

AZ-900 Exam Facts

Questions	40-60 (multiple choice, multi-select, drag-and-drop, yes/no)
Time	45 minutes of exam time (about 65 minutes seat time)
Passing score	700 out of 1000 (scaled)
Cost	US\$99 (varies by country)
Prerequisites	None - suitable for non-technical roles
Validity	Fundamentals certifications do not expire
Domains	Cloud concepts 25-30%; Azure architecture and services 35-40%; Azure management and governance 30-35%
Microsoft updates the skills outline regularly - check the current study guide before you book.	

Cloud Concepts (25-30%)

IaaS	You manage OS, runtime, apps and data; Azure manages hardware (e.g. Azure Virtual Machines)
PaaS	You manage apps and data only (e.g. App Service, Azure SQL Database)
SaaS	Provider manages everything; you use the software (e.g. Microsoft 365)
Shared responsibility	Customer is ALWAYS responsible for data, devices, accounts and identities
CapEx vs OpEx	Cloud swaps upfront capital spend for pay-as-you-go operational spend
Public / private / hybrid	Hybrid = on-premises or private cloud connected to public cloud
Scalability vs elasticity	Scalability = add resources to meet demand; elasticity = do it automatically
High availability	Uptime guaranteed by an SLA, e.g. 99.9% or 99.99%
Serverless	No server management; pay per execution (e.g. Azure Functions)

Azure Architecture and Services (35-40%)

Region / region pair	Geographic area of datacenters; pairs give disaster recovery across regions
Availability zone	Physically separate datacenters inside one region
Hierarchy	Management group > subscription > resource group > resource
Compute	VMs, VM Scale Sets, Availability Sets, App Service, Container Instances, AKS, Functions, Azure Virtual Desktop
Networking	Virtual Network, peering, VPN Gateway, ExpressRoute (private, not over internet), Azure DNS
Storage services	Blob, Files, Queue, Table, Disk
Access tiers	Hot, Cool, Cold, Archive (archive = cheapest storage, hours to rehydrate)
Redundancy	LRS, ZRS, GRS, GZRS (plus RA- read-access variants)
Identity	Microsoft Entra ID, SSO, MFA, Conditional Access, passwordless, Zero Trust, defence in depth
Migration	Azure Migrate; Azure Data Box for offline bulk transfer

Management and Governance (30-35%)

Cost tools	Pricing calculator (estimate new), TCO calculator (compare with on-prem), Cost Management (track and budget)
Tags	Name/value metadata for billing and organisation
Azure Policy	Enforce or audit rules on resources (e.g. allowed regions)
Resource locks	CanNotDelete or ReadOnly protection
Microsoft Purview	Data governance, classification and compliance
Deploy and manage	Portal, Cloud Shell, CLI, PowerShell, ARM templates and Bicep, Azure Arc
Monitoring	Azure Advisor (recommendations), Service Health, Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Application Insights

Study Tips and Free Practice

Plan	1-3 weeks: work through the free Microsoft Learn AZ-900 path, then drill practice questions
Focus	Shared responsibility, service models, cost tools and governance tools are frequent question themes
Practise	Take timed sets and read every explanation, right or wrong
AZ-900 guide	https://www.examcert.app/exams/azure-az-900/
Free practice test	https://www.examcert.app/exams/azure-az-900/free-practice-test/
More exams	https://www.examcert.app/exams/

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