

AWS Certified

Cloud Practitioner Exam

Success Guide 1

Prepare for CLF-C01 Exam with quizzes, assessment tests, cheat sheets, hands-on lessons and practice exams to build real-life experiences

By

Ojula Technology Innovations

AWS Certified
Cloud Practitioner Exam
Success Guide

Volume 1

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ISBN: 9791220852654

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Published in the United States

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About the Author

My name is Ojula Bright. I'm the CEO of Ojula Technology Innovations. My educational background is in software development, and I work with a few software developers and system engineers. I spent over 17 years as a software developer, and I've done a bunch of other things too. I've been involved in SDLC/process, data science, operating system security and architecture, and many more.

My most recent project is serverless computing where I simplify the building and running of distributed systems. I always use a practical approach in my projects and courses.

I hold a bunch of AWS certifications. As far as GCP goes, I've been certified by Google as both Associate Cloud Engineer and Professional Cloud Architect. Now I specialize in cloud computing and machine learning. I have created courses on cloud computing, operating systems, machine learning, data science and databases.

1. Getting Started

1.0. Introduction: How to Fast-Track Your CLF-C01 Exam Success

In this guide you're going to learn all about AWS (Amazon Web Services). I'm also going to get you prepared and fast-track your AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner exam success. The great thing about the cloud practitioner exam is it's very suitable for people coming from many different backgrounds. So, it doesn't matter if you have little or no technical experience, or if you do have a technical background and you're looking to transition your skill sets into the cloud.

Whatever background you're coming from, this is the right guide for you. Everything you need is here to make sure that you do pass your exam. You're not in this alone because I'm going to help you through it. My support link is in this book for you to contact me any time if you need further help.

Whatever your preferred learning style, I've also got you covered. If you're a visual learner, you'll love my clear diagrams and illustrations throughout this book. You'll enjoy the facts I present to you and the cheat sheets I created because they have exam specific information in them. If you're a practical learner, you'll love my hands-on lessons so that you can get practical with AWS and learn in a hands-on way.

About the hands-on lessons, there're two different types of practical lesson in this guide. The first one is a **demo**. A demo is a pure demonstration in which I show you something, but you don't need to follow along. The reason I do that is that there are a few examples of where I want to show you something visually so that I can demonstrate to you some feature of AWS. But the set up might be a bit more complex than the cloud practitioner exam requires. Although there're just a few of those, they're a useful way to show you some things.

Now, the other one is a **hands-on lesson**. A hands-on lesson is a follow-along, so you can go through AWS in your own free tier account and build on AWS. It will give you practical experience, which is really the best way to learn and become competent.

At the end of many chapters of this book, you'll find a lesson with links to cheat sheets and quizzes that you can use to test yourself as you go through the lessons. There's often an **exam cram** lesson as well at the end of each chapter. This is a fast-paced run through of the cool facts ideal for quick revision before you sit your exam.

At the end of Chapter 5 and a few other chapters of this book, I also provide **links to download training resources, graphics and screenshots used in this book, cheat sheets, assessment tests, practice exams, and other helpful documents**. You can use them for quick references and revision as well. In this guide, I also provide a link to **full-length practice exams** so you can test yourself and see if you're ready to sit the real thing. So, everything you need is here in this guide. I really hope you'll enjoy it.

1.1. About The CLF-C01 Exam

In this lesson, I'm going to teach you about the AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner exam, so you understand what you're getting yourself into and what to expect when you sit your exam. The code of this exam is CLF-C01. When you take the exam, you have three years before you need to take it again because it expires every three years.

I do retake the exam myself, and I've taken it lots of times. The reason I do that is not because it is expiring, but because I want to make sure that I understand what's happening in the exam presently, and what knowledge you need to know to make sure that you pass the exam. That way, I can keep this book and my other AWS courses up to date.

1.2. The Exam Blueprint

Question Format

The exam is comprised of **65 questions** all of which are either **multiple choice or multiple response**. I'll explain a bit more about that in a moment.

