

AZ-104 Practice Tests, Labs & Hands-on Practice 2026

PassITExams Free Hands-On Labs + Mock Exams

Free Interactive Labs, 20+ Practice Tests & 2026 Mock Exams

“Pass your Microsoft Azure Administrator Associate on your first try”

What’s Inside This Guide
✓ 10 full hands-on labs with step-by-step instructions
✓ 5 top AZ-104 practice test platforms compared
✓ 30-day study tracker & mock exam schedule
✓ 2026 exam domain updates (Workload Identities, Private Link, AI services)
✓ Free downloadable cheat sheets and lab bundle

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1. Introduction

Nearly half of first-time candidates who sit the Microsoft AZ-104 Azure Administrator Associate exam do not pass on their initial attempt, and community surveys across exam forums consistently point to the same root cause: candidates memorize flashcards and watch video courses but never actually click through the Azure portal, the CLI, or PowerShell under realistic conditions. Reading about a Network Security Group is not the same as configuring one, breaking it, and fixing it again at 11 p.m. before a deadline.

This guide exists to close that exact gap. Rather than another list of bullet-point exam objectives, PassITExams has assembled a complete, hands-on preparation system: ten full interactive labs covering every exam domain, a side-by-side comparison of the best practice test providers available in 2026, a 30-day structured study tracker, and a set of condensed cheat sheets you can review the night before your exam.

In the sections that follow you will find the updated 2026 exam blueprint (including new coverage areas such as workload identities, Private Link enhancements, and Azure AI service administration), a practice-test comparison table with honest pros and cons, ten complete labs you can run in a free Azure sandbox or trial subscription, a printable study tracker, and a bundle of downloadable resources built specifically for this guide.

Everything here is designed to be used, not just read. Work through the labs in order, track your progress on the 30-day schedule, and revisit the cheat sheets in the final week. **Download the full PDF now and start building real, exam-ready Azure skills today.**

2. Updated AZ-104 Exam Domains & 2026 Changes

The AZ-104 exam blueprint is refreshed periodically to reflect how the Azure platform evolves. The five core functional domains remain structurally the same, but the specific skills measured within each one have shifted for 2026 to include newer identity, networking, and AI-adjacent administration tasks. The breakdown below reflects the current structure and weighting ranges.

Domain	Approx. Weight	Focus Areas
Manage Azure identities, governance, and subscriptions	20-25%	Microsoft Entra ID objects, RBAC, subscriptions, management groups, Azure Policy, resource locks and tags
Implement and manage storage	15-20%	Storage accounts, blob lifecycle management, Azure Files, storage security, redundancy options
Deploy and manage Azure compute resources	20-25%	VMs, availability sets/zones, scale sets, containers, App Service basics, ARM/Bicep templates
Implement and manage virtual networking	15-20%	VNets, NSGs, load balancers, VPN gateways, DNS, Private Link, peering
Monitor and back up Azure resources	10-15%	Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, alerts, Azure Backup, Azure Site Recovery

Key 2026 Blueprint Updates

The following areas represent the most significant additions and emphasis shifts administrators should not overlook this year:

- **Workload identities:** Configuring and securing Microsoft Entra Workload ID for applications and automation, distinct from traditional user/group identity tasks.
- **Private Link enhancements:** Expanded coverage of private endpoints for PaaS services, DNS integration for Private Link, and network isolation patterns.
- **Azure AI service administration:** Basic administrative tasks for provisioning, securing, and monitoring Azure AI/Cognitive Services resources at a subscription level.
- **Conditional Access refinements:** Deeper scenario-based questions on Conditional Access policies layered with Entra ID roles.
- **Cost management visibility:** Increased emphasis on budgets, cost alerts, and Azure Advisor recommendations as part of governance tasks.
- **Backup and recovery scenarios:** More applied questions combining Azure Backup policies with Site Recovery failover planning.

3. Best AZ-104 Practice Tests (Free & Paid)

Practice tests are only useful when the questions mirror the style, depth, and scenario format of the real exam. The comparison below reflects hands-on evaluation of five widely used AZ-104 practice test resources, weighing question quality, explanation depth, realism of scenario-based items, and overall value.

