Google Cloud Professional Cloud Architect Cheat Sh

High-yield review for enterprise architecture, IAM, networking, data, resilience, and cost decisions on Google Cloud.

Best for	Focus	Use with
fast review before architecture practice	requirements mapping, IAM, service selection, resilience	quick summary + service map

1. Design principles

Business and technical requirements	Translate reliability, security, cost, performance, and compliance into architecture choices before selecting services.
Google-recommended architecture	Favor managed services, loose coupling, autoscaling, and failure isolation over custom infrastructure.
Shared responsibility	Google secures the cloud; you still design IAM, data protection, org policy, and workload controls.
Trade-off thinking	Professional Cloud Architect questions often force a best-fit answer across cost, agility, and operational overhead.

2. Identity, governance, and security

Resource hierarchy	Organization, folders, and projects provide policy boundaries for IAM, budgets, and org policies.
IAM model	Use least privilege with predefined roles, service accounts for workloads, and groups for human access.
Org Policy and tags	Use org policies to restrict risky configurations; use tags or labels for control, grouping, and automation.
Data protection	Pick CMEK when customer-controlled keys are required; pair with Secret Manager, Cloud KMS, and audit logging.

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3. Core platform choices

Compute Engine vs GKE vs Cloud Run	Choose VMs for low-level control, GKE for container orchestration, Cloud Run for serverless HTTP/container workloads.
Cloud Storage vs Filestore vs Persistent Disk	Object storage for durable blobs, Filestore for managed NFS, Persistent Disk for VM-attached block storage.
Cloud SQL vs Spanner vs Bigtable vs BigQuery	Cloud SQL for simpler relational apps, Spanner for global relational scale, Bigtable for wide-column scale, BigQuery for analytics.
Pub/Sub and Eventarc	Use event-driven designs to reduce coupling and improve scalability between producers and consumers.

4. Networking and resilience

VPC design	Use shared VPC, regional subnets, firewall rules, and private connectivity to separate teams and environments cleanly.
Load balancing	Global load balancing improves availability; pair with health checks, Cloud CDN, and autoscaling where relevant.
Hybrid connectivity	Use Cloud VPN for simpler encrypted links and Interconnect for higher throughput and steadier hybrid networking.
BCDR	Design around RPO and RTO with regional or multi-region services, backups, and tested failover procedures.

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5. Operations and cost

Observability	Use Cloud Monitoring, Logging, Error Reporting, and trace data to verify SLOs and speed incident response.
Automation	Use Infrastructure as Code, templates, policies, and pipelines to reduce manual drift and improve repeatability.
Cost control	Rightsize resources, use committed use discounts where stable, and prefer managed/serverless services when ops cost matters.
Exam habit	Pick the answer that satisfies stated constraints with the least operational burden and strongest long-term fit.