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AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate (SAA-C03)

Amazon AWS SAA-C03

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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, Exam Pool A	113
Topic 2, Exam Pool B	86
Topic 3, Exam Pool C	210
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QUESTION NO: 1

A company has an application that provides marketing services to stores. The services are based on previous purchases by store customers. The stores upload transaction data to the company through SFTP, and the data is processed and analyzed to generate new marketing offers. Some of the files can exceed 200 GB in size.

Recently, the company discovered that some of the stores have uploaded files that contain personally identifiable information (PII) that should not have been included. The company wants administrators to be alerted if PII is shared again. The company also wants to automate remediation.

What should a solutions architect do to meet these requirements with the LEAST development effort?

- A.** Use an Amazon S3 bucket as a secure transfer point. Use Amazon Inspector to scan the objects in the bucket. If objects contain PII, trigger an S3 Lifecycle policy to remove the objects that contain PII.
- B.** Use an Amazon S3 bucket as a secure transfer point. Use Amazon Macie to scan the objects in the bucket. If objects contain PII, use Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) to trigger a notification to the administrators to remove the objects that contain PII.
- C.** Implement custom scanning algorithms in an AWS Lambda function. Trigger the function when objects are loaded into the bucket. If objects contain PII, use Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) to trigger a notification to the administrators to remove the objects that contain PII.
- D.** Implement custom scanning algorithms in an AWS Lambda function. Trigger the function when objects are loaded into the bucket. If objects contain PII, use Amazon Simple Email Service (Amazon SES) to trigger a notification to the administrators and trigger an S3 Lifecycle policy to remove the objects that contain PII.

ANSWER: B**QUESTION NO: 2**

A company runs an application on a large fleet of Amazon EC2 instances. The application reads and writes entries into an Amazon DynamoDB table. The size of the DynamoDB table continuously grows, but the application needs only data from the last 30 days. The company needs a solution that minimizes cost and development effort.

Which solution meets these requirements?

- A.** Use an AWS CloudFormation template to deploy the complete solution. Redeploy the CloudFormation stack every 30 days, and delete the original stack.
- B.** Use an EC2 instance that runs a monitoring application from AWS Marketplace. Configure the monitoring application to use Amazon DynamoDB Streams to store the timestamp when a new item is created in the table. Use a script that runs on the EC2 instance to delete items that have a timestamp that is older than 30 days.
- C.** Configure Amazon DynamoDB Streams to invoke an AWS Lambda function when a new item is created in the table. Configure the Lambda function to delete items in the table that are older than 30 days.
- D.** Extend the application to add an attribute that has a value of the current timestamp plus 30 days to each new item that is created in the table. Configure DynamoDB to use the attribute as the TTL attribute.

ANSWER: D**Explanation:**

Amazon DynamoDB Time to Live (TTL) allows you to define a per-item timestamp to determine when an item is no longer needed. Shortly after the date and time of the specified timestamp, DynamoDB deletes the item from your table without consuming any write throughput. TTL is provided at no extra cost as a means to reduce stored data volumes by retaining only the items that remain current for your workload's needs.

TTL is useful if you store items that lose relevance after a specific time. The following are example TTL use cases:

Remove user or sensor data after one year of inactivity in an application.

Archive expired items to an Amazon S3 data lake via Amazon DynamoDB Streams and AWS Lambda.

Retain sensitive data for a certain amount of time according to contractual or regulatory obligations.

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/amazondynamodb/latest/developerguide/TTL.html>

QUESTION NO: 3

A company runs an application on a group of Amazon Linux EC2 instances. For compliance reasons, the company must retain all application log files for 7 years. The log files will be analyzed by a reporting tool that must be able to access all the files concurrently.

Which storage solution meets these requirements MOST cost-effectively?

- A. Amazon Elastic Block Store (Amazon EBS)
- B. Amazon Elastic File System (Amazon EFS)
- C. Amazon EC2 instance store
- D. Amazon S3

ANSWER: D**QUESTION NO: 4**

A hospital is designing a new application that gathers symptoms from patients. The hospital has decided to use Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS) and Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) in the architecture.

A solutions architect is reviewing the infrastructure design. Data must be encrypted at rest and in transit. Only authorized personnel of the hospital should be able to access the data.

Which combination of steps should the solutions architect take to meet these requirements? (Select TWO.)

- A. Turn on server-side encryption on the SQS components. Update the default key policy to restrict key usage to a set of authorized principals.
- B. Turn on server-side encryption on the SNS components by using an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) customer managed key. Apply a key policy to restrict key usage to a set of authorized principals.

