AWS Developer Associate Prep 2

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Practice Questions

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1. A developer needs to identify performance bottlenecks in a distributed application deployed across multiple AWS services. Which AWS service should be used?

A. AWS CloudFormation
B. Amazon Inspector
C. AWS Config
D. AWS X-Ray

2. Which CloudWatch Logs feature should a developer use to extract specific data fields from logs and create metrics from them?

A. Log Streams
B. Subscription Filters
C. Metric Filters
D. Log Insights Queries

3. A Lambda function is sometimes timing out during execution. How can a developer identify the root cause of these timeouts?

A. Increase the Lambda function memory allocation to maximum
B. Add detailed logging with timestamps throughout the function code
C. Change the programming language of the Lambda function
D. Disable all integrations with other AWS services

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4. Which tool should a developer use to analyze and debug latency issues in an application that spans multiple AWS services?

A. AWS X-Ray
B. AWS CloudTrail
C. Amazon CloudSearch
D. AWS Amplify

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5. A developer wants to monitor custom application metrics in real-time. Which approach is most appropriate?

A. Review AWS Cost Explorer reports
B. Create manual dashboards in the AWS Management Console
C. Install a third-party monitoring agent
D. Use the CloudWatch PutMetricData API to send custom metrics

6. Which query language is used in CloudWatch Logs Insights to analyze log data?

A. Python
B. SQL
C. CloudWatch Logs Insights query language
D. JSON

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7. What should a developer implement to handle transient failures when an application interacts with AWS services?

A. Immediate retry strategy
B. Exponential backoff with jitter
C. Circuit breaker without retry logic
D. Fixed one-minute timeout

8. A developer needs to optimize a DynamoDB-based application that is experiencing throttled requests. Which approach should they consider first?

A. Enable DynamoDB Auto Scaling
B. Switch to DynamoDB Standard-Infrequent Access table class
C. Rewrite the application to use Amazon RDS
D. Manually increase provisioned capacity to maximum possible values

9. Which feature helps prevent Lambda functions from overwhelming downstream resources?

A. Environment variables
B. Lambda layers
C. Execution aliases
D. Reserved concurrency

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10. A developer wants to improve the performance of an application that frequently retrieves the same data from DynamoDB. Which service should be implemented?

A. Amazon RDS Read Replicas
B. Amazon ElastiCache for Memcached
C. Amazon DynamoDB Accelerator (DAX)
D. AWS Global Accelerator

11. Which CloudWatch feature can a developer use to create alerts when application errors exceed a certain threshold?

A. CloudWatch Events
B. CloudWatch Alarms
C. CloudWatch Dashboard
D. CloudWatch Contributor Insights

12. When investigating why an AWS Lambda function is taking longer to execute than expected, which metric should a developer analyze first?

A. Duration
B. ConcurrentExecutions
C. IteratorAge
D. DeadLetterErrors

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13. A developer is using AWS X-Ray to trace requests in a microservices application. What must be added to the application code to make this work?

A. IAM user credentials
B. CloudWatch Logs agent
C. AWS CLI configuration
D. Instrumentation with the X-Ray SDK

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14. Which technique can a developer use to improve the cold start performance of a Lambda function?

A. Set function timeout to maximum value
B. Always use Python for Lambda functions
C. Enable Provisioned Concurrency
D. Use AWS Batch instead of Lambda

15. Which CloudWatch Logs feature should a developer use to extract structured data from unstructured logs?

A. CloudWatch Logs Agent
B. CloudWatch Logs Insights with JSON parsing
C. CloudWatch Export
D. CloudWatch Log Groups

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16. Which AWS service can help a developer find unused or underutilized resources to optimize costs?

A. AWS Trusted Advisor
B. Amazon Inspector
C. AWS CloudHSM
D. Amazon Kinesis

17. A developer wants to reduce the latency of an application that frequently reads from an Amazon RDS database. Which caching solution should be implemented?

A. Amazon MQ
B. Amazon S3 with versioning
C. AWS AppSync
D. Amazon ElastiCache for Redis

18. What should a developer implement to correlate log entries across multiple services in a distributed application?

A. Log rotation
B. Service mesh
C. Correlation IDs in logs
D. Binary logging

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19. Which CloudWatch feature allows a developer to search and analyze log data interactively?

