

I wanted to share how I prepared, what resources helped the most, and what to expect on exam day.

How I Prepared

I used a mix of **Microsoft official materials**, **hands-on practice**, and **Skillcertpro mock exams** — which made the biggest difference for me.

Microsoft Learn & Exam Guide

The official learning path gives a good structure, but it's quite high-level. You'll still need practical exposure to really understand the concepts.

Azure Documentation & Portal Practice

I spent time inside the Azure Portal setting up and managing real resources — not just reading.

Key areas I practiced:

- Creating and managing **VMs**, **Storage Accounts**, and **VNets**
- Configuring **NSGs**, **Load Balancers**, and **VPN Gateways**
- Managing **Azure AD users**, **roles**, and **identities**
- Implementing **Backup & Recovery** using Recovery Services Vault
- Automating tasks using **Azure CLI**, **PowerShell**, and **ARM templates**

Skillcertpro AZ-104 Practice Exams

<https://skillcertpro.com/product/microsoft-azure-administrator-az-104-practice-exam-test/>

These were a **game-changer**. About **75–80% of the questions** on my actual exam were either **conceptually similar or word-for-word** from these mocks.

The **detailed explanations** helped me deeply understand areas like access management, networking rules, and cost control.

I highly recommend doing these tests until you consistently score 80%+. Spend a few days revisiting the explanations — they teach you the “why” behind each answer.

What Came Up on the Actual AZ-104 Exam

The exam is **very scenario-based**, testing whether you can apply concepts in real-world situations rather than memorize steps.

Here's what I saw most often:

Compute

- VM creation, resizing, and availability sets/zones
- VM scale sets & custom images
- Managed disks and snapshots
- Run Command & Boot Diagnostics troubleshooting

Storage

- Blob storage tiers (Hot, Cool, Archive)
- Shared access signatures (SAS) & lifecycle management
- Azure Files vs Blob — when to use which
- Configuring replication (LRS, GRS, ZRS)

Networking

- VNets, subnets, NSGs, and routing
- Private endpoints & service endpoints
- Load balancer vs Application Gateway
- VPN Gateway vs ExpressRoute — differences and use cases

Identity & Access

- RBAC roles (Owner, Contributor, Reader, custom roles)
- Azure AD user and group management
- PIM (Privileged Identity Management) basics
- MFA and conditional access overview

Monitoring & Backup

- Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, and Metrics Alerts
- Diagnostic settings and Activity Logs
- Recovery Services Vault & restoring VMs
- Azure Policy & Compliance management

Governance & Cost Control

- Resource tagging and management groups
- Azure Cost Management + Advisor recommendations
- Using budgets and alerts to track spending

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Mixing up **NSG** vs **Azure Firewall** responsibilities
- Forgetting to assign **roles at the correct scope** (resource, group, or subscription)
- Confusing **Blob tiers** with **replication options**
- Ignoring **VM availability zones** for redundancy
- Skipping **storage access control** (SAS vs RBAC) questions too quickly

Key Topics to Focus On

- **Compute:** VMs, scale sets, availability, managed disks
- **Storage:** Blobs, Files, replication, access control
- **Networking:** VNets, NSGs, endpoints, load balancers
- **Identity:** RBAC, Azure AD, PIM
- **Monitoring & Backup:** Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Recovery Vault
- **Governance & Cost:** Policies, tagging, budgets

Tips That Helped Me

- Spend a **week just doing Skillcertpro mocks** — the explanations are gold.
- Use the **Azure free tier** to deploy and break things. Real practice > reading.
- Focus on **permissions and scoping questions** — they're tricky but common.
- Think about **cost, security, and availability trade-offs**; those decide the correct answer.
- Time management matters — many questions are multi-paragraph scenarios.

Final Thoughts

The **AZ-104 exam** tests **how well you can actually administer Azure resources**, not just your ability to memorize commands.

If you combine **hands-on labs**, **Microsoft Learn**, and **Skillcertpro practice exams**, you'll walk into the test **confident and well-prepared**.

It's one of the most practical certifications for anyone managing Azure environments daily.