- C.** Turn on encryption on the SNS components Update the default key policy to restrict key usage to a set of authorized principals. Set a condition in the topic pokey to allow only encrypted connections over TLS.
- D.** Turn on server-side encryption on the SOS components by using an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) customer managed key Apply a key pokey to restrict key usage to a set of authorized principals. Set a condition in the queue pokey to allow only encrypted connections over TLS.
- E.** Turn on server-side encryption on the SOS components by using an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) customer managed key. Apply an IAM pokey to restrict key usage to a set of authorized principals. Set a condition in the queue pokey to allow only encrypted connections over TLS

ANSWER: B D

QUESTION NO: 5

A company has created an image analysis application in which users can upload photos and add photo frames to their images. The users upload images and metadata to indicate which photo frames they want to add to their images. The application uses a single Amazon EC2 instance and Amazon DynamoDB to store the metadata.

The application is becoming more popular, and the number of users is increasing. The company expects the number of concurrent users to vary significantly depending on the time of day and day of week. The company must ensure that the application can scale to meet the needs of the growing user base.

Which solution meets these requirements?

- A.** Use AWS Lambda to process the photos. Store the photos and metadata in DynamoDB.
- B.** Use Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose to process the photos and to store the photos and metadata.
- C.** Use AWS Lambda to process the photos. Store the photos in Amazon S3. Retain DynamoDB to store the metadata.
- D.** Increase the number of EC2 instances to three. Use Provisioned IOPS SSD (io2) Amazon Elastic Block Store (Amazon EBS) volumes to store the photos and metadata.

ANSWER: C

QUESTION NO: 6

A company is reviewing a recent migration of a three-tier application to a VPC. The security team discovers that the principle of least privilege is not being applied to Amazon EC2 security group ingress and egress rules between the application tiers.

What should a solutions architect do to correct this issue?

- A.** Create security group rules using the instance ID as the source or destination.
- B.** Create security group rules using the security group ID as the source or destination.
- C.** Create security group rules using the VPC CIDR blocks as the source or destination.
- D.** Create security group rules using the subnet CIDR blocks as the source or destination.

ANSWER: B**Explanation:**

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/security-group-rules.html>

QUESTION NO: 7

A company recently migrated to AWS and wants to implement a solution to protect the traffic that flows in and out of the production VPC. The company had an inspection server in its on-premises data center. The inspection server performed specific operations such as traffic flow inspection and traffic filtering. The company wants to have the same functionalities in the AWS Cloud.

Which solution will meet these requirements?

- A. Use Amazon GuardDuty for traffic inspection and traffic filtering in the production VPC
- B. Use Traffic Mirroring to mirror traffic from the production VPC for traffic inspection and filtering.
- C. Use AWS Network Firewall to create the required rules for traffic inspection and traffic filtering for the production VPC.
- D. Use AWS Firewall Manager to create the required rules for traffic inspection and traffic filtering for the production VPC.

ANSWER: C**Explanation:**

AWS Network Firewall supports both inspection and filtering as required

QUESTION NO: 8

An ecommerce company is building a distributed application that involves several serverless functions and AWS services to complete order-processing tasks. These tasks require manual approvals as part of the workflow A solutions architect needs to design an architecture for the order-processing application The solution must be able to combine multiple AWS Lambda functions into responsive serverless applications The solution also must orchestrate data and services that run on Amazon EC2 instances, containers, or on-premises servers

Which solution will meet these requirements with the LEAST operational overhead?

- A. Use AWS Step Functions to build the application.
- B. Integrate all the application components in an AWS Glue job
- C. Use Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS) to build the application
- D. Use AWS Lambda functions and Amazon EventBridge (Amazon CloudWatch Events) events to build the application

ANSWER: D**QUESTION NO: 9**

A company has a data ingestion workflow that consists the following:

- An Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) topic for notifications about new data deliveries
- An AWS Lambda function to process the data and record metadata

The company observes that the ingestion workflow fails occasionally because of network connectivity issues. When such a failure occurs, the Lambda function does not ingest the corresponding data unless the company manually reruns the job.

Which combination of actions should a solutions architect take to ensure that the Lambda function ingests all data in the future? (Select TWO.)

- A.** Configure the Lambda function In multiple Availability Zones.
- B.** Create an Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS) queue, and subscribe It to me SNS topic.
- C.** Increase the CPU and memory that are allocated to the Lambda function.
- D.** Increase provisioned throughput for the Lambda function.
- E.** Modify the Lambda function to read from an Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS) queue

ANSWER: B E

QUESTION NO: 10

A company is building a data analysis platform on AWS by using AWS Lake Formation. The platform will ingest data from different sources such as Amazon S3 and Amazon RDS. The company needs a secure solution to prevent access to portions of the data that contain sensitive information.

- A.** Create an IAM role that includes permissions to access Lake Formation tables.
- B.** Create data filters to implement row-level security and cell-level security.
- C.** Create an AWS Lambda function that removes sensitive information before Lake Formation ingests re data.
- D.** Create an AWS Lambda function that periodically Queries and removes sensitive information from Lake Formation tables.