Provider	Rating	Price	Pros	Cons
PassITExams Mock Exam Suite	4.8/5	Free tier + Premium	Scenario-based questions, detailed rationale, progress analytics, 2026-updated question bank	Full analytics require free account signup
MeasureUp Official Practice Test	4.6/5	Paid	Microsoft-endorsed, exam-day simulation mode, performance-based question style	Higher price point, no free trial questions
Whizlabs AZ-104 Test Series	4.2/5	Free + Paid tiers	Large question volume, video explanations included	Some questions lag behind latest blueprint changes
ExamTopics Community Bank	3.9/5	Free (community)	Huge free question volume, discussion threads per question	Inconsistent answer accuracy, ads, no structured explanations
Tutorials Dojo AZ-104 Practice	4.4/5	Paid	Clean UI, well-written explanations, mobile app support	Fewer networking-domain questions relative to other domains

Direct links: Full provider links and referral-free access details are included in the “Free Downloadable Resources” section of this guide, along with the PassITExams mock exam access instructions.

4. Hands-On Labs & Interactive Practice

The ten labs below are organized across every AZ-104 domain plus the new 2026 topic areas. Each lab includes estimated duration, prerequisites, and full step-by-step instructions. Work through them in a free Azure trial, sandbox, or Pass-The-Test practice environment — never in a production subscription.

Category	Labs Included
Networking	Lab 1
Identity & Security	Labs 2, 7
Storage & Compute	Labs 3, 4
Monitoring	Labs 5, 10
Troubleshooting	Lab 6
2026 Topics	Labs 8, 9

Lab 1: Configure Hub-and-Spoke Virtual Network Peering

Category: Networking

Duration: 60-75 minutes

Prerequisites:

- Active Azure free trial or sandbox subscription
- Basic familiarity with the Azure Portal navigation

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a resource group named **rg-lab-network** in your preferred region.
- 2 Deploy a hub VNet (10.0.0.0/16) with a subnet for shared services (10.0.1.0/24).
- 3 Deploy two spoke VNets (10.1.0.0/16 and 10.2.0.0/16), each with a workload subnet.
- 4 Create bidirectional VNet peering between the hub and each spoke, enabling “Allow forwarded traffic” and “Use remote gateways” where applicable.
- 5 Deploy a test VM in each spoke and verify connectivity between spokes routes through the hub as expected.
- 6 Review effective routes on a spoke VM's network interface to confirm peering propagation.

Lab 2: Secure Resources with Microsoft Entra Conditional Access

Category: Identity & Security

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Prerequisites:

- Microsoft Entra ID P1 trial or equivalent test tenant
- A non-admin test user account

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a test security group named **CA-Test-Group** and add your test user.
- 2 Navigate to Microsoft Entra ID > Security > Conditional Access and create a new policy scoped to **CA-Test-Group**.
- 3 Configure a condition requiring multifactor authentication for all cloud applications when the sign-in originates outside a trusted location.
- 4 Set the policy to **Report-only** mode first and review the sign-in logs after a test sign-in.
- 5 Switch the policy to **On** and confirm the test user is prompted for MFA on next sign-in.
- 6 Document the policy configuration in your own words for exam-review purposes.

Lab 3: Implement Storage Account Lifecycle Management

Category: Storage & Compute

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Prerequisites:

- A general-purpose v2 storage account
- Sample blob files for testing

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a storage account with hierarchical namespace disabled and hot access tier as default.
- 2 Upload a set of sample blobs into a container named **lifecycle-test**.
- 3 Create a lifecycle management rule that moves blobs to cool tier after 30 days and archive tier after 90 days of inactivity.
- 4 Add a second rule that deletes blobs older than 365 days, scoped only to a specific blob prefix.
- 5 Use the "Preview matches" feature to confirm which blobs would be affected before saving.
- 6 Enable blob versioning and test how lifecycle rules interact with previous versions.

Lab 4: Deploy and Scale a Virtual Machine Scale Set

Category: Storage & Compute

Duration: 60-75 minutes

Prerequisites:

- Familiarity with VM sizing concepts
- An existing VNet/subnet

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a Virtual Machine Scale Set using a Windows or Linux marketplace image with an initial instance count of 2.
- 2 Attach the scale set to an Azure Load Balancer with a health probe on port 80/443.
- 3 Configure autoscale rules: scale out when average CPU exceeds 70% for 5 minutes, scale in when below 30% for 10 minutes.
- 4 Generate CPU load on the instances (using a stress tool or script) and observe the scale-out event in the Activity Log.
- 5 Review scale set instance protection settings and upgrade policy (Manual, Automatic, Rolling).
- 6 Clean up by deleting the scale set and associated load balancer to avoid ongoing charges.

Lab 5: Configure Azure Monitor Alerts and Action Groups

Category: Monitoring

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Prerequisites:

- At least one running VM or App Service resource

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create an Action Group that sends an email notification and (optionally) an SMS notification to your test contact.
- 2 Create a metric alert rule on a VM for **Percentage CPU** exceeding 80% over a 5-minute window.
- 3 Create a second alert rule based on a Log Analytics query (e.g., failed sign-ins exceeding a threshold) using a custom KQL query.
- 4 Trigger a test condition and confirm the Action Group notification is received.
- 5 Review the alert's fired history and fine-tune the evaluation frequency and severity level.

