



Practice questions: asset or liability?

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Many students seek out practice questions as study aids. If used in the wrong way they can actually be harmful to your learning, your career, and chance of passing the exam.

Used in limited numbers and in a thoughtful way practice questions can be an asset.

Practice questions can be an asset if you use them as mini research problems. Every service and requirement mentioned in the question can be researched, and every suggested solution can be researched. By researching around the and in context, you can more efficiently build your mental model and your ability to recall and apply those facts.

The risk of practice questions is that they can be a huge waste of valuable time.

Time spent rehearsing and memorizing random facts without understanding the context behind them is counter productive. I know some students want a hundred or more practice questions. The risk is that they will spend so much time practicing questions that they will be missing out the opportunity to learn why the answers are wrong or right. Also there is the problem that the questions and answers on many question site are just WRONG and the student ends up memorizing rubbish.

Remember that the objective is a productive career, with respect and a good income. A profitable career comes from demonstrating advanced understanding and insights (not memorization of random facts). How to achieve that is not always obvious to some students. That is why we produced the [AWS Certification Preparation Guide \(opens in new tab\)](#) (also useful for other vendor exams).

Focus on the knowledge, understanding and insight that you can get by researching each question. Don't try to practice and memorize questions as a way to pass the exam.

See also these discussions about covered on the exam, which will help you focus your study:

- [Topics included in a course](#)
- [Practice exam](#)

If you need help, please email [Pluralsight Support \(opens email form\)](#) for 24/7 assistance.