
50 AWS Interview Questions with Answers + Recruiter Evaluation Guide

A Complete Guide for Recruiters, Hiring Managers & Candidates

BASIC AWS QUESTIONS (0–2 YEARS)

1. What is AWS?

Answer: Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a cloud computing platform that provides on-demand services like compute, storage, databases, and networking.

2. What are the main AWS service categories?

Answer: Compute, Storage, Database, Networking, Security, Analytics, and DevOps.

3. What is EC2?

Answer: Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) provides scalable virtual servers in the cloud.

4. What is S3?

Answer: Simple Storage Service (S3) is object storage used for storing and retrieving data.

5. What is an AMI?

Answer: Amazon Machine Image is a template used to launch EC2 instances.

6. What is EBS?

Answer: Elastic Block Store provides persistent storage for EC2 instances.

7. What is IAM?

Answer: Identity and Access Management controls user access and permissions in AWS.

8. What is a Region in AWS?

Answer: A geographical area containing multiple data centers.

9. What is an Availability Zone?

Answer: An isolated data center within a region for high availability.

10. What is Auto Scaling?

Answer: Automatically adjusts resources based on demand.

CORE & INTERMEDIATE QUESTIONS (2–5 YEARS)

11. What is a VPC?

Answer: Virtual Private Cloud is a private network within AWS.

12. What is a subnet?

Answer: A segment of a VPC used to organize resources.

13. Difference between public and private subnet?

Answer: Public → internet access; Private → no direct internet access.

14. What is an Internet Gateway?

Answer: Enables communication between VPC and the internet.

15. What is a NAT Gateway?

Answer: Allows private subnet resources to access the internet securely.

16. What is Elastic Load Balancer (ELB)?

Answer: Distributes incoming traffic across multiple instances.

17. What is Route 53?

Answer: AWS DNS service for routing traffic to applications.

18. What is CloudFront?

Answer: Content Delivery Network (CDN) for fast content delivery.

19. What is RDS?

Answer: Managed relational database service.

20. What is DynamoDB?

Answer: NoSQL database service with high scalability.

ADVANCED AWS QUESTIONS (5+ YEARS)

21. What is Lambda?

Answer: Serverless compute service that runs code without managing servers.

22. What is serverless architecture?

Answer: Applications run without managing infrastructure, using services like Lambda.

23. What is CloudFormation?

Answer: Infrastructure as Code tool for provisioning AWS resources.

24. What is AWS Elastic Beanstalk?

Answer: Platform to deploy and manage applications easily.

25. What is EKS?

Answer: Managed Kubernetes service.

26. What is ECS?

Answer: Container orchestration service.

27. What is CloudWatch?

Answer: Monitoring and logging service.

28. What is AWS Config?

Answer: Tracks resource configurations and compliance.

29. What is AWS Shield?

Answer: Protects against DDoS attacks.

30. What is AWS WAF?

Answer: Web Application Firewall for filtering traffic.

SECURITY & BEST PRACTICES

31. What is least privilege principle?

Answer: Grant minimum permissions required.

32. What is IAM role vs user?

Answer: Role = temporary access; User = permanent identity.

33. How do you secure S3 buckets?

Answer: Use IAM policies, bucket policies, encryption, and block public access.

34. What is encryption in AWS?

Answer: Protecting data using cryptographic methods (KMS).

35. What is AWS KMS?

Answer: Key Management Service for encryption keys.

SCENARIO-BASED QUESTIONS (HIGH SIGNAL)

36. How do you design a highly available system?

Answer: Use multiple AZs, load balancers, and auto scaling.

37. How do you reduce AWS costs?

Answer: Use reserved instances, auto scaling, and optimize resources.

38. How do you handle high traffic?

Answer: Use load balancers, caching, and scaling.

39. How do you migrate applications to AWS?

Answer: Use lift-and-shift, re-platforming, or re-architecting.

40. How do you monitor applications?

Answer: Use CloudWatch and logs.

DEVOPS & DATA QUESTIONS

41. What is CI/CD in AWS?

Answer: Continuous integration and delivery using tools like CodePipeline.

42. What is CodePipeline?

Answer: Automates build, test, deploy workflows.

43. What is CodeDeploy?

Answer: Automates application deployment.

44. What is SQS?

Answer: Message queue service.

45. What is SNS?

Answer: Notification service for messaging.

46. What is Redshift?

Answer: Data warehouse service.

47. What is Glue?

Answer: ETL service for data processing.

48. What is Athena?

Answer: Query service for S3 data using SQL.

49. What is Step Functions?

Answer: Orchestrates workflows.

50. What is API Gateway?

Answer: Service to create and manage APIs.

RECRUITER EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

5–3–1 Scoring Model

Skill	5/5 (Strong)	3/5 (Average)	1/5 (Weak)
AWS Fundamentals	Clear + real use	Basic	Weak
Architecture	Scalable designs	Limited	Poor
Security	Best practices	Basic	Weak
Problem Solving	Structured	Partial	Struggles
Communication	Clear	Avg	Poor

Final Hiring Decision

- 40+ → Strong Hire
- 30–39 → Consider
- <30 → Reject

Standardize and scale your AWS hiring with this checklist. [Talk to our experts today.](#)

End of Guide