- With the **multiple-choice** questions, there are **4 answers** and you have to pick **one (1)**.
- With the **multiple response**, there're 2 or more correct responses out of 5 or more options. In other words, there are **5 options**, and you have to choose **2 correct answers**.

Exam Type/Level

The exam is foundational. So, the CLF-C01 is the beginner level really of AWS certifications.

Delivery Method

There are two different ways you can take your exam: either through a testing center or online. There may be one testing center in your area but there have been lots of closures over the last 12 months. If there is one open in your area, you can certainly take the exam there. Otherwise, you just got to make sure you fulfill the requirements of having a quiet space with good Internet connectivity and take the exam from home. You'll have a proctor who watches you through the exam.

Time

You'll get **90 minutes** to complete the exam. That doesn't give you a huge amount of time per question but don't worry, the questions are generally relatively short. Once you've been through this guide and taken the practice tests I provide, you shouldn't find them too difficult.

Cost

The cost of the CLF-C01 exam is **USD100** and it's available in a few different languages.

Languages

The exam is available in English, Indonesian (Bahasa), Japanese, Korean, and simplified Chinese

1.3. Recommended Knowledge

This comes from AWS themselves. They recommend you have **at least 6 months experience working with the AWS cloud** in any role including **technical, managerial, sales, purchasing or financial**.

Now, don't worry if you don't have that experience. I'll make sure I cover everything you need to know within this book. So, everything you need will be here. Even if you have no background with AWS, I'm here to help and you can pass this exam. The time and length as I mentioned before is 90 minutes and 65 questions.

1.4. Scoring

- The scoring is a scale between **100 – 1000 points**.
- The **minimum passing mark is 700 (70%)**.

1.5. Exam Domains and Objectives

The exam domains are the different knowledge areas the questions will come from. The knowledge required for the exam is broken into 4 different domains, and each domain has its own objectives. So, the questions will come from the following domains:

1.5.1. Domain 1: Cloud Concepts

The objectives of this domain are

1. Define AWS Cloud and its value proposition.
2. Identify aspects of AWS Cloud economics.
3. List the different cloud architecture design principles.

1.5.2. Domain 2: Security

Next, we have Security. You need to be able to

1. Define the AWS Shared Responsibility model.
2. Define AWS Cloud security and compliance concepts.
3. Identify AWS access management capabilities.
4. Identify resources for security support.

1.5.3. Domain 3: Technology

The objectives of the Technology domain are

1. Define the methods of deploying and operating in the AWS Cloud.

2. Define the AWS global infrastructure.
3. Identify the core AWS services.
4. Identify resources for technology support.

1.5.4. Domain 4: Billing and Pricing

1. Compare and contrast the various pricing models for AWS. In other words, you need to be able to understand the different pricing models and options available to you in AWS.
2. Recognize the various account structures that you can use for billing and pricing.
3. Identify resources available for billing support. That is, how you can get support for billing.

Now, each domain actually comprises of a certain percentage of the exam as shown in the table below:

| Domain | % of Exam |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Domain 1: Cloud Concepts | 26 |
| Domain 2: Security | 25 |
| Domain 3: Technology | 33 |
| Domain 4: Billing and Pricing | 16 |
| Total | 100 |

That's what the exam is made up of. Now, don't worry if any of that didn't make sense to you. Everything is going to be explained. We're going to go into all of those different domains, and I'll make sure that in this guide all the four domains and all of the knowledge required for the exam are covered. So, are you ready to begin? Head over to the first lesson!

2. How to Create AWS Free Tier Account (Hands-on Lab)

2.0. Introduction

In this section, you're going to learn how you can create a free tier account on AWS. Now, it's not essential that you do the hands-on exercises for the cloud practitioner exam. But for all other AWS exams, you 100% need the practical experience. For the cloud practitioner, you can get away with it and just do the theory. But I strongly recommend that if you've got the time, create your free tier account and follow along.

