S3 Reduced Redundancy Storage
- E. enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) protected access

Exam Blueprint

Review the Exam Blueprint to ensure that you are comfortable with the course material. In case of queries, you can revisit the course material for relevant information.



AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate Exam Blueprint

Introduction

The AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate exam is intended for individuals who perform a Solutions Architect role. This exam validates an examinee's ability to:

- Identify and gather requirements in order to define a solution to be built using architecture best practices.
- Provide guidance on architectural best practices to developers and system administrators throughout the lifecycle of the project.

The knowledge and skills required at this level should include all of the following areas and objective components. The knowledge level can be defined as including the majority of the following skills or qualities:

Review Topics

Important topics in the AWS Exam

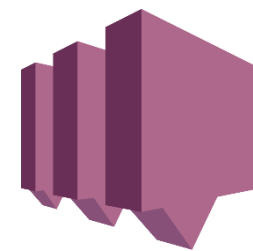
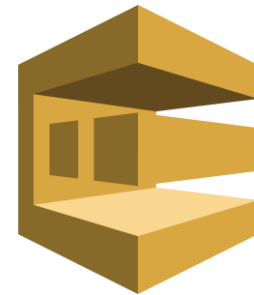
Review Topics—VPC

- Know how to configure and troubleshoot a VPC
- Know different concepts including Subnets, ACLs, Route Tables, and Internet Gateways
- Can't pass this exam without a thorough understanding of a VPC
- Review the lesson and the demo on VPC



Review Topics—SWF versus SQS versus SNS

- Simple Workflow (SWF)
- Simple Queue Services (SQS)
- Simple Notification Services (SNS)



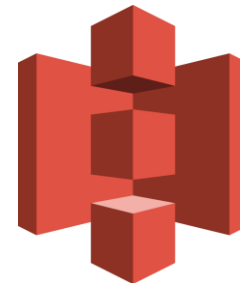
Review Topics—ELB

- Better Fault Tolerance
- Better Availability
- Better Cost Management



Review Topics—S3

- Identity and Access Management (IAM) policies
- Bucket Policies
- Access Control
- Query String Authentication



Review Topics—EBS

- Know how to use various EBS volume configurations and snapshots appropriately to optimize I/O performance and data durability
- Different storage types, IOP limits
- How to use EBS to create RAID 0 volumes



Review Topics—EBS versus Ephemeral

- Know when it would be appropriate to use either EBS-backed or ephemeral instances

Characteristic	Amazon EBS-Backed	Amazon Instance Store-Backed
Boot time	Usually less than 1 minute	Usually less than 5 minutes
Size limit	16 TiB	10 GiB
Root device volume	Amazon EBS volume	Instance store volume
Data persistence	By default, the root volume is deleted when the instance terminates.* Data on any other Amazon EBS volumes persists after instance termination by default. Data on any instance store volumes persists only during the life of the instance.	Data on any instance store volumes persists only during the life of the instance. Data on any Amazon EBS volumes persists after instance termination by default.
Upgrading	The instance type, kernel, RAM disk, and user data can be changed while the instance is stopped.	Instance attributes are fixed for the life of an instance.
Charges	You're charged for instance usage, Amazon EBS volume usage, and storing your AMI as an Amazon EBS snapshot.	You're charged for instance usage and storing your AMI in Amazon S3.
AMI creation/bundling	Uses a single command/call	Requires installation and use of AMI tools
Stopped state	Can be placed in stopped state where instance is not running, but the root volume is persisted in Amazon EBS	Cannot be in stopped state; instances are running or terminated

Review Topics—AWS CloudFormation

- Have a basic understanding of AWS CloudFormation
- AWS CloudFormation provides developers and systems administrators with an easy way to create and manage a collection of related AWS resources



Review Topics—AWS OpsWorks

- Have a basic understanding of AWS OpsWorks
- AWS OpsWorks is a configuration management service that helps you configure and operate applications of all shapes and sizes using Chef



Review Topics—Elastic Transcoder

- Have a basic understanding of AWS Elastic Transcoder
- Used to convert media files from the original format into other formats that will play on different devices such as smartphones and tablets



Review Topics—Instance Metadata

- Ensure that you know the URL to obtain instance metadata.
- On your running instances you can run obtain instance metadata and user data using a specific URL: `http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/`



Knowledge Check

KNOWLEDGE
CHECK

Where can you find the list of topics for the AWS Solutions Architect Associate Level exam?

- a. AWS White Papers
- b. Practice exams
- c. AWS Exam Blueprint
- d. AWS Web Management Console



KNOWLEDGE
CHECK

Where can you find the list of topics for the AWS Solutions Architect Associate Level exam?

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- c. AWS Exam Blueprint
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The correct answer is **c.**

The AWS Exam Blueprint, which can be found on the AWS website, lists the topics for the exam.

Key Takeaways

Key Takeaways

- AWS Solutions Architect is a computer-based exam with multiple choice questions and answers.
- The duration of the exam is 80 minutes.
- The exam is divided into four knowledge sections: designing highly available, cost-efficient, fault-tolerant, scalable systems; implementation and deployment; data security; and troubleshooting.
- Review the Exam Blueprint to ensure that you are comfortable with the course material.



This concludes “AWS Solutions Architect Exam.”