ANSWER: A

QUESTION NO: 11

A solutions architect is designing a two-tier web application The application consists of a public-facing web tier hosted on Amazon EC2 in public subnets The database tier consists of Microsoft SQL Server running on Amazon EC2 in a private subnet Security is a high priority for the company

How should security groups be configured in this situation? (Select TWO)

- A.** Configure the security group for the web tier to allow inbound traffic on port 443 from 0.0.0.0/0.
- B.** Configure the security group for the web tier to allow outbound traffic on port 443 from 0.0.0.0/0.

- C. Configure the security group for the database tier to allow inbound traffic on port 1433 from the security group for the web tier.
- D. Configure the security group for the database tier to allow outbound traffic on ports 443 and 1433 to the security group for the web tier.
- E. Configure the security group for the database tier to allow inbound traffic on ports 443 and 1433 from the security group for the web tier.

ANSWER: A C

Explanation:

"Security groups create an outbound rule for every inbound rule." Not completely right. Statefull does NOT mean that if you create an inbound (or outbound) rule, it will create an outbound (or inbound) rule. What it does mean is: suppose you create an inbound rule on port 443 for the X ip. When a request enters on port 443 from X ip, it will allow traffic out for that request in the port 443. However, if you look at the outbound rules, there will not be any outbound rule on port 443 unless explicitly create it. In ACLs, which are stateless, you would have to create an inbound rule to allow incoming requests and an outbound rule to allow your application responds to those incoming requests.

https://docs.aws.amazon.com/vpc/latest/userguide/VPC_SecurityGroups.html#SecurityGroupRules

QUESTION NO: 12

A company is hosting a three-tier ecommerce application in the AWS Cloud. The company hosts the website on Amazon S3 and integrates the website with an API that handles sales requests. The company hosts the API on three Amazon EC2 instances behind an Application Load Balancer (ALB). The API consists of static and dynamic front-end content along with backend workers that process sales requests asynchronously.

The company is expecting a significant and sudden increase in the number of sales requests during events for the launch of new products

What should a solutions architect recommend to ensure that all the requests are processed successfully?

- A. Add an Amazon CloudFront distribution for the dynamic content. Increase the number of EC2 instances to handle the increase in traffic.
- B. Add an Amazon CloudFront distribution for the static content. Place the EC2 instances in an Auto Scaling group to launch new instances based on network traffic.
- C. Add an Amazon CloudFront distribution for the dynamic content. Add an Amazon ElastiCache instance in front of the ALB to reduce traffic for the API to handle.
- D. Add an Amazon CloudFront distribution for the static content. Add an Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS) queue to receive requests from the website for later processing by the EC2 instances.

ANSWER: D

QUESTION NO: 13

A company is planning to migrate a commercial off-the-shelf application from its on-premises data center to AWS. The software has a software licensing model using sockets and cores with predictable capacity and uptime requirements. The company wants to use its existing licenses, which were purchased earlier this year.

Which Amazon EC2 pricing option is the MOST cost-effective?

- A. Dedicated Reserved Hosts
- B. Dedicated On-Demand Hosts
- C. Dedicated Reserved Instances
- D. Dedicated On-Demand Instances

ANSWER: A

QUESTION NO: 14

A company recently migrated its entire IT environment to the AWS Cloud. The company discovers that users are provisioning oversized Amazon EC2 instances and modifying security group rules without using the appropriate change control process. A solutions architect must devise a strategy to track and audit these inventory and configuration changes.

Which actions should the solutions architect take to meet these requirements? (Select TWO)

- A. Enable AWS CloudTrail and use it for auditing
- B. Use data lifecycle policies for the Amazon EC2 instances
- C. Enable AWS Trusted Advisor and reference the security dashboard
- D. Enable AWS Config and create rules for auditing and compliance purposes
- E. Restore previous resource configurations with an AWS CloudFormation template

ANSWER: A D

QUESTION NO: 15

A solutions architect is implementing a document review application using an Amazon S3 bucket for storage. The solution must prevent accidental deletion of the documents and ensure that all versions of the documents are available. Users must be able to download, modify, and upload documents.

Which combination of actions should be taken to meet these requirements? (Choose two.)

- A. Enable a read-only bucket ACL.
- B. Enable versioning on the bucket.
- C. Attach an IAM policy to the bucket.
- D. Enable MFA Delete on the bucket.

E. Encrypt the bucket using AWS KMS.

ANSWER: B D

QUESTION NO: 16

A company collects data from thousands of remote devices by using a RESTful web services application that runs on an Amazon EC2 instance. The EC2 instance receives the raw data, transforms the raw data, and stores all the data in an Amazon S3 bucket. The number of remote devices will increase into the millions soon. The company needs a highly scalable solution that minimizes operational overhead.

