

AZ-104 Labs Checklist & Study Path 2026

by PassITExams

A practical, printable companion for AZ-104 candidates — map every official Microsoft lab to its exam domain, track your progress, and study with a clear plan instead of guesswork.

AZ-104 Exam Domains & Weights (April 2026 skills-measured update)

#	Domain	Weight
1	Manage Azure identities and governance	20–25%
2	Implement and manage storage	15–20%
3	Deploy and manage Azure compute resources	20–25%
4	Implement and manage virtual networking	15–20%
5	Monitor and maintain Azure resources	10–15%

Official Microsoft Labs Mapped to Domains (Lab 01–11)

Lab	Lab Focus	Maps to Domain	Done
Lab 01	Manage Microsoft Entra ID identities & users	1 · Identities & Governance	☐
Lab 02	Manage RBAC, subscriptions & Azure Policy	1 · Identities & Governance	☐
Lab 03	Manage resources via Portal, CLI, PowerShell & Bicep	1 · Identities & Governance	☐
Lab 04	Configure storage accounts & redundancy	2 · Storage	☐
Lab 05	Manage Azure Files, Blob tiers & access	2 · Storage	☐
Lab 06	Deploy & configure virtual machines	3 · Compute	☐
Lab 07	Configure VM availability & scale sets	3 · Compute	☐
Lab 08	Implement App Service, containers & AKS	3 · Compute	☐
Lab 09	Implement virtual networks, subnets & NSGs	4 · Networking	☐
Lab 10	Configure load balancing, DNS & peering	4 · Networking	☐
Lab 11	Monitor resources & configure backup	5 · Monitoring	☐

Note: Lab numbering and content can change as Azure evolves. Always check the latest version on the official Microsoft Learning GitHub repository before each study session.

Recommended 7-Stage Learning Path

A realistic pace for working professionals — adjust hours to your own schedule and prior experience.

Stage	Focus	Est. Hours
1. Foundations	Azure fundamentals refresher & account/subscription setup	6–8 hrs
2. Identity & Governance	Entra ID, RBAC, Policy, management groups (Labs 01–03)	14–18 hrs
3. Storage	Storage accounts, Blob, Files, redundancy (Labs 04–05)	10–12 hrs
4. Compute	VMs, scale sets, App Service, containers, AKS (Labs 06–08)	18–22 hrs
5. Networking	VNets, NSGs, load balancing, DNS, peering (Labs 09–10)	16–20 hrs
6. Monitoring & Backup	Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Recovery Services (Lab 11)	8–10 hrs
7. Review & Practice Exams	Timed practice tests, weak-area review, final revision	10–14 hrs

Total estimated study time: **82–104 hours** over 6–10 weeks.

Progress Tracker

- ☐ Stage 1 — Foundations complete
- ☐ Stage 2 — Identity & Governance complete (Labs 01–03)
- ☐ Stage 3 — Storage complete (Labs 04–05)
- ☐ Stage 4 — Compute complete (Labs 06–08)
- ☐ Stage 5 — Networking complete (Labs 09–10)
- ☐ Stage 6 — Monitoring & Backup complete (Lab 11)
- ☐ Stage 7 — Practice exams scoring 80%+ consistently
- ☐ Exam scheduled on Pearson VUE

Cost-Control Tips

- Use a Free Trial or Pay-As-You-Go subscription with a low spending cap and billing alert.
- Deallocate (not just stop) VMs immediately after each lab session.
- Delete resource groups right after finishing a lab — don't let test VNets/VMs linger.
- Use B-series burstable VMs for practice instead of larger SKUs.
- Set an Azure Budget alert at 50%/80%/100% of your monthly cap.

Quick Pro Tips — Portal, CLI, PowerShell & Bicep

Tool	Pro Tip
Portal	Pin frequently used resources to a custom dashboard to save navigation time.
Azure CLI	Use <code>az config set core.output=table</code> for cleaner, readable command output.
PowerShell	Use <code>Get-AzVM Format-Table</code> to quickly audit VM state across a subscription.
Bicep	Run <code>az bicep decompile</code> on existing ARM templates to learn syntax faster.

Track your progress. Pass with confidence.

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