

# Amazon AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate Exam Questions in 3 User-Friendly Formats



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## Amazon SOA-C03 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Networking and Content Delivery: This section measures skills of Cloud Network Engineers and focuses on VPC configuration, subnets, routing, network ACLs, and gateways. It includes optimizing network cost and performance, configuring DNS with Route 53, using CloudFront and Global Accelerator for content delivery, and troubleshooting network and hybrid connectivity using logs and monitoring tools.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitoring, Logging, Analysis, Remediation, and Performance Optimization: This section of the exam measures skills of CloudOps Engineers and covers implementing AWS monitoring tools such as CloudWatch, CloudTrail, and Prometheus. It evaluates configuring alarms, dashboards, and notifications, analyzing performance metrics, troubleshooting issues using EventBridge and Systems Manager, and applying strategies to optimize compute, storage, and database performance.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Security and Compliance: This section measures skills of Security Engineers and includes implementing IAM policies, roles, MFA, and access controls. It focuses on troubleshooting access issues, enforcing compliance, securing data at rest and in transit using AWS KMS and ACM, protecting secrets, and applying findings from Security Hub, GuardDuty, and Inspector.</li></ul>

Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deployment, Provisioning, and Automation: This section measures the skills of Cloud Engineers and covers provisioning and maintaining cloud resources using AWS CloudFormation, CDK, and third-party tools. It evaluates automation of deployments, remediation of resource issues, and managing infrastructure using Systems Manager and event-driven processes like Lambda or S3 notifications.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliability and Business Continuity: This section measures the skills of System Administrators and focuses on maintaining scalability, elasticity, and fault tolerance. It includes configuring load balancing, auto scaling, Multi-AZ deployments, implementing backup and restore strategies with AWS Backup and versioning, and ensuring disaster recovery to meet RTO and RPO goals.</li> </ul>

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## Amazon AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate Sample Questions (Q23-Q28):

### NEW QUESTION # 23

A CloudOps engineer needs to set up alerting and remediation for a web application. The application consists of Amazon EC2 instances that have AWS Systems Manager Agent (SSM Agent) installed. Each EC2 instance runs a custom web server. The EC2 instances run behind a load balancer and write logs locally.

The CloudOps engineer must implement a solution that restarts the web server software automatically if specific web errors are detected in the logs.

Which combination of steps will meet these requirements? (Select THREE.)

- A. Install the Amazon CloudWatch agent on the EC2 instances.
- B. Publish alarm findings to Amazon Simple Email Service (Amazon SES). Invoke an AWS Lambda function to restart the web server software.
- C. Create an Amazon EventBridge rule that responds to the alarm. Configure the rule to invoke an AWS Systems Manager Automation runbook to restart the web server software.
- D. Create an Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) notification that responds to the alarm. Configure the notification to invoke an AWS Systems Manager Automation runbook to restart the web server software.
- E. Create an Amazon CloudWatch metric filter for the web logs. Configure an alarm for the specific errors.
- F. Create an AWS CloudTrail metric filter for the web logs. Configure an alarm for the specific errors.

**Answer: A,C,E**

Explanation:

Per the AWS Cloud Operations, Monitoring, and Automation documentation, the correct workflow for automated operational remediation is:

Amazon CloudWatch Agent is installed on each EC2 instance (Option A) to collect local log data and push it to Amazon CloudWatch Logs.

A CloudWatch Metric Filter (Option C) is then defined to identify specific error strings or patterns within those logs (e.g., "HTTP 5xx" or "Service Unavailable"). When such an event occurs, CloudWatch Alarms are triggered.

Upon alarm activation, Amazon EventBridge rules (Option E) are configured to respond automatically by invoking an AWS Systems Manager Automation runbook, which executes an action to restart the web server process on the affected instance via SSM Agent. This approach aligns directly with AWS's recommended CloudOps remediation pattern, known as event-driven automation, which ensures minimal downtime and eliminates manual intervention.

Options involving CloudTrail (B) or SES notifications (D) are incorrect because they are unrelated to log-based application monitoring and automated remediation workflows.

#### NEW QUESTION # 24

A company hosts a static website in an Amazon S3 bucket, accessed globally via Amazon CloudFront. The Cache-Control max-age header is set to 1 hour, and Maximum TTL is set to 5 minutes. The CloudOps engineer observes that CloudFront is not caching objects for the expected duration.

What is the reason for this issue?

- A. The Expires header has been set to 3 hours.
- B. Cache invalidation is missing in the CloudFront configuration.
- C. Cached assets are not expiring in the edge location.
- D. Cache-duration settings conflict with each other.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

As per the AWS Cloud Operations and Content Delivery documentation, CloudFront determines cache behavior by evaluating both origin headers (e.g., Cache-Control and Expires) and distribution-level TTL settings.

