Google Cloud Associate Cloud Engineer Quick Summary

A fast 3-5 minute refresh of the services and decisions that appear most often in ACE-style scenarios.

Best for rapid memory refresh	Focus service purpose, IAM, deployment path, cost basics	Use with cheat sheet for fuller context

1. Hierarchy and IAM

Project	Primary boundary for APIs, billing linkage, quotas, and most resources.
Predefined role	Default safe choice before using basic roles or creating a custom role.
Service account key	Avoid long-lived keys when possible; prefer attached identity or workload-based auth.

2. Core services

Compute Engine	VMs and infrastructure control.
GKE	Managed Kubernetes clusters.
Cloud Run	Serverless containers for stateless apps.
Cloud Storage	Object storage for files, backups, logs, and static content.

3. Networking

VPC	Global network container with regional subnets.
Firewall rule	Allow/deny traffic by direction, target, protocol, and port.
Load balancer	Front door for scale, health checks, and availability.

4. Operations

Monitoring	Metrics, dashboards, alerting.
Logging	Central log search and export.
Common exam traps	Wrong region, missing API, IAM denial, quota hit, missing firewall, or wrong storage service.