Which combination of steps should a solutions architect take to meet these requirements? (Select TWO.)

- A. Use AWS Glue to process the raw data in Amazon S3.
- B. Use Amazon Route 53 to route traffic to different EC2 instances.
- C. Add more EC2 instances to accommodate the increasing amount of incoming data.
- D. Send the raw data to Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS). Use EC2 instances to process the data.
- E. Use Amazon API Gateway to send the raw data to an Amazon Kinesis data stream. Configure Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose to use the data stream as a source to deliver the data to Amazon S3.

ANSWER: A E

Explanation:

"RESTful web services" => API Gateway.

"EC2 instance receives the raw data, transforms the raw data, and stores all the data in an Amazon S3 bucket" => GLUE with (Extract - Transform - Load)

QUESTION NO: 17

A company wants to measure the effectiveness of its recent marketing campaigns. The company performs batch processing on csv files of sales data and stores the results in an Amazon S3 bucket once every hour. The S3 bucket contains petabytes of objects. The company runs one-time queries in Amazon Athena to determine which products are most popular on a particular date for a particular region. Queries sometimes fail or take longer than expected to finish.

Which actions should a solutions architect take to improve the query performance and reliability? (Select TWO.)

- A. Reduce the S3 object sizes to less than 128 MB
- B. Partition the data by date and region in Amazon S3
- C. Store the files as large, single objects in Amazon S3.
- D. Use Amazon Kinesis Data Analytics to run the Queries as part of the batch processing operation
- E. Use an AWS Glue extract, transform, and load (ETL) process to convert the csv files into Apache Parquet format.

ANSWER: C E**QUESTION NO: 18**

A company wants to migrate an on-premises data center to AWS. The data center hosts an SFTP server that stores its data on an NFS-based file system. The server holds 200 GB of data that needs to be transferred. The server must be hosted on an Amazon EC2 instance that uses an Amazon Elastic File System (Amazon EFS) file system

When combination of steps should a solutions architect take to automate this task? (Select TWO)

- A. Launch the EC2 instance into the same Availability Zone as the EFS file system
- B. install an AWS DataSync agent in the on-premises data center
- C. Create a secondary Amazon Elastic Block Store (Amazon EBS) volume on the EC2 instance for the data
- D. Manually use an operating system copy command to push the data to the EC2 instance
- E. Use AWS DataSync to create a suitable location configuration for the on-premises SFTP server

ANSWER: A B**QUESTION NO: 19**

A company hosts a three-tier web application that includes a PostgreSQL database. The database stores the metadata from documents. The company searches the metadata for key terms to retrieve documents that the company reviews in a report each month. The documents are stored in Amazon S3. The documents are usually written only once, but they are updated frequently. The reporting process takes a few hours with the use of relational queries. The reporting process must not affect any document modifications or the addition of new documents.

What are the MOST operationally efficient solutions that meet these requirements? (Select TWO)

- A. Set up a new Amazon DocumentDB (with MongoDB compatibility) cluster that includes a read replica. Scale the read replica to generate the reports.
- B. Set up a new Amazon RDS for PostgreSQL Reserved Instance and an On-Demand read replica. Scale the read replica to generate the reports.
- C. Set up a new Amazon Aurora PostgreSQL DB cluster that includes a Reserved Instance and an Aurora Replica. Issue queries to the Aurora Replica to generate the reports.
- D. Set up a new Amazon RDS for PostgreSQL Multi-AZ Reserved Instance. Configure the reporting module to query the secondary RDS node so that the reporting module does not affect the primary node.
- E. Set up a new Amazon DynamoDB table to store the documents. Use a fixed write capacity to support new document entries. Automatically scale the read capacity to support the reports.

ANSWER: B C

QUESTION NO: 20

A company has deployed a database in Amazon RDS for MySQL. Due to increased transactions, the database support team is reporting slow reads against the DB instance and recommends adding a read replica.

Which combination of actions should a solutions architect take before implementing this change? (Choose two.)

- A. Enable binlog replication on the RDS primary node.
- B. Choose a failover priority for the source DB instance.
- C. Allow long-running transactions to complete on the source DB instance.
- D. Create a global table and specify the AWS Regions where the table will be available.
- E. Enable automatic backups on the source instance by setting the backup retention period to a value other than 0.

ANSWER: C E**Explanation:**

"An active, long-running transaction can slow the process of creating the read replica. We recommend that you wait for long-running transactions to complete before creating a read replica. If you create multiple read replicas in parallel from the same source DB instance, Amazon RDS takes only one snapshot at the start of the first create action. When creating a read replica, there are a few things to consider. First, you must enable automatic backups on the source DB instance by setting the backup retention period to a value other than 0. This requirement also applies to a read replica that is the source DB instance for another read replica" https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonRDS/latest/UserGuide/USER_ReadRepl.html