The reason I'm jumping ahead a little bit is that it's the next chapter where I will teach you all about cloud computing and AWS. But I want you to set your account up now. You don't need any background knowledge for this at all. Just follow along with the steps, get your account set up, and then when we get into the real practical lessons, you'll be ready. So, as I mentioned, it's not 100% essential, but I do highly recommend that you do the practical exercises.

2.1. Creating AWS Free Tier Account

In this lesson, you're going to learn step by step how to create your free tier account on AWS. So, head over to your web browser and follow these steps to create your account.

1. Go to www.google.com and search for *AWS free tier*. Choose the first result at the top (the one that says "Amazon Web Services - Start with a Free Tier Account"). Alternatively, you can just go straight to www.aws.amazon.com/free. You will arrive at a page similar to Figure 2.1.1.

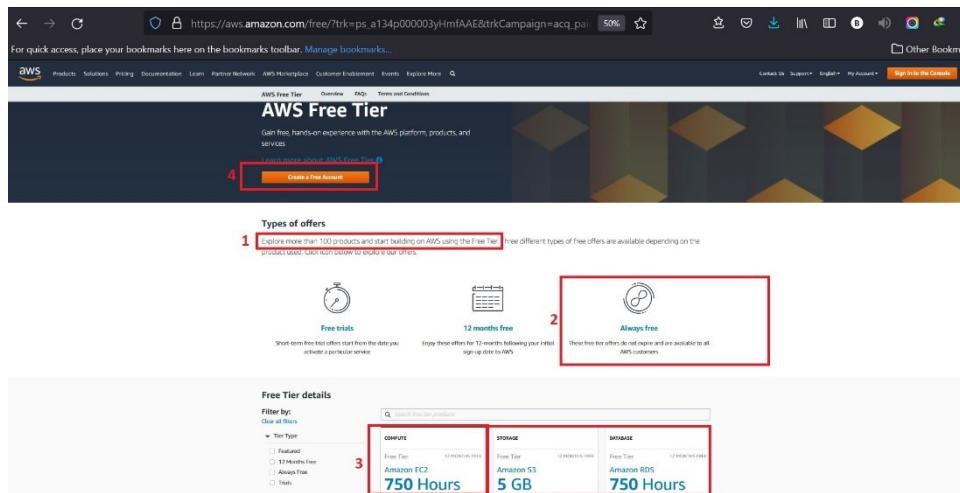


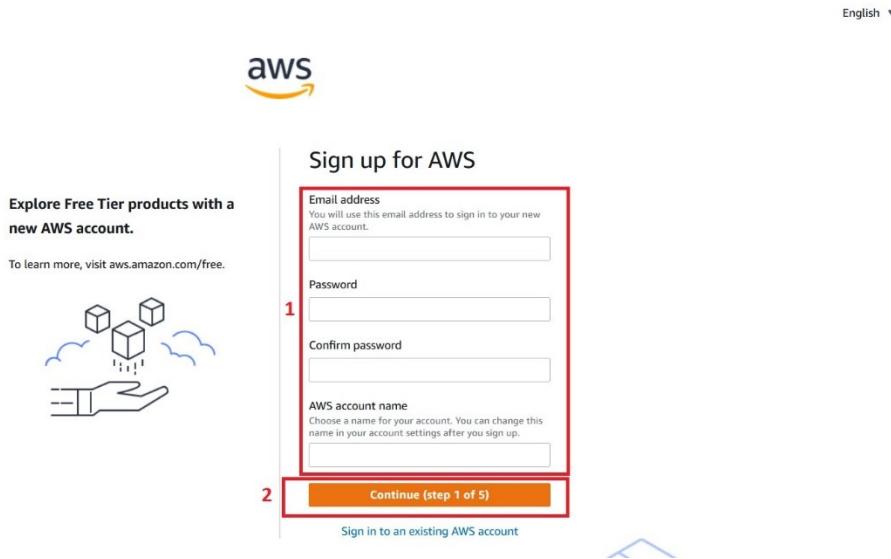
Figure 2.1.1: AWS home page for creating a Free Tier account

On this page, you'll see that there are over 100 products (1) that you can use with the free tier. Some are always free (2) while some are free for the first 12 months. There're also free trials. The good news is that what we need to do in the hands-on in this guide will be covered within the free tier.

