



HashiCorp Certified: Vault Associate (002)

Credential validity and objective
overview

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Credentials (badge and certificate) are valid until their stated expiration date

The Vault Associate 003 exam version was retired in January 2025. However, the credentials associated with this exam are still a valid indication of one's certification status until their expiration date.

Vault Associate 003 exam objectives

Objective description

1	Compare authentication methods
1a	Describe authentication methods
1b	Choose an authentication method based on use case
1c	Differentiate human vs. system auth methods
2	Create Vault policies
2a	Illustrate the value of Vault policy
2b	Describe Vault policy syntax: path
2c	Describe Vault policy syntax: capabilities
2d	Craft a Vault policy based on requirements
3	Assess Vault tokens
3a	Describe Vault token
3b	Differentiate between service and batch tokens. Choose one based on use-case
3c	Describe root token uses and lifecycle

3d	Define token accessors
3e	Explain time-to-live
3f	Explain orphaned tokens
3g	Create tokens based on need
4	Manage Vault leases
4a	Explain the purpose of a lease ID
4b	Renew leases
4c	Revoke leases
5	Compare and configure Vault secrets engines
5a	Choose a secret method based on use case
5b	Contrast dynamic secrets vs. static secrets and their use cases
5c	Define transit engine
5d	Define secrets engines
6	Utilize Vault CLI
6a	Authenticate to Vault
6b	Configure authentication methods
6c	Configure Vault policies
6d	Access Vault secrets
6e	Enable Secret engines
6f	Configure environment variables
7	Utilize Vault UI
7a	Authenticate to Vault
7b	Configure authentication methods
7c	Configure Vault policies
7d	Access Vault secrets
7e	Enable Secret engines

8	Be aware of the Vault API
8a	Authenticate to Vault via Curl
8b	Access Vault secrets via Curl
9	Explain Vault architecture
9a	Describe the encryption of data stored by Vault
9b	Describe cluster strategy
9c	Describe storage backends
9d	Describe the Vault agent
9e	Describe secrets caching
9f	Be aware of identities and groups
9g	Describe Shamir secret sharing and unsealing
9h	Be aware of replication
9i	Describe seal/unseal
9j	Explain response wrapping
9k	Explain the value of short-lived, dynamically generated secrets
10	Explain encryption as a service
10a	Configure transit secret engine
10b	Encrypt and decrypt secrets
10c	Rotate the encryption key



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