

2026 Cisco 300-540–The Best New Exam Duration



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Cisco 300-540 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Virtualized Architecture: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Network Engineers and covers the foundational concepts of virtualized infrastructures used in modern service provider and cloud environments. Candidates are expected to understand constraints in IaaS designs, determine appropriate cloud service models, and demonstrate awareness of container orchestration compared to traditional virtual machines. The exam also evaluates the ability to implement key virtualization functions such as NFV, VNF, NSO, and virtualized Cisco platforms. Learners must be able to deploy NFV with automation tools, manage VNF onboarding, work with NSO-driven orchestration, and use protocols like NETCONF, RESTCONF, REST APIs, and gNMI within automated cloud ecosystems. A general understanding of supporting platforms such as OpenStack also forms part of the required knowledge in this domain.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High Availability: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Infrastructure Architects and covers the design and implementation of redundancy and resiliency mechanisms in virtualized network functions and distributed cloud platforms. It includes data plane redundancy for VNFs, high availability within a single VIM control plane, and resilient compute, vNIC, and top-of-rack switching. The exam requires an understanding of multi-homing, EVLAG configurations, virtual private cloud deployment, and ECMP strategies for NFVI integrations with physical routing protocols such as BGP, OSPF, and IS-IS. Candidates must also recommend suitable high-availability models involving DNS, routing, and load balancing.

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Assurance and Optimization: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Operations Engineers and covers assurance mechanisms used to maintain performance, stability, and visibility across NFVI environments. It includes network assurance concepts such as MANO frameworks, VNF workload monitoring, VIM control plane KPIs, and streaming telemetry with gRPC and gNMI. Candidates must understand cloud infrastructure performance monitoring tools, including SR-PM, NetFlow, IPFIX, syslog, SNMP traps, RMON, cloud agents, and automated fault management systems. The domain also touches on diagnosing NFVI-related errors and optimizing VNFs using techniques such as SR-IOV and software-accelerated virtual switching technologies like DPDK and VPP.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Security Engineers and covers the implementation of infrastructure-level protection in cloud and NFVI ecosystems. It includes topics such as ACLs, uRPF, RTBH, router hardening, BGP flowspec, TACACS, and MACSEC. Candidates should understand DoS mitigation methods and apply security practices within NFVI, focusing on API protection, securing the control and management plane, and segmentation strategies in service provider cloud environments. The domain also evaluates basic knowledge of TLS, mTLS, and general cloud security solutions related to DNS protection, zero-day defenses, and malware detection.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud Interconnect: This section of the exam measures the skills of Service Provider Network Engineers and covers how large networks interconnect with cloud platforms and carrier-neutral facilities. Candidates are expected to understand various connectivity options to cloud providers, customer sites, and other neutral facilities, as well as evaluate WAN connectivity models such as direct connect, MPLS or segment routing, and IPsec VPN links. The domain also includes the ability to troubleshoot advanced data center interconnect solutions, including EVPN VXLAN, EVPN over SR • MPLS, ACI-based connectivity, and pseudowire architectures supporting cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-edge communication.

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Cisco Designing and Implementing Cisco Service Provider Cloud Network Infrastructure Sample Questions (Q21-Q26):

NEW QUESTION # 21

VNF data plane redundancy can be achieved by:

- A. Placing all VNFs on a single host
- B. Disabling network resiliency features
- C. Using placement strategies and network resiliency
- D. Limiting the use of redundant hardware

Answer: C

NEW QUESTION # 22

When troubleshooting DCI solutions, which of the following tools or concepts are crucial? (Choose two)

- A. ACI for centralized application-focused network policies
- B. IPsec VPN for enhancing physical security measures
- C. EVPN VXLAN for extending layer 2 services over a layer 3 network
- D. SNMP for managing network devices

Answer: A,C

NEW QUESTION # 23

```

nfv101@nfv101:~$ show system routes
-----
DE
PREFIXLEN
STATUS
-----
10.0.0.1          24      Failure (1)
10.1.0.0          24      Failure (2)
Failure 1)result=RTNETLINK answers: Invalid argument
Failure 2)result=RTNETLINK answers: Network is unreachable

```

Refer to the exhibit. An engineer must deploy a standalone Cisco NFVIS. These configurations were performed already:

Deployed the virtual machine

Configured the hostname and IP address

Configured dual WAN support

When the engineer attempts to access the NFVIS portal, the API returns a 401 Unauthorized error. What is the cause of the issue?

- A. The browser certificate must be renewed.
- B. The default admin password must be reset.
- C. Portal access must be enabled via SSH.
- D. The Tomcat service must be restarted.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Cisco NFVIS follows strict security controls. After a fresh deployment:

* The default admin credentials are considered insecure.

* NFVIS requires the administrator to reset the default password on first login (typically via console or SSH).

* Until the password is changed, REST API and web-portal access are denied, and attempts to access the portal or API return HTTP 401 Unauthorized, even if the default credentials are provided.

This mechanism prevents use of factory-default passwords in production and is explicitly documented as a mandatory post-install step.

The other options are not the cause of a 401 error:

* Enabling portal via SSH (B) is not required; HTTPS access is enabled by default once credentials are valid.

* Restarting Tomcat (C) would address service availability issues (e.g., 5xx errors), not authentication.

* Browser certificates (D) affect trust warnings (e.g., HTTPS certificate errors), not 401 Unauthorized.

NEW QUESTION # 24

VIM control plane KPIs are important for:

- A. Manual network configurations
- B. Monitoring virtual infrastructure manager performance
- C. Tracking physical server health
- D. Decreasing network traffic

Answer: B

NEW QUESTION # 25

OpenStack is:

- A. A proprietary virtualization platform
- B. An open-source cloud computing platform for public and private clouds

