

SAA-C03 Quick Summary

A 3-5 minute refresh of the choices and traps that show up most often on the exam.

| BEST FOR | FOCUS | USE WITH |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Fast recall right before study or quiz | Service selection clues and high-frequency traps | Cheat Sheet + Pricing & Governance |

1. Core exam lens

Well-Architected — Questions usually balance security, resilience, performance, and cost together.

Requirement words — Spot must-have phrases: least ops, lowest latency, multi-account, private access, near real time.

Managed first — AWS often prefers managed services when they meet the requirement cleanly.

Temporary credentials — Roles beat long-lived keys in most security scenarios.

2. Architecture traps

Read replica != DR — Read replicas help reads; backups/cross-Region strategy handle disaster recovery.

Security group vs NACL — SG is stateful instance-level; NACL is stateless subnet-level.

Scaling vs HA — Auto Scaling changes capacity; Multi-AZ gives higher availability.

KMS encryption — Know where encryption is default and where customer control matters.

3. Fast service mapping

Private app access — ALB/NLB + private subnets + NAT/VPC endpoints as needed.

Object storage — S3 for durable objects, EBS for single-instance block, EFS for shared Linux files.

Events — EventBridge or SNS/SQS for loose coupling; Kinesis for stream ingestion.

Global caching — CloudFront reduces latency and origin load.

4. Cost reminders

Commit after baseline — Measure usage before Savings Plans or RIs.

Move cold data — Lifecycle policies often beat manual cleanup.

Data transfer matters — Cross-Region and internet egress can change the best answer.

Serverless can win — For bursty workloads, pay-per-use may be the cheapest design.