



Certified Infrastructure as Code Professional (CIACP)

Exam Objectives CIACP-001

About the exam

Item	Detail
Level	Intermediate
Number of questions	80. A performance-based exam: each form can carry up to 5 to 12 performance-based questions alongside the multiple-choice questions.
Delivery model	Computer adaptive in 3 stages of 28, 26, 26 questions. Your score on each stage selects the difficulty of the next, so no two candidates sit the same paper.
Time limit	120 minutes
Scoring	You need a score of 700 out of 900 to pass. Results are reported on a scale of 100 to 900, and 700 corresponds to answering 72% of the exam correctly. Harder questions carry more weight, so a score means the same thing on any route. Multiple-response items and PBQs are scored all or nothing.
Delivery	Online, fully proctored (webcam, microphone and screen).
Prerequisites	No formal prerequisite. Candidates do best with one to two years of DevOps or infrastructure experience and 40 to 70 hours of study.
Retakes	No waiting period after a failed first attempt. Candidates pay the exam price each time they attempt the exam. See the CertLabz Certification Retake Policy at certlabz.com/certification-retake-policy.html
Validity	3 years. Renew with 50 CEUs per cycle and the \$35 annual continuing-education fee, or by passing the current exam.
Language	English
Exam voucher	\$149 for one sitting, valid 12 months. Bundles add the study guide ebook and the All Access plan.

Domain weights

Domain	Questions
D1 IaC Foundations and Principles (16%)	13

D2 Configuration Language and Resources (16%)

	13
D3 State, Modules and Reuse (17%)	14
D4 Provisioning Workflow and CI/CD (17%)	14
D5 Testing, Policy and Security (17%)	13
D6 Drift, Operations and Collaboration (17%)	13
Total (100%)	80

Objectives by domain

Each objective may appear as knowledge, a scenario to judge, a circuit to trace or assemble, or a number to compute. Each form can carry up to 5 to 12 performance-based questions: drag-and-drop matching, sequencing and table completion, drawn fresh each attempt. The exam does not test any vendor's SDK syntax.

D1 IaC Foundations and Principles

16% 13 questions

- D1.1 Declarative versus imperative IaC
- D1.2 Idempotence and reproducibility
- D1.3 Version control and code review
- D1.4 Provisioning versus configuration management
- D1.5 Immutable infrastructure and snowflakes
- D1.6 Single source of truth and plans

D2 Configuration Language and Resources

16% 13 questions

- D2.1 Resources, variables and outputs
- D2.2 Implicit and explicit dependencies
- D2.3 Data sources and loops
- D2.4 Secrets kept out of code
- D2.5 Readability, formatting and validation
- D2.6 Tagging and avoiding monoliths

D3 State, Modules and Reuse

17% 14 questions

- D3.1 State and why it matters
- D3.2 Remote state and locking
- D3.3 Protecting sensitive state
- D3.4 Modules and versioning
- D3.5 Per-environment state isolation
- D3.6 Importing existing infrastructure

D4 Provisioning Workflow and CI/CD

17% 14 questions

- D4.1 Write, plan, apply workflow
- D4.2 Plan on pull request
- D4.3 Pipeline-driven apply and approvals
- D4.4 Short-lived federated credentials
- D4.5 Applying the reviewed plan
- D4.6 GitOps and version pinning

D5 Testing, Policy and Security

17% 13 questions

- D5.1 Policy as code and guardrails
- D5.2 Static analysis of configurations
- D5.3 Secret scanning and hygiene
- D5.4 Module testing
- D5.5 Shift-left security
- D5.6 Reviewing destructive plan changes

D6 Drift, Operations and Collaboration

17% 13 questions

- D6.1 Configuration drift and detection
- D6.2 Reconciliation and rollback
- D6.3 Collaboration via PRs and locked state
- D6.4 Decomposition and blast radius
- D6.5 Environment parity
- D6.6 Change history in incidents

Continuing education

Renewal	Requirement
Validity	3 years from the date of issue
CEUs required per cycle	50
Annual CE fee	\$35
Alternative to CEUs	Pass the current version of the exam before the expiry date

Qualifying activities

Activity	CEUs
CertLabz labs, PBQs, courses and SkillTracker assessments	1 CEU per hour, up to 25 per cycle
Other industry certifications earned or renewed	10 to 25 each, depending on level
Conferences, webinars and training	1 CEU per hour, up to 20 per cycle
DevOps, platform or infrastructure work experience	3 per year, up to 9 per cycle
Teaching, mentoring, publishing or open-source contributions	Up to 15 per cycle
College courses in computing or engineering	10 per completed course

CertLabz Certification Retake Policy

- **No waiting period after a failed first attempt:** If you fail your first attempt at any CertLabz certification examination, CertLabz does not require any waiting period between the first and second attempt.
- **Once you pass, you cannot resit the same exam code:** A candidate who has passed an exam and achieved a certification cannot take that exam again under the same exam code without prior consent from CertLabz. You will need to wait until a new series of the exam is published before attempting to recertify by examination.
- **Beta examinations, one attempt only:** A CertLabz beta examination may be taken one time by each candidate.
- **Violations invalidate the attempt:** A test found to be in violation of this policy will be invalidated, and the candidate may be subject to a suspension period. Repeat violators will be permanently banned from the CertLabz Certification Program.
- **Every attempt is paid for:** Candidates must pay the exam price each time they attempt the exam. CertLabz does not offer free retests or discounts on retakes.

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<https://certlabz.com/certifications/certified-infrastructure-as-code-professional.html>