

SAA-C03: AWS Solutions Architect – Associate

Learn to design AWS architectures the way working architects do — and prepare for the SAA-C03 exam with real scenarios.

DURATION

3 days · 24 hours

LEVEL

Intermediate

CURRICULUM

9 modules · 8 labs

DELIVERYLive online, Classroom,
Onsite, Corporate

Course overview

Solutions architects are the people who decide how an application should be built on AWS: which services to use, how they connect, how they stay available when something fails and how much they will cost. This three-day course teaches that decision-making through design discussions and hands-on builds, using the trade-offs you will meet both in projects and in the SAA-C03 exam.

Day one lays the foundations of secure design: IAM policies and roles, multi-account structures, VPC design with public and private subnets, and protecting data with encryption. Day two focuses on resilience and performance, covering EC2 and Auto Scaling, load balancers, storage choices, databases, caching and decoupling with queues and events. Day three looks at serverless and container patterns, cost optimisation, disaster recovery strategies and a final exam-readiness session.

Labs build on each other. You will design a VPC, place an application behind a load balancer with Auto Scaling, connect it to a managed database, add caching and content delivery, and then decouple parts of it with SQS and Lambda. Along the way the trainer pauses for design reviews, asking what would change if the requirement were cheaper, faster or more fault tolerant — the exact thinking scenario questions test.

The course closes with timed practice on scenario questions and a walkthrough of how to read long question stems. It is aligned to the SAA-C03 exam guide and prepares you for the exam; check the AWS Certification site for the latest exam guide before you book.

Highlights

- 24 hours of live, trainer-led sessions over three days
- Hands-on labs building a multi-tier architecture
- Structured around the four SAA-C03 design domains
- Scenario drills that mirror exam-style questions
- Weekday and weekend batches in IST and Gulf Time

What's included

- Design-first teaching with architecture reviews
- Progressive labs that build one complete solution
- Coverage of all four SAA-C03 domains
- Disaster recovery and cost optimisation patterns
- Timed scenario-question practice with explanations
- Architecture diagrams to keep for revision
- Course completion certificate from Ace Skills Consulting
- Post-training doubt support while you prepare

Who this course is for

Who should attend

- System administrators and engineers moving into cloud roles
- Developers who want to design end-to-end solutions
- Solution and pre-sales architects working with AWS
- Cloud Practitioner holders progressing to associate level
- Technical leads responsible for migration projects

Prerequisites

- Hands-on familiarity with the AWS console or Cloud Practitioner-level knowledge
- Networking basics: IP addressing, subnets, DNS
- General understanding of servers, databases and web applications

Detailed curriculum — 3 days, 24 hours, 9 modules, 8 hands-on labs

Day 1 Secure Foundations & Networking

8 hours

1.1 Identity and access design

- IAM policies, roles and permission boundaries
- Service control policies
- Cross-account access and AWS Organizations
- Federation with IAM Identity Center

LAB Create least-privilege roles and test cross-account access · 45 min

1.2 VPC design

- CIDR planning, subnets and route tables
- Security groups versus network ACLs
- VPC peering and Transit Gateway
- Internet and NAT gateways
- VPC endpoints and PrivateLink

LAB Build a two-tier VPC with public and private subnets · 60 min

1.3 Protecting data

- Encryption at rest and in transit
- Secrets Manager and Parameter Store
- AWS KMS keys and key policies
- S3 bucket policies and Block Public Access

LAB Encrypt an S3 bucket with a customer managed key · 30 min

Day 2 Resilient & High-Performing Architectures

8 hours

2.1 Compute and scaling

- EC2 instance families and placement groups
- Application and Network Load Balancers
- Launch templates and Auto Scaling policies
- Multi-AZ design

LAB Deploy a web tier behind an ALB with Auto Scaling · 60 min

2.2 Storage and databases

- EBS, EFS and FSx options
- RDS Multi-AZ and read replicas
- ElastiCache for performance
- S3 storage classes and lifecycle
- Aurora and DynamoDB design choices

LAB Connect the web tier to RDS and add a read replica · 45 min

2.3 Decoupling and edge

- SQS, SNS and EventBridge
- Route 53 routing policies and health checks
- CloudFront and Global Accelerator

LAB Decouple order processing with SQS and Lambda · 40 min

3.1 Serverless and containers

- Lambda design patterns
- ECS, Fargate and EKS at a glance
- API Gateway
- Step Functions for orchestration

LAB Build a serverless API with API Gateway, Lambda and DynamoDB · 45 min

3.2 Cost-optimised design

- Savings Plans, Reserved and Spot Instances
- Cost Explorer and Compute Optimizer
- Storage tiering for cost
- Data transfer cost considerations

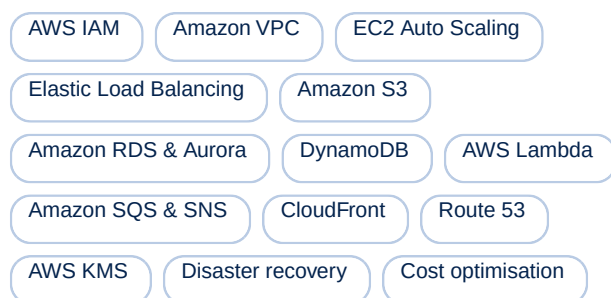
LAB Analyse and right-size a sample workload · 30 min

3.3 Disaster recovery and exam readiness

- Backup and restore, pilot light, warm standby, multi-site
- Reading long scenario questions
- AWS Backup and cross-Region replication
- Timed practice set with review

Skills and tools

Skills you will build



Tools used in class



Certification exam

This course is aligned to the exam below and prepares you for it. The exam itself is booked and taken with the vendor.

Exam	AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate
Exam code	SAA-C03
Questions	65
Duration	130 minutes
Passing score	720 / 1000 (scaled)
Format	Multiple choice, Multiple response
Delivery	Online proctored, Test centre
Validity	3 years
Official page	https://aws.amazon.com/certification/certified-solutions-architect-associate/

Exam skill areas covered

Exam details are pending verification. Confirm the current exam code, format and fee on the official vendor page before booking.

Frequently asked questions

Should I take Cloud Practitioner first?

It is not required. If you have used AWS before or work with infrastructure, you can start here; complete beginners benefit from Cloud Practitioner first.

How much hands-on work is included?

Each day includes several labs that together build one working architecture, and you keep the lab guides to repeat them afterwards.

How long should I study after the course?

Most working professionals revise for three to five weeks after the course, mainly with scenario questions. We share a revision plan on the final day.

Is the exam fee included?

Only when a batch states that a voucher is included. Otherwise you book and pay for the exam directly with AWS.

Do you offer corporate batches?

Yes. We run private batches for teams and can tailor labs to your existing AWS landing zone or migration plans.

Book a batch or talk to an advisor

Course page: aceskillsconsulting.com/course/saa-c03-aws-solutions-architect-associate · Email: info@aceskillsconsulting.com

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