When Cache-Control max-age conflicts with the Maximum TTL configured in CloudFront, the shorter TTL value takes precedence. This results in CloudFront caching content for only 5 minutes instead of 1 hour, despite the origin headers suggesting a longer duration.

AWS documentation explicitly states: "When both origin cache headers and CloudFront TTL settings are defined, CloudFront uses the most restrictive caching period." This mismatch causes the perceived performance drop, as CloudFront frequently revalidates content.

Therefore, Option D is correct - cache-duration settings conflict with each other, leading to unexpected caching behavior.

#### NEW QUESTION # 25

A company is storing backups in an Amazon S3 bucket. The backups must not be deleted for at least 3 months after the backups are created.

What should a CloudOps engineer do to meet this requirement?

- A. Enable S3 Object Lock on a new S3 bucket in compliance mode. Place all backups in the new S3 bucket with a retention period of 3 months.
- B. Enable S3 Versioning on the existing S3 bucket. Configure S3 Lifecycle rules to protect the backups.
- C. Configure an IAM policy that denies the s3:DeleteObject action for all users. Remove the policy after three months.
- D. Enable S3 Object Lock on a new S3 bucket in governance mode. Place all backups in the new S3 bucket with a retention period of 3 months.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Comprehensive Explanation (250-350 words):

Amazon S3 Object Lock in compliance mode provides immutable storage that prevents objects from being deleted or overwritten for a defined retention period. In compliance mode, even the root user cannot remove the retention or delete the object before the retention period expires. This makes it suitable for regulatory and strict data-protection requirements.

Because Object Lock must be enabled at bucket creation time, a new bucket is required. Setting a retention period of 3 months ensures that backups cannot be deleted before that time under any circumstances.

Option D (governance mode) allows privileged users to bypass retention, which violates the strict "must not be deleted" requirement. Option A relies on IAM policy changes, which are reversible and error-prone.

Option C does not prevent deletion; versioning only retains previous versions if objects are deleted, but users can still delete versions unless additional controls are applied.

Therefore, S3 Object Lock in compliance mode is the correct and most secure solution.

#### NEW QUESTION # 26

A company is using an Amazon Aurora MySQL DB cluster that has point-in-time recovery, backtracking, and automatic backup enabled. A CloudOps engineer needs to be able to roll back the DB cluster to a specific recovery point within the previous 72 hours. Restores must be completed in the same production DB cluster.

Which solution will meet these requirements?

- A. Create an Aurora Replica. Promote the replica to replace the primary DB instance.
- B. Use point-in-time recovery to restore the existing DB cluster to the desired recovery point.
- C. Use backtracking to rewind the existing DB cluster to the desired recovery point.
- D. Create an AWS Lambda function to restore an automatic backup to the existing DB cluster.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Aurora MySQL backtracking lets you "rewind" the existing DB cluster to a previous point in time (within the configured backtrack window, such as 72 hours) without creating a new cluster. Point-in-time recovery and automatic backups create a new cluster, which does not meet the requirement to restore in the same production DB cluster, whereas backtracking does.

**NEW QUESTION # 27**

A SysOps administrator creates a custom Amazon Machine Image (AMI) in the eu-west-2 Region and uses the AMI to launch Amazon EC2 instances. The SysOps administrator needs to use the same AMI to launch EC2 instances in two other Regions: us-east-1 and us-east-2.

What must the SysOps administrator do to use the custom AMI in the additional Regions?

- A. Make the AMI public in the Community AMIs section of the AWS Management Console
- B. **Copy the AMI to the additional Regions**
- C. Copy the AMI to a new Amazon S3 bucket. Assign access permissions to the AMI for the additional Regions
- D. Share the AMI to the additional Regions. Assign the required access permissions.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract of AWS CloudOps Documents:

Amazon Machine Images (AMIs) are Region-specific resources. AWS CloudOps documentation explicitly states that an AMI created in one Region cannot be used to launch instances in another Region unless it is copied to the target Region. Therefore, the SysOps administrator must copy the AMI to both us-east-1 and us-east-2.

The AMI copy process creates a new AMI in each destination Region and automatically copies the underlying snapshots. Once the AMIs exist in the target Regions, they can be referenced in launch templates, Auto Scaling groups, or AWS CloudFormation templates for consistent multi-Region deployments.

Option B is incorrect because making an AMI public does not replicate it across Regions. Option C is incorrect because sharing an AMI only grants account-level access within the same Region. Option D is incorrect because AMIs cannot be launched from Amazon S3 directly.

This approach aligns with AWS CloudOps automation practices for multi-Region application deployment and disaster recovery readiness.

References:

Amazon EC2 User Guide - Copying an AMI across Regions

AWS SysOps Administrator Study Guide - AMI lifecycle management

AWS Well-Architected Framework - Deployment and automation best practices

**NEW QUESTION # 28**

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