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## Amazon SOA-C03 Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic   | Details  |
|---------|--|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Networking and Content Delivery:</b> 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>• <b>Reliability and Business Continuity:</b> 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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|---------|---|
| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monitoring, Logging, Analysis, Remediation, and Performance Optimization:</b> 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 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deployment, Provisioning, and Automation:</b> 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>• <b>Security and Compliance:</b> 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>   |

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## Amazon AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate Sample Questions (Q36-Q41):

### NEW QUESTION # 36

A company runs several production workloads on Amazon EC2 instances. A SysOps administrator discovered that a production EC2 instance failed a system health check. The SysOps administrator recovered the instance manually.

The SysOps administrator wants to automate the recovery task of EC2 instances and receive notifications whenever a system health check fails. Detailed monitoring is activated for all of the company's production EC2 instances.

Which of the following is the MOST operationally efficient solution that meets these requirements?

- **A. For each production EC2 instance, create an Amazon CloudWatch alarm for Status Check Failed: System. Set the alarm action to recover the EC2 instance. Configure the alarm notification to be published to an Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) topic.**
- B. On each production EC2 instance, configure an Amazon CloudWatch agent to collect and send logs to a log group in Amazon CloudWatch Logs. Create a CloudWatch alarm that is based on a metric filter that tracks errors. Configure the alarm to invoke an AWS Lambda function to reboot the EC2 instance and send a notification email.
- C. On each production EC2 instance, create a script that sends network pings to a highly available endpoint by way of a cron job. If the script detects a network response timeout, invoke a command to reboot the EC2 instance.
- D. On each production EC2 instance, create a script that monitors the system health by sending a heartbeat notification every minute to a central monitoring server. If an EC2 instance fails to send a heartbeat, run a script on the monitoring server to stop and start the EC2 instance and to publish a notification to an Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) topic.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

EC2 status checks run every minute and expose a System check metric that indicates hardware or system-level impairment.

CloudWatch alarms can trigger on Status Check Failed: System and automatically recover the instance (or take a defined action) without manual intervention, satisfying both the automatic recovery and alerting requirements. This approach minimizes manual steps and scales across many instances, leveraging built-in AWS health signals and standard notification channels. It is also consistent with AWS guidance on using CloudWatch alarms to recover impaired instances and to notify via SNS.

### NEW QUESTION # 37

A company is running an application on premises and wants to use AWS for data backup. All of the data must be available locally. The backup application can write only to block-based storage that is compatible with the Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX).

Which backup solution will meet these requirements?

- **A. Use AWS Storage Gateway, and configure it to use gateway-stored volumes.**
- B. Configure the backup software to use Amazon S3 as the target for the data backups.
- C. Configure the backup software to use Amazon S3 Glacier Flexible Retrieval as the target for the data backups.
- D. Use AWS Storage Gateway, and configure it to use gateway-cached volumes.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The Storage Gateway service enables hybrid cloud backup by presenting local block storage that synchronizes with AWS cloud storage. For scenarios where all data must remain available locally while still backed up to AWS, the correct mode is gateway-stored volumes.

"Use stored volumes if you want to keep all your data locally while asynchronously backing up point-in-time snapshots to Amazon S3 for durable storage." These volumes expose an iSCSI interface compatible with POSIX file systems, allowing direct use by on-premises backup software.

Gateway-cached volumes (Option C) store primary data in AWS with limited local cache, violating the "all data must be available locally" requirement. Options A and B are object-based storage solutions, not compatible with POSIX or block-based backup applications.

Therefore, Option D fully satisfies CloudOps reliability and continuity best practices by ensuring local availability, cloud durability, and POSIX compatibility for backups.

#### NEW QUESTION # 38

A company runs an application on Amazon EC2 that connects to an Amazon Aurora PostgreSQL database. A developer accidentally drops a table from the database, causing application errors.

Two hours later, a CloudOps engineer needs to recover the data and make the application functional again.

Which solution will meet this requirement?

- **A. Perform a point-in-time recovery and create a new database to restore the database to a specified point in time, 2 hours in the past. Reconfigure the application to use a new database endpoint.**
- B. Use the Aurora Backtrack feature to rewind the database to a specified time, 2 hours in the past.
- C. Perform a point-in-time recovery on the existing database to restore the database to a specified point in time, 2 hours in the past.
- D. Create a new Aurora cluster. Choose the Restore data from S3 bucket option. Choose log files up to the failure time 2 hours in the past.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In the AWS Cloud Operations and Aurora documentation, when data loss occurs due to human error such as dropped tables, Point-in-Time Recovery (PITR) is the recommended method for restoration. PITR creates a new Aurora cluster restored to a specific time before the failure.

The restored cluster has a new endpoint that must be reconfigured in the application to resume normal operations. AWS does not support performing PITR directly on an existing production database because that would overwrite current data.