A. CloudWatch Events
B. CloudWatch Logs Insights
C. CloudWatch Synthetics
D. CloudWatch Container Insights

20. A developer needs to profile a Lambda function to identify performance issues. Which AWS service should be used?

A. AWS Lambda Power Tuning
B. AWS Compute Optimizer
C. Amazon CodeGuru Profiler
D. AWS Auto Scaling

21. A developer is building a web application that needs to authenticate users against an existing corporate directory. Which AWS service should be used to implement identity federation?

A. AWS AppSync
B. AWS IAM
C. Amazon RDS
D. Amazon Cognito

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22. Which of the following is a best practice for securing AWS Lambda environment variables containing sensitive information?

A. Include them directly in your function code
B. Store them in plaintext but use IAM roles
C. Encrypt them using AWS KMS
D. Hardcode them in your Lambda deployment package

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23. A developer needs to grant an Amazon S3 bucket access to an AWS Lambda function. Which type of policy should be used?

A. Identity-based policy
B. Resource-based policy
C. Trust policy
D. Service control policy

24. Which AWS service should be used to securely store and automatically rotate database credentials used by an application?

A. AWS Secrets Manager
B. AWS Key Management Service (KMS)
C. AWS Certificate Manager
D. Amazon S3

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25. A developer is implementing OAuth 2.0 authentication in an application. Which type of token is commonly used to securely transmit authentication information between parties?

A. SSH key
B. SMTP token
C. XML token
D. JWT (JSON Web Token)

26. Which AWS service can be used to enforce encryption of data at rest in an Amazon S3 bucket?

A. AWS WAF
B. AWS Shield
C. AWS Key Management Service (KMS)
D. Amazon Inspector

27. A developer needs to implement fine-grained access control for objects in an Amazon S3 bucket. Which S3 feature should be used?

A. S3 Transfer Acceleration
B. S3 Access Control Lists (ACLs)
C. S3 Event Notifications
D. S3 Intelligent-Tiering

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28. Which of the following is a best practice for managing AWS access credentials in a CI/CD pipeline?

A. Use IAM roles for EC2 instances or services running the pipeline
B. Store access keys directly in your code repository
C. Hardcode credentials in your build scripts
D. Use the same access key for all environments

29. When implementing SAML 2.0 federation with AWS, which service acts as the identity provider (IdP)?

A. Amazon API Gateway
B. Amazon Cognito
C. AWS IAM
D. The external corporate directory system

30. A developer needs to secure communication between microservices in an Amazon ECS cluster. Which AWS service should be used?

A. Amazon S3
B. AWS Secrets Manager
C. AWS Certificate Manager
D. Amazon Cognito

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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — AWS X-Ray
AWS X-Ray provides distributed tracing functionality that helps developers analyze and debug distributed applications. It offers end-to-end visibility of requests as they travel through the application, making it ideal for identifying performance bottlenecks in distributed systems.

2. C — Metric Filters
CloudWatch Logs Metric Filters allow developers to define patterns to extract values from logs and convert them into CloudWatch metrics, which can then be used for monitoring, alerting, and visualization.

3. B — Add detailed logging with timestamps throughout the function code
Adding detailed logging with timestamps helps track execution progress and identify which operations are taking longer than expected, helping to pinpoint the cause of Lambda timeouts.

4. A — AWS X-Ray
AWS X-Ray provides tracing capabilities that help developers analyze and debug latency issues in distributed applications by visualizing the full request path across multiple services.

5. D — Use the CloudWatch PutMetricData API to send custom metrics
Using the CloudWatch PutMetricData API allows developers to send custom metrics directly to CloudWatch, enabling real-time monitoring of application-specific data points.

6. C — CloudWatch Logs Insights query language
CloudWatch Logs Insights uses its own purpose-built query language designed specifically for querying and analyzing log data stored in CloudWatch Logs.

7. B — Exponential backoff with jitter
Implementing exponential backoff with jitter is a best practice for handling transient failures in AWS service interactions by gradually increasing retry intervals and adding randomness to prevent retry storms.

