

Bridging to Certification

The AWS Certified AI Practitioner (AIF-C01) exam: format, scoring, domains, and how to prepare

This short module connects the course you just finished to the credential it points toward: the **AWS Certified AI Practitioner (AIF-C01)** exam. It explains how AWS Certification exams are built — domains, task statements, weights, question types, and scaled scoring — then profiles the AIF-C01's target candidate and its five content domains. One honest caveat anchors everything: this course maps primarily to domains 2 and 3, the generative AI portion of the exam, so it is one of several steps on your certification path rather than the whole journey. The module closes with the free and subscription-based resources, chiefly on AWS Skill Builder, that cover the rest.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify how to prepare for the AWS Certified AI Practitioner (AIF-C01) exam
- Find resources to prepare for the exam

9.1 How AWS Certification exams work

Every AWS Certification exam is specified by an official **exam guide** that divides its content into **domains** — the major subject areas the exam covers. Each domain breaks the knowledge and skills it demands into **task statements**, and each domain carries a **weight** that indicates its relative importance and is reflected in how the exam's questions are distributed. Reading a guide's domains and task statements is the fastest way to see exactly what an exam expects of you; the AWS Certified AI Practitioner (AIF-C01) Exam Guide includes the full details of everything in this module.

QUESTION TYPES AND SCORING

- Question types: **multiple choice, multiple response, ordering, matching, and case study**.
- Exams carry a **pass or fail** designation; your result is reported as a **scaled score** that shows how you performed on the exam as a whole.
- **50 questions** affect your score. **15 unscored questions** do not — AWS collects performance data on them to evaluate them for future use as scored questions.
- Unscored questions are **not identified** on the exam.
- Unanswered questions are scored as **incorrect**, and there is **no penalty for guessing**.

COMMON PITFALL

Because unscored questions are invisible and blanks count against you, the right test-day policy is mechanical: treat every question as scored and never leave one unanswered — a guess can only help you.

9.2 Inside the AIF-C01: candidate profile and content domains

Everything in this section comes from the **AIF-C01 Exam Guide**, which is linked in your course resources. The AIF-C01 is a foundational exam: the **target candidate** uses AI/ML technologies on AWS and has **at least 6 months of exposure** to them. The exam expects informed familiarity with AWS, not years of ML engineering.

THE TARGET CANDIDATE IS ALSO FAMILIAR WITH

- Core AWS services
- The AWS shared responsibility model
- AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- The AWS global infrastructure
- AWS service pricing models

The exam's content divides into five domains. Every domain has task statements and objectives associated with it, and each domain's weight is reflected in how questions on the exam are distributed. The concepts in this course are primarily aligned to **domains 2 and 3** — the generative AI heart of the exam.

TABLE 9.1 AIF-C01 content domains and weights (from the exam guide)

DOMAIN	FOCUS	WEIGHT
Domain 1	Fundamentals of AI and ML	20%
Domain 2	Fundamentals of Generative AI — <i>primary alignment of this course</i>	24%
Domain 3	Applications of Foundation Models — <i>primary alignment of this course</i>	28%
Domain 4	Guidelines for Responsible AI	14%
Domain 5	Security, Compliance, and Governance for AI Solutions	14%

COMMON PITFALL

This course alone does **not** prepare you for the whole exam. It focuses on the generative AI concepts (domains 2 and 3) and does not cover all the AI/ML concepts the exam requires. For complete coverage, use the official Skill Builder courses — and think of this course as one of several steps on your certification path.

9.3 Exam preparation resources

Two webpages are your starting points for everything certification-related: the **AWS Certification** page and the **AIF-C01 exam** page. Bookmark both — they link to the exam guide, the preparation resources below, and exam scheduling. Direct links are provided in your course resources.

FREE EXAM-READINESS RESOURCES

- **Download the AIF-C01 Exam Guide** — the authoritative statement of domains, task statements, question types, and scoring.
- **Create a free AWS Skill Builder account** to access the free exam-readiness resources.
- Schedule your exam from the certification page when you're ready.

An **AWS Skill Builder subscription** unlocks the practice-heavy materials. **Enhanced digital training** is a digital course that bundles videos, hands-on exercises called **builder labs**, additional practice questions, and access to the **Official Practice Exam**.

