

FREE STUDY RESOURCE

Free AZ-104 Study Guide Checklist & High-Yield Notes (2026)

Printable Companion for the Microsoft Azure Administrator Exam

Updated for skills measured as of April 17, 2026 | Free Resource by PassITExams

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EXAM DOMAINS COVERED

3

STUDY PLANS INCLUDED

100%

FREE & PRINTABLE

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Quick Exam Facts

A fast reference snapshot of the AZ-104 exam so you know exactly what you're walking into. Confirm pricing and scheduling details for your region on Microsoft's official certification page before booking.

Detail	What to Know
Exam Code	AZ-104: Microsoft Azure Administrator
Exam Cost	Approximately \$165 USD (price is set by Microsoft and varies by country/region — always check your local Pearson VUE listing)
Duration	100 minutes total seat time (includes time for the NDA and post-exam survey)
Number of Questions	Roughly 40–60 questions, mixing standalone items with short case-study scenarios
Passing Score	700 out of 1000 (scaled score — not the same as 70% of questions correct)
Question Format	Multiple choice, multiple answer, drag-and-drop ordering, portal hotspot questions, and case studies
Certification Validity	1 year from the date you pass, with free annual renewal via an online Microsoft Learn assessment
Retake Policy	24-hour wait after a first attempt; a longer wait period applies after each additional failed attempt — confirm current wait times on Microsoft's policy page

Figures above reflect publicly available exam guidance and are provided for planning purposes only. Always verify current pricing, scoring, and policy details directly with Microsoft before exam day.

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AZ-104 Domain Weights

The skills-measured outline updated April 17, 2026 keeps the same five domains but shifts emphasis toward identity and compute. Use these weights to decide where your study hours go.

Domain	Weight	High-Yield Topics to Prioritize
1. Manage Azure Identities & Governance	20–25%	Entra ID users, groups & licensing • Azure RBAC vs. Entra roles • Management groups & subscription hierarchy • Azure Policy & resource locks • Conditional Access fundamentals
2. Implement & Manage Storage	15–20%	Storage account types & redundancy tiers • Blob lifecycle management & access tiers • Azure Files & File Sync • SAS tokens vs. access keys • Service vs. private endpoints
3. Deploy & Manage Compute Resources	20–25%	VM sizing, availability sets & zones • VM Scale Sets & autoscale rules • App Service deployment slots • Azure Container Apps & Container Instances • ARM templates & Bicep basics
4. Implement & Manage Virtual Networking	15–20%	VNet peering & UDRs • NSG rule priority & evaluation logic • Public vs. private DNS resolution • Load Balancer vs. Application Gateway • Azure Bastion & VPN Gateway
5. Monitor & Maintain Azure Resources	10–15%	Azure Monitor & Log Analytics queries • Alerts & action groups • Azure Backup & Recovery Services vaults • Network Watcher & Connection Monitor • Update management basics

Study tip: Domains 1 and 3 together make up nearly half the exam. If your time is limited, master Identity & Governance and Compute first — then use remaining hours on Networking, Storage, and Monitoring.

3 Study Plan Checklists

Pick the plan that matches your schedule and experience level. Check off each week as you complete it — consistency beats cramming every time.

4-Week Intensive Plan

For candidates with hands-on Azure experience

- ☐ Week 1 — Identities & Governance: Entra ID, RBAC, Policy, management groups. Complete 2 hands-on labs.
- ☐ Week 2 — Compute & Storage: VMs, scale sets, App Service, storage redundancy & blob tiers. Complete 3 hands-on labs.
- ☐ Week 3 — Networking & Monitoring: VNets, NSGs, load balancing, Azure Monitor, Backup. Complete 3 hands-on labs.
- ☐ Week 4 — Full-length practice exams (minimum 2), review every wrong answer, revisit weak domains, and book your exam.

8-Week Standard Plan

For candidates with some cloud/IT background

- ☐ Weeks 1-2 — Manage Azure Identities & Governance (read, watch, then lab each concept)
- ☐ Weeks 3-4 — Implement & Manage Storage
- ☐ Weeks 5-6 — Deploy & Manage Compute Resources
- ☐ Week 7 — Implement & Manage Virtual Networking
- ☐ Week 8 — Monitor & Maintain Resources, then 2+ full practice exams and final review

12-Week Beginner Plan

For candidates new to Azure or IT administration

- ☐ Weeks 1-2 — Azure fundamentals refresher: portal navigation, resource groups, subscriptions, ARM basics
- ☐ Weeks 3-4 — Manage Azure Identities & Governance
- ☐ Weeks 5-6 — Implement & Manage Storage
- ☐ Weeks 7-9 — Deploy & Manage Compute Resources (allow extra time — this domain is broad)
- ☐ Week 10 — Implement & Manage Virtual Networking
- ☐ Week 11 — Monitor & Maintain Resources
- ☐ Week 12 — Three or more full practice exams, targeted review of weak areas, exam-day logistics confirmed

Every plan should include hands-on labs. AZ-104 tests practical judgment, not just terminology. An Azure free account gives you real resources to practice on before you ever see the exam interface.

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High-Yield Notes & Common Traps

These are the comparisons that trip up even well-prepared candidates. Read each table twice — exam questions are often built around exactly this kind of contrast.

