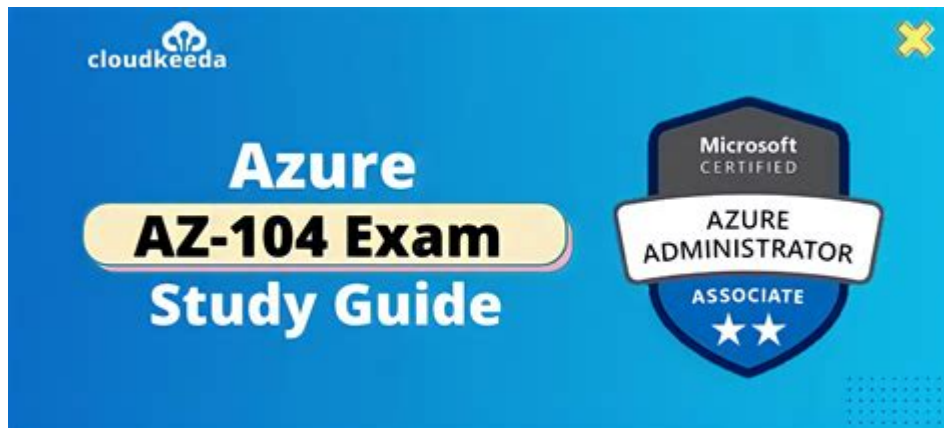# Az 104 Study Guide

AZ-104 Study Guide

The Microsoft Azure Administrator certification, known as AZ-104, is a critical qualification for IT professionals looking to validate their expertise in managing Azure resources. This study guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the AZ-104 exam, including its objectives, study resources, and preparation strategies. By understanding the key components of the AZ-104 exam, candidates can structure their study approach effectively and maximize their chances of passing the exam.

Overview of the AZ-104 Exam

The AZ-104 exam evaluates a candidate's ability to perform various tasks related to Azure administration. This certification is suitable for individuals who have experience with Azure and a foundational understanding of cloud services. The exam covers several core areas that are essential for effective Azure administration.

Exam Objectives

The AZ-104 exam is divided into several key domains, each focusing on different aspects of Azure administration. As of the latest update, the primary objectives of the AZ-104 exam include:

1. Manage Azure identities and governance (15-20%)
- Manage Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) objects
- Implement and manage Azure role-based access control (RBAC)
- Manage subscriptions and governance

2. Implement and manage storage (10-15%)

- Configure Azure Storage accounts
- Manage data in Azure Storage
- Implement Azure Blob Storage

3. Deploy and manage Azure compute resources (25-30%)
- Configure VMs for high availability and scalability
- Automate deployment of VMs
- Implement and manage Azure App Services

4. Configure and manage virtual networking (20-25%)
- Configure virtual networks
- Implement Azure DNS
- Manage network traffic

5. Monitor and back up Azure resources (10-15%)
- Monitor resources by using Azure Monitor
- Implement backup and recovery solutions

Familiarizing yourself with these objectives is crucial as they guide the scope of your study materials and practice tests.

Preparation Strategies

To effectively prepare for the AZ-104 exam, candidates should adopt a structured study approach. Here are some strategies to consider:

Create a Study Plan

Developing a study plan helps manage your time and ensures comprehensive coverage of all exam topics. Consider the following steps when creating your study plan:

- Assess Your Current Knowledge: Identify areas where you are strong and where you need improvement.
- Set Realistic Goals: Determine a timeline for study sessions and exam dates.
- Allocate Time for Each Domain: Divide your study time according to the weightage of each exam objective.

Utilize Official Microsoft Resources

Microsoft offers a wealth of resources for candidates preparing for the AZ-104 exam:

- Microsoft Learn: This platform provides free, self-paced learning modules

specifically tailored to the AZ-104 exam. Each module is designed to cover specific skills and objectives.
- Exam Reference: The official exam reference guide outlines all the topics covered in the exam and provides links to relevant resources.