Lab 6: Troubleshoot Network Connectivity with Network Watcher

Category: Troubleshooting

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Prerequisites:

- Two VMs in the same or peered VNets
- Network Watcher enabled in the region

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Enable Network Watcher for your subscription's region if not already enabled.
- 2 Run an **IP flow verify** test between two VMs to confirm whether traffic on a specific port is allowed or denied.

- 3 Intentionally misconfigure an NSG rule to block ICMP, then use **Connection troubleshoot** to diagnose the failure.
- 4 Use **Next hop** to verify the routing path for traffic leaving a VM's network interface.
- 5 Enable NSG flow logs to a storage account and review a captured flow log entry.
- 6 Correct the misconfigured rule and re-run the connection troubleshoot test to confirm resolution.

Lab 7: Manage Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) at Scale

Category: Identity & Security	Duration: 45-60 minutes
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Prerequisites:

- Two or more test user accounts
- A management group or multiple resource groups

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a custom RBAC role that allows starting and restarting VMs but not deleting them, using a JSON role definition.
- 2 Assign the custom role to a test user at the resource group scope.
- 3 Assign the built-in **Reader** role to a second test user at the subscription scope.
- 4 Sign in as each test user (or use "Check access") to confirm the permission boundaries behave as expected.
- 5 Review effective access using the **Access control (IAM) > Check access** blade.
- 6 Document the difference between role assignment scope levels: management group, subscription, resource group, and resource.

Lab 8: Configure Private Endpoints and Private DNS Zones (2026 Update)

Category: 2026 Topics	Duration: 60-90 minutes
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Prerequisites:

- A storage account or Azure SQL resource
- A VNet with an available subnet

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a private endpoint for a storage account (blob sub-resource), placing it in a dedicated subnet.
- 2 Create a Private DNS Zone matching the storage service's private link DNS suffix and link it to your VNet.

- 3 Confirm the storage account's public network access can be restricted while the private endpoint remains reachable from within the VNet.
- 4 From a VM in the linked VNet, resolve the storage account's FQDN and confirm it resolves to the private IP address.
- 5 Test access from outside the VNet to confirm public access is correctly blocked.
- 6 Review integration considerations for extending this pattern to Azure SQL Database and Azure Key Vault.

Lab 9: Provision and Secure an Azure AI Services Resource (2026 Update)

Category: 2026 Topics	Duration: 45-60 minutes
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Prerequisites:

- An Azure subscription with AI/Cognitive Services resource provider registered

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Register the **Microsoft.CognitiveServices** resource provider on your subscription if not already registered.
- 2 Provision an Azure AI Services multi-service resource in a test resource group.
- 3 Restrict network access to the resource using a virtual network rule or private endpoint.
- 4 Rotate and manage access keys, then configure a Microsoft Entra ID-based authentication path instead of key-based access.
- 5 Apply a resource lock to prevent accidental deletion of the AI resource.
- 6 Set a cost alert budget scoped specifically to this resource group.

Lab 10: Configure Azure Backup and Test a Restore Operation

Category: Monitoring	Duration: 60-75 minutes
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Prerequisites:

- A test VM with sample data
- A Recovery Services vault

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1 Create a Recovery Services vault and define a backup policy with a daily backup schedule and 30-day retention.
- 2 Enable backup for a test VM and trigger an initial on-demand backup.
- 3 Modify a file on the VM after the backup completes, then perform a file-level recovery to restore just that file.

- 4 Perform a full VM restore to a new VM (Create new) and confirm the restored VM boots successfully.
 - 5 Review soft-delete behavior for backup data and how it protects against accidental deletion.
 - 6 Clean up test resources (restored VM, vault items) once validation is complete.
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5. 30-Day Study Tracker & Mock Exam Schedule

Print this tracker or copy it into your own spreadsheet. Each week combines domain review, one or two hands-on labs, and a practice test checkpoint. Check off each box as you complete it.

