Microsoft AZ-500 Quick Summary

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

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

1. Fast refresh

AZ-500 focus	Identity, networking, compute/storage/databases, Defender for Cloud, Sentinel.
Defender/Sentinel matter most	This is the largest current exam weight.
Think security posture	Not just one control, but the overall Azure security state.
Built-in services win often	Managed Azure security features are frequent best answers.

2. High-yield comparisons

RBAC vs Conditional Access	Resource authorization differs from access condition enforcement.
NSG vs Azure Firewall	Basic network filtering differs from centralized advanced network security control.
Managed identity vs secret	Prefer identity-based auth when possible.
Defender for Cloud vs Sentinel	Posture/threat protection versus SIEM/SOAR and investigation.

3. Security shortcuts

PIM	Reduces standing privilege.
Key Vault	Central secrets, keys, certificates.
Private endpoints	Reduce public exposure.
Sentinel playbooks	Automate response where it makes sense.

4. Exam traps

More access is rarely right	Least privilege usually beats convenience.
Encryption is not enough alone	Access control and monitoring still matter.
Network security is not identity security	You often need both.
Dashboards are not remediation	Recommendations only help when acted on.