

AWS Solution Architect Associate Exam Prep 2025

AWS SAA Solution Architect Associate. Well-Architected Framework, core services, and design patterns.

IT Certifications Instructor: Nick Williams • 5 sections • 47 lessons • 13.25h total

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About this course

This course prepares you for the AWS Solution Architect Associate exam. We cover AWS core services, Well-Architected Framework, and design patterns. Video lessons, hands-on labs, and practice exams included.

Course curriculum

Foundations and Exam Overview

- **Understanding the SAA-C02 Exam Structure (12m)**
Learn the exam format, question types, and scoring to plan your study approach effectively.
- **Key AWS Services for the Associate Level (18m)**
Get a clear overview of essential AWS services like EC2, S3, and VPC that are frequently tested.
- **Setting Up Your AWS Free Tier Account (8m)**
Step-by-step guide to create and configure your AWS account for hands-on practice without extra cost.
- **Core Cloud Concepts You Must Know (15m)**
Review fundamental concepts like scalability, elasticity, and high availability that underpin AWS architectures.
- **How to Create a Personalized Study Plan (10m)**
Build a realistic schedule tailored to your experience level and exam timeline.
- **Navigating the AWS Console Efficiently (14m)**
Tips and shortcuts for using the AWS Management Console to save time during practice.
- **Common Exam Pitfalls to Avoid (9m)**
Learn about typical mistakes and how to sidestep them based on real candidate experiences.
- **Resources and Tools for Your Prep (7m)**
Discover recommended books, websites, and tools to supplement your learning journey.

Core AWS Services Deep Dive

- **EC2 Instances: Selection and Optimization (22m)**
Learn how to choose the right EC2 instance types and optimize costs for different workloads.
- **S3 Storage Classes and Lifecycle Policies (20m)**
Understand S3 storage options and automate data management with lifecycle rules.
- **VPC Design for Security and Scalability (25m)**
Step-by-step guide to designing secure VPCs with subnets, route tables, and gateways.
- **IAM Policies and Roles for Access Control (16m)**
Master IAM best practices to manage user permissions and service roles securely.
- **RDS vs. DynamoDB: Choosing the Right Database (19m)**
Compare relational and NoSQL databases on AWS with real-world use cases.
- **Load Balancers and Auto Scaling Groups (24m)**
Configure ELB and ASG to ensure high availability and handle traffic spikes.
- **CloudFront for Content Delivery (11m)**
Set up CDN with CloudFront to improve performance and reduce latency globally.
- **Route 53 for DNS Management (13m)**
Learn DNS routing policies and health checks for reliable domain management.
- **EBS and EFS Storage Solutions (17m)**
Explore block and file storage options with hands-on configuration tips.

- SQS and SNS for Decoupled Architectures (15m)
Implement messaging services to build scalable and resilient applications.

Security and Compliance Strategies

- Securing Your VPC with Security Groups and NACLs (21m)
Apply network security controls step-by-step to protect your resources.
- AWS KMS for Encryption and Key Management (14m)
Use KMS to encrypt data at rest and in transit with practical examples.
- Implementing Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) (9m)
Set up MFA for root and IAM users to enhance account security.
- Compliance Frameworks: HIPAA and GDPR on AWS (18m)
Understand how to align your architecture with common compliance requirements.
- AWS WAF and Shield for DDoS Protection (16m)
Protect applications from web attacks using AWS security services.
- Logging and Monitoring with CloudWatch (20m)
Set up alarms and dashboards to monitor your AWS environment proactively.
- Security Best Practices for Exam Scenarios (12m)
Review key security principles that appear frequently in SAA-C02 questions.

Advanced Architecture Patterns

- Designing Highly Available Multi-AZ Systems (23m)
Build fault-tolerant architectures using multiple Availability Zones.
- Cost-Optimized Solutions with AWS Pricing Tools (17m)
Use Cost Explorer and Budgets to design affordable cloud solutions.
- Serverless Architectures with Lambda and API Gateway (26m)
Create event-driven applications without managing servers.
- Hybrid Cloud Connections with Direct Connect (15m)
Connect on-premises data centers to AWS for hybrid setups.
- Data Analytics with Redshift and Athena (20m)
Analyze large datasets using AWS analytics services for business insights.
- Disaster Recovery Strategies on AWS (19m)
Plan and implement backup and recovery solutions for critical workloads.
- Container Orchestration with ECS and EKS (24m)
Deploy and manage containers using AWS container services.
- Edge Computing with AWS IoT and Greengrass (13m)
Extend AWS to edge devices for low-latency processing.
- Real-World Case Study: E-Commerce Platform (28m)
Analyze a complete architecture for an online store with hands-on diagrams.

Exam Practice and Implementation

- Practice Exam: SAA-C02 Sample Questions (32m)
Test your knowledge with a timed practice test and review explanations.

- **Time Management Strategies for the Exam (11m)**
Learn how to pace yourself and handle difficult questions efficiently.
- **Analyzing Exam Question Patterns (16m)**
Identify common question types and how to approach them strategically.
- **Hands-On Lab: Build a Secure Web Application (35m)**
Follow a step-by-step guide to deploy a full-stack app on AWS.
- **Reviewing Your Weak Areas with Targeted Practice (14m)**
Use diagnostic tools to focus on topics that need more attention.
- **Downloadable Templates for Architecture Diagrams (8m)**
Get editable templates to practice drawing AWS solutions quickly.
- **Group Study Tips and Online Communities (10m)**
Join forums and study groups to stay motivated and share insights.
- **Final Exam Day Checklist (7m)**
Prepare everything you need for a smooth testing experience.
- **What to Do After Passing the Exam (9m)**
Plan your next steps, including continuing education and certification renewals.
- **Real Case Study Analysis: Migration Project (27m)**
Walk through a complex migration scenario with decision-making exercises.
- **Problem-Solving Session: Common Exam Scenarios (21m)**
Solve tricky problems with instructor-led walkthroughs and tips.
- **Creating Your AWS Portfolio Project (18m)**
Build a project to showcase your skills for job applications.
- **Ongoing Learning: AWS Updates and New Services (12m)**
Stay current with AWS changes to maintain your certification edge.

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