8. A — Enable DynamoDB Auto Scaling
DynamoDB Auto Scaling automatically adjusts provisioned throughput capacity in response to traffic patterns, which can help prevent throttling due to capacity limitations.

9. D — Reserved concurrency
Reserved concurrency sets a limit on the maximum number of concurrent executions for a Lambda function, which helps prevent overwhelming downstream resources by controlling the rate of requests.

10. C — Amazon DynamoDB Accelerator (DAX)
DAX (DynamoDB Accelerator) is an in-memory cache specifically designed for DynamoDB that can dramatically improve read performance for frequently accessed data.

11. B — CloudWatch Alarms
CloudWatch Alarms can monitor metrics over specified time periods and trigger actions when thresholds are

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exceeded, making them ideal for alerting on application error rates.

12. A — Duration
The Duration metric provides information about how long a Lambda function execution takes, making it the most relevant metric to investigate execution time issues.

13. D — Instrumentation with the X-Ray SDK
The X-Ray SDK must be integrated into application code to capture and send trace data to the X-Ray service, enabling distributed tracing functionality.

14. C — Enable Provisioned Concurrency
Provisioned Concurrency keeps Lambda functions initialized and ready to respond to requests, effectively eliminating cold starts for the specified concurrency level.

15. B — CloudWatch Logs Insights with JSON parsing
CloudWatch Logs Insights supports JSON parsing using specialized syntax that can extract structured data from JSON-formatted logs, enabling analysis of specific fields.

16. A — AWS Trusted Advisor
AWS Trusted Advisor provides recommendations for optimizing AWS resources, including identifying idle or underutilized resources to help reduce costs.

17. D — Amazon ElastiCache for Redis
Amazon ElastiCache for Redis provides an in-memory data store that can be placed in front of RDS to cache frequently accessed data, reducing latency and database load.

18. C — Correlation IDs in logs
A correlation ID is a unique identifier passed between services that allows log entries from different components to be connected, facilitating troubleshooting across service boundaries.

19. B — CloudWatch Logs Insights
CloudWatch Logs Insights is a fully integrated query and visualization tool that allows developers to interactively search and analyze log data in CloudWatch Logs.

20. A — AWS Lambda Power Tuning
AWS Lambda Power Tuning is an AWS Solution that helps developers optimize Lambda functions by running performance tests across different memory configurations to find the optimal settings.

21. D — Amazon Cognito
Amazon Cognito supports identity federation with external identity providers including SAML, OIDC, Facebook, Google, etc., allowing users to authenticate with existing credentials while accessing AWS resources.

22. C — Encrypt them using AWS KMS
AWS KMS should be used to encrypt sensitive environment variables in Lambda functions, providing an additional layer of security for sensitive data beyond the default encryption that Lambda provides.

23. B — Resource-based policy
Resource-based policies are attached directly to the resource (in this case, the S3 bucket) and define who has access to that resource and what actions they can perform.

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24. A — AWS Secrets Manager
AWS Secrets Manager is designed to protect access to applications, services, and IT resources without hardcoding credentials. It offers automatic rotation of secrets for supported services.

25. D — JWT (JSON Web Token)
JSON Web Tokens (JWT) are an open standard for securely transmitting information between parties as a JSON object. They're commonly used with OAuth 2.0 to represent claims between two parties.

26. C — AWS Key Management Service (KMS)
AWS Key Management Service (KMS) manages encryption keys and integrates with S3 to enforce server-side encryption of objects stored in S3 buckets.

27. B — S3 Access Control Lists (ACLs)
Amazon S3 Access Control Lists (ACLs) provide fine-grained control over specific objects within buckets, allowing you to manage permissions at the object level.

28. A — Use IAM roles for EC2 instances or services running the pipeline
IAM roles provide temporary credentials that automatically rotate, making them more secure than using long-term access keys in CI/CD environments.

29. D — The external corporate directory system
In a SAML 2.0 federation with AWS, the external corporate directory (like Active Directory or another SAML-compatible identity system) acts as the identity provider, authenticating users and providing assertions to AWS.

30. C — AWS Certificate Manager
AWS Certificate Manager provides, manages, and deploys public and private SSL/TLS certificates for use with AWS services, making it the appropriate choice for securing communication between microservices.

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