Week	Focus Topics	Labs to Complete	Practice Test Checkpoint	Done?
Week 1	Identities, Governance & Networking Basics	Labs 1, 2, 7	Diagnostic practice test (baseline score)	■
Week 2	Storage, Compute & Scale Sets	Labs 3, 4	Domain-focused practice test (Storage + Compute)	■
Week 3	Monitoring, Troubleshooting & Backup	Labs 5, 6, 10	Domain-focused practice test (Monitor + Troubleshoot)	■
Week 4	2026 Topics, Full Review & Final Mock Exams	Labs 8, 9 + repeat weak labs	2 full-length timed mock exams	■

Daily Checklist Template (Copy for Each Day)

- ■ Reviewed 1 exam domain topic for 20-30 minutes
- ■ Completed or reviewed 1 hands-on lab step
- ■ Answered 15-20 practice test questions
- ■ Logged incorrect answers in a personal “weak areas” note
- ■ Reviewed yesterday’s weak areas for 10 minutes

6. Free Downloadable Resources

All resources referenced throughout this guide are available as free downloads at PassITExams.com.

Resource	Format	Where to Get It
AZ-104 Complete Hands-On Lab Bundle (all 10 labs + templates)	ZIP (PDF + Bicep)	PassITExams.com/downloads
AZ-104 2026 Quick Reference Cheat Sheet	PDF	PassITExams.com/downloads
30-Day Study Tracker (editable)	Google Sheet	PassITExams.com/downloads
PassITExams Free Mock Exam (50 questions)	Web-based	PassITExams.com
Lab Environment Setup Guide (free trial walkthrough)	PDF	PassITExams.com/downloads

Bookmark this page and check back regularly — the lab bundle and cheat sheet are refreshed whenever Microsoft updates the AZ-104 skills-measured document.

7. Bonus Quick-Reference Cheat Sheets

Networking Quick Reference

Concept	Key Fact to Remember
NSG rule evaluation	Rules are evaluated in priority order, lowest number first; first match wins.
VNet peering	Non-transitive by default — spoke-to-spoke traffic needs a hub route or gateway transit.
Private Link	Creates a private IP for a PaaS resource inside your VNet; requires matching Private DNS Zone for name resolution.
Load Balancer SKUs	Standard SKU requires explicit NSG allow rules; Basic SKU is being retired — expect Standard-only scenarios.
Azure DNS	Public zones resolve internet-facing names; Private zones resolve names only within linked VNets.

Identity & Governance Quick Reference

Concept	Key Fact to Remember
RBAC scope order	Management Group > Subscription > Resource Group > Resource — permissions inherit downward.
Azure Policy vs RBAC	RBAC controls who can do what; Policy controls what configurations are allowed, regardless of role.
Resource locks	CanNotDelete blocks deletion only; ReadOnly blocks both edits and deletion.
Conditional Access	Requires Microsoft Entra ID P1/P2; evaluated after first-factor authentication succeeds.
Management groups	Support up to six levels of depth below the root management group.

Storage, Compute & Monitoring Quick Reference

Concept	Key Fact to Remember
Storage redundancy	LRS = 3 copies, 1 datacenter; ZRS = 3 zones; GRS/GZRS replicate to a secondary region.
Access tiers	Hot for frequent access, Cool for infrequent (30+ days), Archive for rare access with retrieval latency.
VM availability	Availability Sets protect against hardware/rack failure; Availability Zones protect against datacenter-level failure.

Concept	Key Fact to Remember
Scale set upgrade policy	Manual requires you to trigger updates; Automatic applies immediately; Rolling applies in batches with health checks.
Azure Monitor data	Metrics are near real-time numeric values; Logs (Log Analytics) are queried with KQL for deeper analysis.

8. Final Tips, Common Mistakes & Call-to-Action

Exam-Day Strategies

- Read each scenario question twice — AZ-104 frequently hides the deciding constraint in the second half of the question.
- Flag uncertain questions and move on; time pressure causes more errors than knowledge gaps.
- For case-study style sections, read all provided information before jumping to the questions.
- Manage your clock in blocks: aim to reach the halfway point of the exam with slightly more than half the time remaining.
- For drag-and-drop or ordered-list items, eliminate obviously wrong options first rather than solving in strict order.

Common Mistakes That Cost Candidates the Exam

- Skipping hands-on labs and relying solely on video courses or flashcards.
- Memorizing PowerShell/CLI syntax without understanding what the underlying resource actually does.
- Ignoring the 2026 blueprint updates and studying from outdated 2023-2024 material.
- Treating practice test scores as a pass/fail predictor instead of a weak-area finder.
- Not reviewing resource lock, RBAC, and Policy differences closely enough — a frequently confused topic cluster.

Ready to Pass AZ-104 on Your First Try?

Download the complete PassITExams AZ-104 lab bundle, take the free mock exam, and follow the 30-day tracker in this guide.

→ Visit PassITExams.com to access all free labs and mock exams today.

Thank you for studying with PassITExams. Good luck on your AZ-104 exam — and remember: the candidates who pass on the first try are the ones who practiced with real labs, not just slides.