Engage with Community Resources

The Azure certification community is an excellent resource for gaining insights and support:

- Forums and Discussion Groups: Websites like Reddit, Microsoft Tech Community, and LinkedIn groups offer platforms to interact with other candidates and professionals.
- Study Groups: Joining or forming study groups can provide motivation and enhance the learning experience through discussion and knowledge sharing.

Recommended Study Materials

Selecting the right study materials is crucial for effective preparation. Here's a list of recommended resources:

Online Courses

Consider enrolling in online courses that provide structured content and expert guidance:

- Pluralsight: Offers comprehensive courses specifically for AZ-104, including hands-on labs.
- Udemy: Features various AZ-104 courses, often supplemented with practice exams.

Books

Books can provide in-depth knowledge and serve as excellent reference materials:

- "Exam Ref AZ-104 Microsoft Azure Administrator" by Michael Washam, Scott Duffy, and Aidan Finn: This book is tailored to cover all exam objectives and includes practice questions.
- "Azure Administrator Associate Exam Ref AZ-104" by Ritesh Modi: Another great resource that focuses on key exam topics with practical insights.

Practice Tests

Taking practice tests is a crucial aspect of preparation as it helps gauge your knowledge and exam readiness. Here are some options:

- MeasureUp: Provides official practice tests for AZ-104, simulating the exam environment.
- Whizlabs: Offers a variety of practice questions and tests to help reinforce your knowledge.

Hands-On Experience

While theoretical knowledge is important, practical experience is essential for success in the AZ-104 exam. Consider the following:

- Azure Free Account: Sign up for a free Azure account to gain hands-on experience with Azure services. This account provides credits that allow you to explore various features.
- Labs and Sandbox Environments: Utilize online labs or sandbox environments to practice configuring and managing Azure resources in real-world scenarios.

Exam Day Preparation

As your exam date approaches, it's crucial to prepare effectively to ensure you perform your best:

Review Key Concepts

In the final days before the exam, focus on reviewing the key concepts and objectives. Create summary notes or flashcards for quick revision.

Relax and Rest

Ensure you get adequate rest before the exam day. A clear mind will enhance your focus and performance during the exam.

Understand Exam Logistics

Familiarize yourself with the exam format, including the types of questions you may encounter, such as multiple-choice and scenario-based questions.

Ensure you know the exam location or the process for taking the exam online.

Conclusion

The AZ-104 certification is a valuable credential for IT professionals looking to validate their skills in Azure administration. By following this study guide and employing effective preparation strategies, candidates can enhance their understanding of Azure and increase their chances of success on the exam. Remember, consistent study habits, practical experience, and utilizing the right resources are key to achieving your certification goals. Good luck!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AZ-104 exam focused on?

The AZ-104 exam focuses on Microsoft Azure Administrator skills, including managing Azure subscriptions, implementing storage solutions, configuring virtual networks, and monitoring resources.

What are the prerequisites for taking the AZ-104 exam?

While there are no formal prerequisites, it's recommended that candidates have a basic understanding of cloud concepts and experience with Azure services.

How can I effectively study for the AZ-104 exam?

Effective study methods include utilizing official Microsoft learning paths, hands-on labs, practice exams, and joining study groups or forums.

What resources are recommended for the AZ-104 study guide?

Recommended resources include the Microsoft Learn platform, AZ-104 study guides from reputable online course providers, and Azure documentation.

What is the format of the AZ-104 exam?

The AZ-104 exam consists of multiple-choice questions, case studies, and practical scenarios, typically with around 40-60 questions to be completed in 150 minutes.

How much does it cost to take the AZ-104 exam?

As of October 2023, the cost of the AZ-104 exam is typically around $165 USD, but prices may vary by region and currency.

What topics are covered in the AZ-104 exam?

Key topics include managing Azure identities, implementing and managing storage, configuring and managing virtual networks, and monitoring and backing up Azure resources.

How often is the AZ-104 exam updated?

The AZ-104 exam is periodically updated to reflect changes in Azure services, usually on an annual basis, so it's important to check for the latest exam objectives.

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