Microsoft AZ-400 Quick Summary

Fast 3-5 minute refresh for the core ideas, comparisons, and traps that matter most on the exam.

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

1. Fast refresh

AZ-400 focus	Processes, source control, pipelines, security, instrumentation.
Pipelines dominate	Build and release pipelines carry the biggest exam weight.
Think flow, not just tools	Azure DevOps and GitHub matter, but process intent matters more.
Automation wins	Manual repeat work is usually the weaker answer.

2. High-yield comparisons

CI vs CD	Build/test/package versus deploy/release/delivery.
Canary vs blue-green	Gradual exposure versus full-environment switch.
Logs vs metrics vs traces	Different telemetry types answer different questions.
Branch policy vs environment approval	Source-control guardrail differs from deployment guardrail.

3. Security shortcuts

Least privilege	Apply it to repos, pipelines, service connections, and environments.
Secret store	Prefer managed secrets over inline variables.
Policy as code	Great for consistent guardrails at scale.
Dependency review	Supply chain risk is part of modern DevOps.

4. Exam traps

More process is not always better	Choose the lightest control that still meets quality and compliance needs.
More alerts is not observability	Noise slows teams down.
Manual gates everywhere	Too much friction can break delivery without adding real value.
Pipeline success is not prod success	Instrumentation and rollback still matter after deployment.