Aurora Backtrack (Option A) applies only to Aurora MySQL, not PostgreSQL. Option B is incorrect because PITR cannot be executed in place. Option D refers to an import process from S3, which is unrelated to time-based recovery.

Hence, Option C is correct and follows the AWS CloudOps standard recovery pattern for PostgreSQL workloads.

#### NEW QUESTION # 39

A company hosts a critical legacy application on two Amazon EC2 instances that are in one Availability Zone. The instances run behind an Application Load Balancer (ALB). The company uses Amazon CloudWatch alarms to send Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) notifications when the ALB health checks detect an unhealthy instance. After a notification, the company's engineers manually restart the unhealthy instance. A CloudOps engineer must configure the application to be highly available and more resilient to failures. Which solution will meet these requirements?

- A. Increase the size of each instance. Create an Amazon EventBridge rule. Configure the EventBridge rule to restart the

instances if they enter a failed state.

- B. Create an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) from a healthy instance. Launch additional instances from the AMI in the same Availability Zone. Add the new instances to the ALB target group.
- C. Create an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) from a healthy instance. Launch an additional instance from the AMI in the same Availability Zone. Add the new instance to the ALB target group. Create an AWS Lambda function that runs when an instance is unhealthy. Configure the Lambda function to stop and restart the unhealthy instance.
- **D. Create an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) from a healthy instance. Create a launch template that uses the AMI. Create an Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling group that is deployed across multiple Availability Zones. Configure the Auto Scaling group to add instances to the ALB target group.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

High availability requires removing single-AZ risk and eliminating manual recovery. The AWS Reliability best practices state to design for multi-AZ and automatic healing: Auto Scaling "helps maintain application availability and allows you to automatically add or remove EC2 instances" (AWS Auto Scaling User Guide). The Reliability Pillar recommends to "distribute workloads across multiple Availability Zones" and to "automate recovery from failure" (AWS Well-Architected Framework - Reliability Pillar). Attaching the Auto Scaling group to an ALB target group enables health-based replacement: instances failing load balancer health checks are replaced and traffic is routed only to healthy targets. Using an AMI in a launch template ensures consistent, repeatable instance configuration (AWS EC2 Launch Templates). Options A and C keep all instances in a single Availability Zone and rely on manual or ad-hoc restarts, which do not meet high-availability or resiliency goals. Option B only scales vertically and adds a restart rule; it neither removes the single-AZ failure domain nor provides automated replacement. Therefore, creating a multi-AZ EC2 Auto Scaling group with a launch template and attaching it to the ALB target group (Option D) is the CloudOps-aligned solution for resilience and business continuity.

References (AWS CloudOps Documents / Study Guide):

- \* AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) Exam Guide: Domain 2 - Reliability and Business Continuity
- \* AWS Well-Architected Framework - Reliability Pillar
- \* Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling User Guide - Health checks and replacement
- \* Elastic Load Balancing User Guide - Target group health checks and ALB integration
- \* Amazon EC2 Launch Templates - Reproducible instance configuration

#### NEW QUESTION # 40

A company requires the rotation of administrative credentials for production workloads on a regular basis. A CloudOps engineer must implement this policy for an Amazon RDS DB instance's master user password.

Which solution will meet this requirement with the LEAST operational effort?

- **A. Create a new RDS database secret in AWS Secrets Manager. Apply the secret to the RDS DB instance. Configure automatic rotation.**
- B. Create an AWS Lambda function to change the RDS master user password. Create an Amazon EventBridge scheduled rule to invoke the Lambda function.
- C. Create a new String parameter in AWS Systems Manager Parameter Store. Configure automatic rotation.
- D. Create a new SecureString parameter in AWS Systems Manager Parameter Store. Encrypt the parameter with an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) key. Configure automatic rotation.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

AWS Secrets Manager natively supports credential management and automatic rotation for Amazon RDS master user passwords. When a secret is associated with an RDS instance, Secrets Manager automatically updates the password both in the secret and on the database, without downtime or manual scripting.

AWS documentation confirms:

"AWS Secrets Manager can automatically rotate the master user password for Amazon RDS databases. Rotation is fully managed and integrated, requiring no custom code or maintenance." Option A introduces unnecessary Lambda automation. Option B and C use Parameter Store, which does not provide direct RDS password rotation. Therefore, Option D achieves secure, automatic credential rotation with least operational effort, fully aligned with CloudOps security automation principles.

References (AWS CloudOps Documents / Study Guide):

- \* AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer - Associate (SOA-C03) Exam Guide - Domain 4: Security and Compliance
- \* AWS Secrets Manager - Rotating Secrets for Amazon RDS
- \* AWS Well-Architected Framework - Security Pillar
- \* Amazon RDS User Guide - Managing Master User Passwords

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