

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner (CLF-C02) Quick Summary

Fast 3-5 minute refresh for the core ideas, product comparisons, and cost/security traps that matter most.

Best for Ultra-fast memory refresh	Focus Definitions, shortcuts, and common exam traps	Use with Use with the cheat sheet for deeper review
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1. Fast refresh

CLF-C02 focus	Cloud concepts, security, services, billing, and support.
Think high level	This exam is about broad understanding, not deep implementation detail.
Managed services win often	If AWS can run more for you, that is often the right exam direction.
Shared responsibility matters	Many scenario questions hinge on this idea.

2. High-yield comparisons

Security group vs NACL	Instance-level stateful filtering versus subnet-level stateless filtering.
RDS vs DynamoDB	Managed relational database versus managed key-value/document database.
EBS vs EFS vs S3	Block storage, shared file storage, and object storage solve different problems.
On-Demand vs Reserved vs Spot	Flexibility, commitment discount, and spare-capacity discount are not the same thing.

3. Cost shortcuts

Cost Explorer	Analyze current and historical spend.
Budgets	Set spending alerts and guardrails.
Pricing Calculator	Estimate before deployment.
Trusted Advisor	Recommendations across cost, security, performance, and limits.

4. Exam traps

More control is not always better	Managed service answers often fit better than self-managed EC2-heavy answers.
Encryption is not one service	KMS, service defaults, and configuration choices all matter.
Backup is not archiving	Know the intent of storage classes and recovery needs.
Global vs regional	Some services are regional, some are global; this changes the right answer.

