Microsoft SC-100 Cheat Sheet

One-page cram sheet for cybersecurity architecture, Zero Trust alignment, identity, infrastructure, apps, data, and compliance design.

Best for Last review before drills or exam day	**Focus** High-yield architecture patterns and Microsoft security design choices	**Use with** Use with the quick summary for rapid refresh

1. Align with security best practices and priorities

Resiliency strategy	Design against ransomware and major attacks with recovery, privileged access control, and identity hardening.
MCRA + benchmarks	Map solutions to Microsoft Cybersecurity Reference Architectures and Microsoft Cloud Security Benchmark.
Strategy first	SC-100 is architecture-heavy, so choose patterns and priorities before products.
Zero Trust mindset	Verify explicitly, assume breach, and use least privilege across identities, devices, apps, and data.

2. Security operations, identity, and compliance

SOC architecture	Design roles for Sentinel, Defender XDR, incident flow, and automated response where helpful.
Privileged access	Use PIM, Conditional Access, strong admin isolation, and just-in-time style controls.
Compliance design	Translate requirements into logging, data controls, retention, DLP, labeling, and auditability.
Identity foundation	Strong identity architecture improves security posture across almost every Microsoft workload.

3. Security solutions for infrastructure

Platform security	Design protections for Azure compute, storage, network, and hybrid connectivity.
Boundary controls	Use segmentation, firewalling, private access, and workload isolation to reduce blast radius.
Defender for Cloud	Architecture questions often expect posture management and recommendation-driven improvement.
Hybrid awareness	SC-100 often spans Azure, M365, endpoints, and hybrid identity/infrastructure together.

4. Security solutions for applications and data

Data protection	Think labeling, DLP, encryption, key management, access boundaries, and data lifecycle.
App security	Identity-aware application architecture and secure API/app access are core patterns.
Purview mindset	Governance and information protection are part of architecture, not only compliance paperwork.
Workload integration	The best answer often connects app, data, identity, and monitoring controls together.

5. Practical exam mindset

Architect, not operator	Choose strategic designs and integrated patterns more than low-level admin steps.
Cross-product thinking	Many strong answers combine Entra, Defender, Sentinel, Purview, and Azure controls.
Best-practice alignment	Microsoft-first security patterns usually outperform ad hoc custom designs on this exam.
Business fit	The best answer should be secure, scalable, and realistic to operate.