The **AWS Escape Room** turns exam prep into a game: an engaging virtual environment where progress comes from answering AWS-related questions and completing hands-on tasks. On entry you choose **Event Mode** (a competitive

leaderboard ranked by completion time) or **Practice Mode** (additional guidance throughout), customize an avatar, and work through puzzles such as concept matching, architectural component arrangement, and password decryption using AWS principles — plus hands-on labs that apply AWS concepts in simulated real-world scenarios. Every incorrect response comes with a comprehensive explanation and links to the relevant AWS documentation, so even wrong answers teach.

TABLE 9.2 Preparation resources at a glance

RESOURCE	ACCESS	WHAT YOU GET
AIF-C01 Exam Guide	Free	Domains, task statements, question types, scoring — download it first
Certification webpages	Free	AWS Certification + AIF-C01 pages: prep links and exam scheduling — bookmark both
Skill Builder free resources	Free account	Free exam-readiness resources for the AIF-C01
Enhanced digital training	Subscription	Videos, builder labs, additional practice questions, Official Practice Exam
AWS Escape Room	Subscription	Gamified challenges — Event and Practice modes, puzzles, hands-on labs

A SENSIBLE PATH FROM HERE TO THE EXAM

Finish this course for the generative AI domains (2 and 3) → download the exam guide and read every task statement → cover the remaining AI/ML, responsible AI, and security/compliance concepts with the official Skill Builder courses → drill with practice questions (and the Official Practice Exam if subscribed) → schedule the exam from the certification page. On exam day, answer every question: blanks score as incorrect and guessing carries no penalty.

Module summary

- The AIF-C01 is the AWS Certified AI Practitioner exam — a foundational credential for people who use AI/ML technologies on AWS.
- Exam content is organized as domains → task statements; each domain's weight sets its share of the questions.
- Question types: multiple choice, multiple response, ordering, matching, and case study.
- Scoring: 50 scored + 15 unscored (unidentified) questions; results come back as a scaled score with a pass/fail designation.
- Unanswered questions are scored as incorrect and there is no penalty for guessing — always answer.
- Target candidate: at least 6 months of exposure to AI/ML on AWS, plus familiarity with core services, the shared responsibility model, IAM, the global infrastructure, and pricing models.
- This course aligns primarily to domains 2 and 3 (generative AI); it alone will not cover the whole exam — it is one step on the certification path.
- Prep flow: bookmark the AWS Certification and AIF-C01 pages, download the exam guide, use free Skill Builder resources with a free account, and consider a subscription for enhanced digital training (builder labs, practice questions, Official Practice Exam) and the AWS Escape Room.

Review questions

1. Explain the relationship between domains, task statements, and weights on an AWS Certification exam.

Answer: Domains are the exam's major content areas; each domain breaks its required knowledge and skills into task statements; each domain's weight indicates its relative importance and is reflected in how the exam's questions are distributed.

2. You finish the exam with three questions left blank. What happens, and what should you have done?

Answer: Blanks are scored as incorrect. Since there is no penalty for guessing, you should have answered every question — a guess can only help.

3. Why shouldn't you try to identify and coast through the unscored questions?

Answer: The 15 unscored questions are not identified on the exam, so you can't tell them from the 50 scored ones. Treat every question as if it counts.

4. Describe the AIF-C01 target candidate.

Answer: Someone who uses AI/ML technologies on AWS with at least 6 months of exposure, and who is familiar with core AWS services, the shared responsibility model, IAM, the AWS global infrastructure, and service pricing models.

5. Which parts of the AIF-C01 does this course prepare you for, and what does it leave out?

Answer: It aligns primarily to domains 2 and 3 — the generative AI concepts. It does not cover all the AI/ML concepts on the exam (fundamentals of AI/ML, responsible AI, security/compliance), so use official Skill Builder courses for complete coverage.

6. What are your two bookmark-worthy starting webpages, and why those?

Answer: The AWS Certification page and the AIF-C01 exam page — they link to the exam guide, all key preparation resources, and exam scheduling.

7. What does enhanced digital training include that the free resources don't?

Answer: Videos, hands-on builder labs, additional practice questions, and access to the Official Practice Exam — it requires an AWS Skill Builder subscription.

8. Compare Event Mode and Practice Mode in the AWS Escape Room.

Answer: Event Mode features a competitive leaderboard based on completion time; Practice Mode provides additional guidance throughout the experience. Both use interactive AWS challenges, puzzles, and hands-on labs.
