

AZ-104 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

— Questions	1h 40m Time limit	700/1000 Passing score
— Exam fee	Microsoft Governing body	

Exam Logistics at a Glance

Item	Detail
Format	Proctored exam, may include interactive components
Duration	100 minutes
Extra time	+30 minutes if preferred language is unavailable
Passing score	700 or greater (scale of 1 to 1,000)
Price	Varies by country or region
Scheduling	Pearson VUE
Retake wait	24 hours after a failed first attempt
Renewal	Every 12 months, free, open-book, unproctored, within a 6-month window

Content Domains (Quick List)

- Manage Azure identities and governance — 20–25%
- Implement and manage storage — 15–20%
- Deploy and manage Azure compute resources — 20–25%
- Implement and manage virtual networking — 15–20%
- Monitor and maintain Azure resources — 10–15%

AZ-104 measures skills across five functional groups, so no single domain dominates — budget study time roughly proportional to the weight ranges above, with extra attention to identities/governance and compute since they carry the highest ceilings.

Domain Study Priorities

1. Identities and governance: Azure AD (Entra ID) users/groups, RBAC vs. Azure Policy, subscriptions and management groups, resource locks and tags.
2. Compute: VMs (sizing, availability sets/zones, scale sets), App Service plans, containers (ACI, AKS basics), ARM/Bicep template deployment.
3. Storage: storage accounts, redundancy tiers (LRS/ZRS/GRS/RA-GRS), blob lifecycle management, Azure Files, storage account keys vs. SAS tokens.
4. Networking: VNets, subnets, NSGs vs. ASGs, VNet peering, load balancers vs. Application Gateway, DNS, VPN Gateway basics.

5. Monitor and maintain: Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Azure Backup, Update Management, Network Watcher.

Key Terms and Concepts to Memorize

- RBAC (Role-Based Access Control): scoped at management group, subscription, resource group, or resource level; roles are additive, deny assignments override.
- Azure Policy vs. RBAC: Policy enforces compliance rules and configurations; RBAC controls who can do what.
- Resource locks: CanNotDelete vs. ReadOnly — locks inherit down the hierarchy.
- Storage redundancy: LRS (single datacenter), ZRS (zone), GRS/GZRS (geo), RA-GRS/RA-GZRS (read access to secondary region).
- NSG vs. ASG: NSGs filter traffic by IP/port rules; ASGs group VM NICs for simpler rule management.
- Availability sets vs. availability zones: sets protect against rack-level failure within one datacenter; zones protect against datacenter-level failure across a region.
- ARM templates and Bicep: declarative, idempotent infrastructure-as-code; Bicep transpiles to ARM JSON.
- Azure AD Connect / hybrid identity: syncs on-prem AD to Entra ID for hybrid environments.
- Service endpoints vs. private endpoints: service endpoints keep traffic on the Azure backbone; private endpoints assign a private IP to a PaaS resource inside a VNet.
- Update Management / Azure Backup: centralized patch scheduling and recovery-services-vault-based backup policies.

Common Gotchas and Traps

- Confusing Azure Policy (compliance/configuration enforcement) with RBAC (access control) — exam questions often test which tool solves a given scenario.
- Forgetting that NSGs can be applied at both the subnet and NIC level, and that the most restrictive rule combination wins.
- Assuming a resource lock also blocks changes from Azure Policy remediation tasks — locks primarily target user-initiated delete/write actions.
- Mixing up GRS (data replicated but not readable) with RA-GRS (readable secondary) when a scenario asks about read access during a regional outage.
- Overlooking that moving resources between resource groups or subscriptions can break role assignments scoped narrowly.
- Treating Azure AD roles and Azure RBAC roles as interchangeable — they are separate permission systems with different scopes.
- Missing that VNet peering is non-transitive by default, so peered VNets don't automatically route through each other.
- Not accounting for the extra 30-minute allowance only applying when a candidate's preferred exam language is unavailable, not as a general accommodation.

Test-Taking Traps

- Watch for scenario questions that describe a business requirement and ask you to pick the most cost-effective or least-privilege solution, not just any working solution.
- Case study sections may repeat information across multiple questions — re-read the scenario carefully rather than assuming prior answers still apply.
- There is no penalty for guessing, so never leave a question unanswered — flag uncertain ones and return if time allows.

Night-Before Checklist

- Confirm Pearson VUE appointment time, exam center or online-proctoring setup, and required photo ID.
- Review the five domain weightings once more and mentally rank your weakest area for a final skim.
- Re-check the difference between RBAC, Azure Policy, and resource locks — a frequent source of confused answers.
- Skim storage redundancy tiers and networking terms (NSG vs. ASG, service vs. private endpoints) one last time.

- Verify your device/webcam setup in advance if testing remotely; have a distraction-free room ready.
- Get sleep — a 100-minute proctored exam rewards steady focus over last-minute cramming.
- Remember: no penalty for guessing, so plan to answer every question before time runs out.
- Know your retake policy going in — if you don't pass, you can retake after 24 hours, so don't panic mid-exam.

Official sources

- Microsoft — Study guide for Exam AZ-104: Microsoft Azure Administrator:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/certifications/resources/study-guides/az-104>
- Microsoft — Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate — Certification page:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/certifications/azure-administrator/>
- Microsoft — Microsoft Certification Renewal:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/certifications/renew-your-microsoft-certification>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/exams/azure-administrator-az-104/practice-test