Azure RBAC vs. Microsoft Entra Roles

	Azure RBAC	Microsoft Entra Roles
Scope	Management groups, subscriptions, resource groups, resources	Entra tenant-wide (directory-level)
Controls Access To	Azure resources (VMs, storage, networks, etc.)	Directory objects (users, groups, licenses, domains)
Example Role	Contributor, Reader, Virtual Machine Contributor	Global Administrator, User Administrator, Helpdesk Administrator
Assigned Via	Access control (IAM) blade on a resource	Entra ID admin center → Roles and administrators

Service Endpoints vs. Private Endpoints

	Service Endpoint	Private Endpoint
IP Address	Service keeps its public IP; traffic stays on the Microsoft backbone	Service gets a private IP inside your VNet
Reachable From	Only from the subnet where it's enabled	From the VNet, peered VNets, and on-premises via VPN/ExpressRoute
DNS Impact	None — public DNS name is unchanged	Requires a private DNS zone to resolve correctly
Best For	Simple, lower-cost restriction to a subnet	Full network isolation and hybrid connectivity scenarios

Storage Redundancy Options

Option	Copies	Protects Against	Notes
LRS	3, one datacenter	Hardware failure	Lowest cost, no datacenter-level protection
ZRS	3, across zones	Zone/datacenter outage	Data stays in one region
GRS	6, two regions	Regional outage	Secondary copy not directly readable
RA-GRS	6, two regions	Regional outage	Secondary copy is readable
GZRS	6, ZRS + 2nd region	Zone AND regional outage	Highest durability; higher cost

Common Mistakes Candidates Make

- Trap 1:** Confusing "delete lock" with "read-only lock" — a read-only lock also blocks actions like restarting a VM or adding blobs, not just deletion.
- Trap 2:** Assuming NSG rules are evaluated in the order they're listed rather than by priority number (lowest number wins, first match applies).
- Trap 3:** Forgetting that moving a resource between resource groups can break role assignments scoped to the original resource group.
- Trap 4:** Mixing up Azure Backup (item/file-level recovery) with Azure Site Recovery (full disaster recovery/failover).
- Trap 5:** Treating "Contributor" as equivalent to "Owner" — Contributor cannot manage access (assign roles) on a resource.

Must-Know PowerShell / Azure CLI Commands

Task	Command
Create a resource group	<code>az group create --name rg1 --location eastus</code>
List VMs in a subscription	<code>Get-AzVM</code>
Assign an RBAC role	<code>az role assignment create --assignee <id> --role Reader</code>
Create a storage account	<code>New-AzStorageAccount -SkuName Standard_LRS</code>
Resize a VM	<code>az vm resize --size Standard_DS2_v2</code>
Start/Stop a VM	<code>Start-AzVM</code> / <code>Stop-AzVM -Deallocate</code>
Deploy an ARM/Bicep template	<code>az deployment group create --template-file main.bicep</code>

5 Weekly Progress Tracker

Print this page and fill it in by hand, or copy the table into your own tracker. Being honest about your practice scores each week is the single best predictor of exam-day readiness.

Week	Domain(s) Covered	Practice Score	Labs Completed	Confident? (Y/N)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Target: Aim for 85%+ on full-length, timed practice exams across at least two different question sources before you book your seat.

6 Recommended Free Resources

Microsoft Learn Paths (Free)

- Microsoft Learn: "Administer Identity and Access" learning path
- Microsoft Learn: "Configure and Manage Virtual Networks" learning path
- Microsoft Learn: "Implement and Manage Storage" learning path
- Microsoft Learn: "Deploy and Manage Azure Compute Resources" learning path
- Microsoft Learn: "Monitor and Back Up Azure Resources" learning path

Official Practice Assessment

Microsoft offers a free official practice assessment for AZ-104 through Microsoft Learn. It uses real question styles and gives topic-level feedback — take it early to identify gaps, and again close to your exam date to confirm readiness.

Other High-Quality Free Tools

Azure Free Account

Provides free-tier services and starting credit so you can complete hands-on labs in a real environment instead of memorizing screenshots.

Free Community Exam-Readiness Videos

Independent Azure educators publish free, domain-by-domain video walkthroughs that pair well with Microsoft Learn's written content.

PassITExams Practice Question Bank

Free sample questions mapped to the current AZ-104 skills outline, with plain-language explanations for both correct and incorrect answers.

7 Final Exam-Day Checklist

Print this page and keep it next to your desk the night before. A calm, organized exam day is worth several extra points on its own.

The Night Before

- ☐ Confirm your exam time zone, appointment link, and photo ID match exactly
- ☐ Do a light review of your High-Yield Notes — avoid cramming new material
- ☐ Test your webcam, microphone, and internet connection if testing online
- ☐ Clear your desk and testing room per the online proctoring rules (if applicable)
- ☐ Get a full night's sleep — recognition beats last-minute memorization

Morning Of

- ☐ Eat a real meal and hydrate before your appointment window
- ☐ Arrive or log in 30 minutes early to handle check-in without rushing
- ☐ Bring two forms of valid, government-issued ID
- ☐ Review your PowerShell/CLI command list and RBAC vs. Entra roles table one final time

During the Exam

- ☐ Flag uncertain questions and move on — don't let one question eat your clock
- ☐ Watch for absolute words like "always" or "never" in answer options — they're often wrong
- ☐ For case studies, re-read the scenario requirements before choosing an answer
- ☐ Save 5–10 minutes at the end to revisit flagged questions

You're ready. Now go make it official.

This guide is a free resource from **PassITExams** — built to help you walk into the AZ-104 exam prepared, calm, and confident.