For instance, we will be able to access Amazon EC2, Amazon S3, and Amazon RDS (3). Now, there are limits. As you can see in Figure 2.1.1, there's a certain amount of time (hours) and you have to choose the right type of resource so that you don't run up any bills. I'm going to help you with that.

Now, it's really important to follow what I do in the book to terminate resources when I terminate them and also set up a **billing alarm**. The billing alarm will give you an alert if there's any chance that you're going to go over a certain threshold.

2. Click the **Create a Free Account** button. You should arrive at the AWS console signup page shown in Figure 2.1.1.

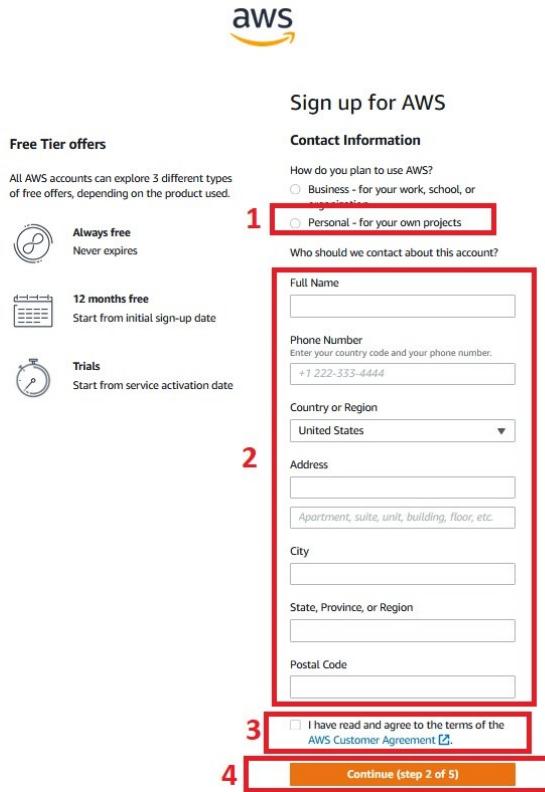


The image shows the AWS console signup page. At the top right, there is a language selection dropdown set to 'English'. The main title is 'Sign up for AWS'. On the left, there is a promotional message: 'Explore Free Tier products with a new AWS account.' followed by 'To learn more, visit aws.amazon.com/free'. Below this is a small illustration of a hand holding a stack of three cubes. The right side of the page contains the sign-up form fields, which are highlighted with a red box. The fields are: 'Email address' (with a note: 'You will use this email address to sign in to your new AWS account.'), 'Password', 'Confirm password', and 'AWS account name' (with a note: 'Choose a name for your account. You can change this name in your account settings after you sign up.'). At the bottom of the form is a red button labeled 'Continue (step 1 of 5)'. To the right of the form, there is a link 'Sign in to an existing AWS account' and a small blue arrow icon pointing upwards.

Figure 2.1.2: AWS console signup page for AWS account

3. You need to provide an email address and a password on this page (1). You'll also need to confirm your password and enter an account name to complete this step (something like *John-aws-account* is ok, assuming your name is John). Click **Continue (step 1 of 5)** (2) to move on to the next step.

4. Under the **Contact Information** section, Amazon asks you “How do you plan to use AWS?” Choose personal (1). See Figure 2.1.3.

