



# AWS SysOps Administrator – Associate (SOA-C02)

## Interview Prep Guide

Prepared for GoHackersCloud Students

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## Top 25 AWS SysOps Administrator – Associate Interview Questions

1. Explain the responsibilities of a SysOps Administrator on AWS.  
Managing EC2, monitoring with CloudWatch, backups, patching, automation, troubleshooting, cost optimization.
2. How do you monitor AWS resources?  
CloudWatch metrics/alarms, CloudTrail for API auditing, X-Ray for tracing, Config for compliance.
3. How do you automate infrastructure management?  
CloudFormation, CDK, Systems Manager Automation, OpsWorks, Terraform.
4. Explain EC2 instance lifecycle states.  
Pending, Running, Stopping, Stopped, Shutting-down, Terminated.
5. How do you troubleshoot EC2 instance boot issues?  
Check system logs, detach and mount root volume, verify IAM role/permissions, check limits.
6. What are AWS Trusted Advisor categories?  
Cost optimization, Performance, Security, Fault Tolerance, Service Limits.
7. Explain differences between Security Groups and NACLs.  
SG: stateful, instance-level, allow only. NACL: stateless, subnet-level, allow/deny.
8. How do you configure Auto Scaling policies?  
Target tracking, step scaling, scheduled scaling, warm-up period, health checks.
9. How to manage patching in AWS?  
Systems Manager Patch Manager, Maintenance Windows, compliance reports.
10. How to back up and restore RDS databases?  
Automated backups, snapshots, point-in-time recovery, cross-region snapshots.
11. What is Elastic Load Balancer health check?  
Checks instance health, routes only to healthy targets, customizable thresholds.
12. How do you ensure high availability for EC2 apps?  
Multi-AZ deployments, Auto Scaling, Elastic Load Balancing, Route 53 failover.
13. How do you use CloudFormation for SysOps?  
Automate provisioning, version control, reusable templates, drift detection.
14. Explain AWS Config use cases.  
Track resource compliance, configuration history, automate remediation with rules.
15. How do you optimize S3 storage costs?  
Lifecycle policies, Intelligent-Tiering, versioning + cleanup, use Glacier for archives.
16. How do you troubleshoot networking issues in VPC?  
Check route tables, NACLs, SGs, VPC flow logs, reachability analyzer.
17. How to implement logging and auditing?  
Enable CloudTrail, centralize logs in S3, use CloudWatch Logs, integrate with SIEM.
18. How do you manage IAM securely?  
Least privilege, IAM roles not keys, MFA, access analyzer, password policies.
19. How do you handle resource limits?  
Monitor Trusted Advisor/CloudWatch, request limit increase, use tagging for cleanup.
20. What is Amazon Inspector?  
Automated vulnerability scanning of EC2, ECR, Lambda. Integrates with Security Hub.

21. How to manage disaster recovery in AWS?

Backup/restore, pilot light, warm standby, multi-site active-active.

22. How to troubleshoot performance issues?

Check CloudWatch metrics (CPU, memory, IOPS), analyze logs, resize instances, caching.

23. How to enforce governance?

AWS Organizations, SCPs, Config rules, Service Catalog, Control Tower.

24. Explain OpsWorks.

Managed Chef/Puppet for config management, automate app deployments.

25. Walk me through daily SysOps tasks.

Monitoring, backups, patching, responding to alarms, optimizing resources, ensuring compliance.

## How to leverage GoHackersCloud certifications for SysOps success

### 1) Follow GoHackersCloud SysOps Path

Focus on monitoring, automation, troubleshooting labs.

### 2) Hands-on with CloudWatch & Config

Showcase monitoring dashboards and compliance reports.

### 3) Automation Skills

Demonstrate CloudFormation/Terraform templates.

### 4) STAR Stories

Use real troubleshooting scenarios from labs in interviews.

### 5) Resume Portfolio

Highlight SysOps projects, monitoring dashboards, automation scripts.

## 4-Week Prep Plan (GoHackersCloud SysOps Path)

### Week 1 — Monitoring & Basics

CloudWatch, CloudTrail, Config labs, review IAM basics.

### Week 2 — Compute & Networking

EC2 lifecycle, Auto Scaling, VPC troubleshooting labs.

### Week 3 — Storage & Security

S3 lifecycle, RDS backups, KMS, Inspector labs.

### Week 4 — Mock Interviews

SysOps scenario Qs, daily operations, resume finalization.

## Resume / LinkedIn tips

- Place SysOps certification & GoHackersCloud badge near top.
- Highlight monitoring dashboards, automation templates.
- Add troubleshooting labs in portfolio.

Good luck — use GoHackersCloud labs, practice tests, and mentorship to showcase SysOps operational excellence.