

AZ-900 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

— Questions	45m Time limit	700/1000 Passing score
— Exam fee	Microsoft Governing body	

AZ-900 Cheat Sheet: Microsoft Certified Azure Fundamentals

A condensed reference for the beginner-level Azure Fundamentals credential, earned by passing Exam AZ-900.

Exam Logistics At-a-Glance

Attribute	Detail
Credential level	Beginner-level, foundational certification
Exam duration	45 minutes
Seat duration (incl. intro/survey)	65 minutes
Built-in unscheduled break	5 minutes
Question count	Roughly 40-60 questions (typical range for Microsoft exams)
Passing score	700 or greater
Score scale	1 to 1,000
Languages offered	13 languages, including English, Japanese, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Spanish, German, and French
Number of content domains	3 domains
Guessing penalty	None — no points deducted for wrong answers
First retake wait	24 hours after a failed attempt
Subsequent retake wait	14 days between later attempts
Max attempts per year	5 attempts within a 12-month period from the first attempt

Official Content Domains (Quick List)

- Describe cloud concepts — weighted 25-30% of the exam
- Describe Azure architecture and services — weighted 35-40% of the exam (the heaviest domain)
- Describe Azure management and governance — weighted 30-35% of the exam

Key Terms and Concepts to Memorize

Cloud Concepts

- Cloud computing fundamentals: on-demand delivery of compute, storage, and networking over the internet

- Shared responsibility model: Microsoft secures the underlying cloud infrastructure; the customer secures data, identities, and endpoints — the split shifts depending on IaaS vs. PaaS vs. SaaS
- Cloud deployment models: public, private, and hybrid cloud
- Consumption-based (pay-as-you-go) pricing model vs. upfront capital expenditure
- Core benefits of cloud services: high availability, scalability, elasticity, agility, disaster recovery, and global reach
- Cloud service types: IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service), PaaS (Platform as a Service), and SaaS (Software as a Service) — know which layer the customer manages in each

Azure Architecture and Services

- Core architectural components: Azure regions, region pairs, availability zones, resource groups, and subscriptions
- Azure compute services: virtual machines, containers, and serverless computing (e.g., Functions)
- Azure networking services: virtual networks, VPN Gateway, and load balancing concepts
- Azure storage services: storage tiers, redundancy options, and migration options
- Azure identity, access, and security: Azure Active Directory (Microsoft Entra ID) concepts, authentication vs. authorization, and multi-factor authentication

Azure Management and Governance

- Cost management: pricing calculator, Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) calculator, and cost-saving strategies
- Governance and compliance: resource locks, tags, Azure Policy, and role-based access control (RBAC)
- Deployment and management tools: Azure Portal, Azure CLI, Azure PowerShell, and Azure Resource Manager (ARM) templates
- Monitoring tools: Azure Monitor, Azure Service Health, and Azure Advisor

Common Gotchas and Traps

- Don't confuse the 45-minute exam duration with the 65-minute seat duration — the extra time covers the NDA, survey, and instructions, not extra question time
- Remember the 5-minute built-in break is optional and unscheduled, not a mandatory pause
- Domain weights are ranges (e.g., 35-40%), not fixed percentages — don't expect an exact split
- Since there's no guessing penalty, never leave a question unanswered — always select an option before moving on
- Retake timing has two different rules: 24 hours after the first failed attempt, but 14 days between every attempt after that
- IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS responsibility boundaries are a frequent trap — know exactly which layers the customer vs. Microsoft manages for each
- Availability zones and region pairs are often confused — zones are physically separate datacenters within one region, while region pairs span two separate regions
- Azure management and governance (30-35%) is nearly as heavily weighted as architecture and services — don't under-study it relative to cloud concepts

Night-Before Checklist

1. Review the three domain weights and confirm you can explain at least two subtopics from each
2. Recite the shared responsibility model split for IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS from memory
3. Skim the differences between availability zones, region pairs, and resource groups
4. Confirm your exam appointment time and add buffer for the 65-minute total seat duration
5. Remember: answer every question, since there is no penalty for guessing
6. Get a full night's sleep — foundational exams reward broad recall over deep problem-solving, so freshness matters more than last-minute cramming
7. Have valid photo ID ready and confirm your testing environment (in-person or online proctoring) meets requirements

Official sources

- Microsoft — Study guide for Exam AZ-900: Microsoft Azure Fundamentals:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/certifications/resources/study-guides/az-900>
- Microsoft — Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals certification page:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/certifications/azure-fundamentals/>
- Microsoft — Exam duration and exam experience:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/support/exam-duration-exam-experience>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyxamprep.com/exams/azure-fundamentals-az-900/practice-test