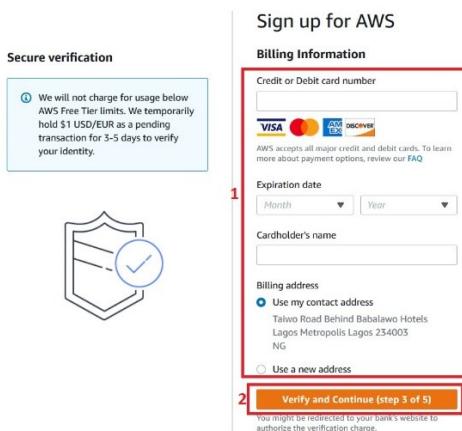


The screenshot shows the 'Sign up for AWS' page, specifically Step 2 of 5. On the left, there's a section titled 'Free Tier offers' with three options: 'Always free' (never expires), '12 months free' (start from initial sign-up date), and 'Trials' (start from service activation date). On the right, there's a 'Contact Information' section with fields for 'Full Name', 'Phone Number', 'Country or Region' (set to 'United States'), 'Address', 'City', 'State, Province, or Region', and 'Postal Code'. A red box highlights the 'Country or Region' field. Below these fields is a checkbox for 'I have read and agree to the terms of the AWS Customer Agreement' with a link to it. A red box highlights this checkbox. At the bottom is a large orange 'Continue (step 2 of 5)' button. Red numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are overlaid on the page to indicate specific steps: 1 is on the 'Country or Region' field, 2 is on the 'Continue' button, 3 is on the 'AWS Customer Agreement' link, and 4 is on the 'Continue' button.

Figure 2.1.3: Contact information form on AWS signup page

You'll also need to put in your full name, phone number, select your region and enter your address with postal/zip code (2). Click the **AWS Customer Agreement** link (3) to open the AWS customer agreement page. When you're done reading the agreement, tick the check box in (3) to indicate you agree. Then click **Continue (step 2 of 5)** (4) to move to the next step.

5. In this step you'll now need to supply a credit card. See Figure 2.1.4.



The screenshot shows the 'Sign up for AWS' page, specifically Step 3 of 5. On the left, there's a 'Secure verification' section with a note: 'We will not charge for usage below AWS Free Tier limits. We temporarily hold \$1 USD/EUR as a pending transaction for 3-5 days to verify your identity.' Below this is a shield icon with a checkmark. On the right, there's a 'Billing Information' section with fields for 'Credit or Debit card number' (with VISA, MasterCard, and Discover logos), 'Expiration date' (with dropdown menus for Month and Year), 'Cardholder's name' (with a placeholder box), and 'Billing address'. Under 'Billing address', there are two radio buttons: 'Use my contact address' (selected) and 'Use a new address'. Below these is a note: 'You might be redirected to your bank's website to authorize the verification charge.' A red box highlights the 'Billing address' section. Red numbers 1 and 2 are overlaid on the page: 1 is on the 'Billing address' section, and 2 is on the 'Verify and Continue (step 3 of 5)' button.

Figure 2.1.4: The Billing information page

Amazon wants you to provide your billing information (1) just in case you go over the free tier and have to pay something. Remember, we will be setting up a **billing alarm**, which is really important to make sure that if you do exceed a certain threshold, you get notified. But you will need to supply your credit card information on this page. In certain cases, Amazon may place a small USD1 charge on your card to verify it. So, first make sure your card has about this amount in it. Once you've done that, click on **Verify and Continue (step 3 of 5)** to go to the next step.

6. In this step, you need to confirm your identity.

The screenshot shows the 'Sign up for AWS' process. The 'Confirm your identity' step is displayed. A red box labeled '1' highlights the 'Text message (SMS)' radio button under 'How should we send you the verification code?'. A red box labeled '2' highlights the 'Security check' section, which contains a reCAPTCHA image and a text input field for 'Type the characters as shown above'. A red box labeled '3' highlights the 'Send SMS (step 4 of 5)' button at the bottom of the form.

Figure 2.1.5: The identity confirmation page step 1

There're two ways you can confirm your identity: either through a text message or a voice call (1). I usually choose the text message option. Then choose your country and enter your phone number. Next, enter the security check (2) and then click the **Send SMS (step 4 of 5)** button. You should get an SMS.

7. Simply enter the verification code that you were sent via SMS in the field provided. See Figure 2.1.6.



Figure 2.1.6: The identity confirmation page step 2 (entering the verification code)

Click on the **Continue (step 4 of 5)** button to move to the next step.

8. You need to select your support plan on this page. I strongly advise you keep the basic plan selected as shown in Figure 2.1.7.

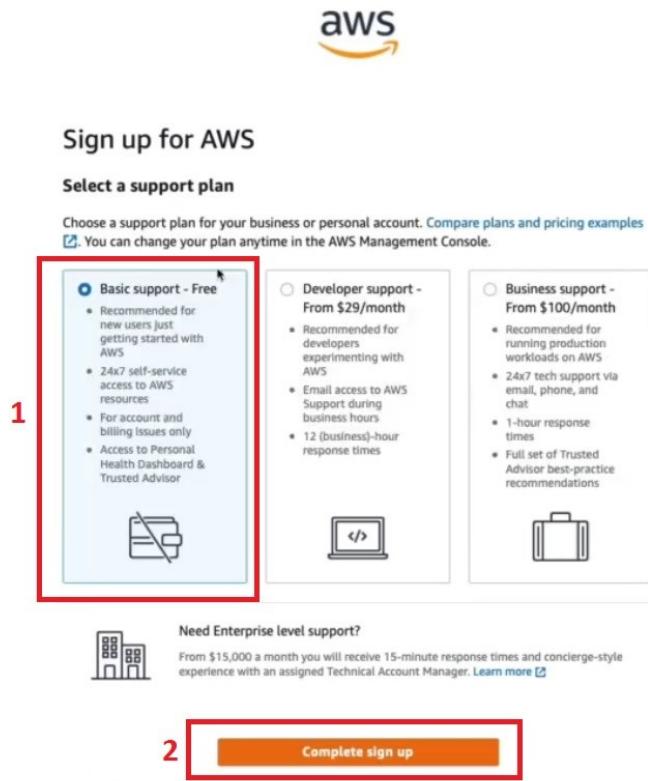


Figure 2.1.7: The support plan selection page

We'll learn about support plans later on as part of the exam. Basic is free, so you probably don't want to spend any money at this point. So, keep the selection on basic (1) and then click the **Complete sign up** button (2). That completes the sign-up process as shown in Figure 2.1.8. Congrats!

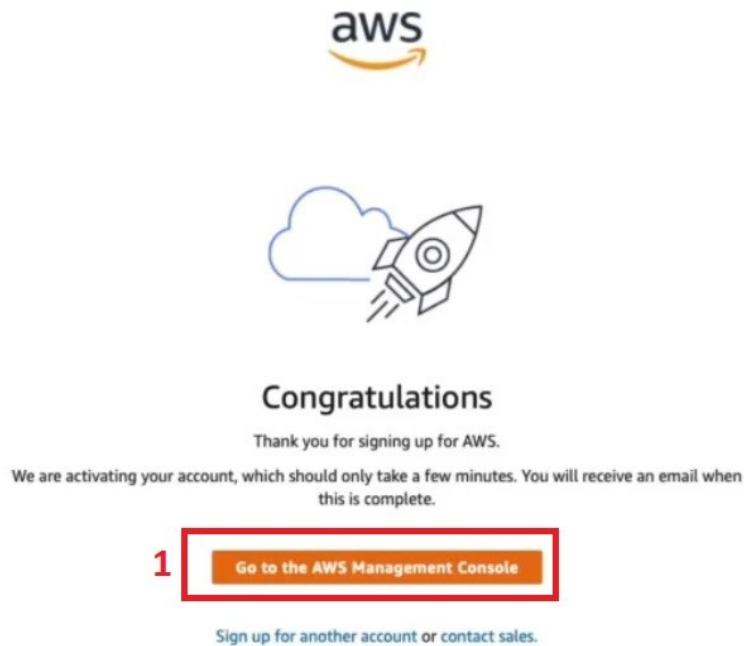


Figure 2.1.8: End of the AWS sign up

Now that you have signed up, you'll get some confirmation in your email.