DEVOPS® INSTITUTE

Observability Foundation®

Syllabus

PeopleCert

Official Training Materials

Observability (OBSF) Foundation℠ Certificate

Observability (OBSF) Foundation is a freestanding certification from DevOps Institute. The purpose of this certification and its associated course is to impart, test and validate knowledge of Observability basic vocabulary, principles and practices. Observability Foundation is intended to provide individuals an understanding of basic Observability concepts and how observability may be used to improve operational activities by applying observability principles and practices.

Eligibility for Examination

Although there are no formal prerequisites for the exam, DevOps Institute highly recommends the following to prepare candidates for the exam leading to Observability Foundation certification:

- It is recommended that candidates complete at least 16 contact hours (instruction and labs) as part of a formal, approved training course delivered by an accredited Education Partner of DevOps Institute

Examination Administration

The Observability Foundation certification is accredited, managed and administered under the strict protocols and standards of DevOps Institute.

Level of Difficulty

The Observability Foundation certification uses the Bloom Taxonomy of Educational Objectives in the construction of both the content and the examination.

- The Observability Foundation exam contains Bloom 1 questions that test learners' ***knowledge*** of observability concepts and vocabulary terms (see list below)
- The exam also contains Bloom 2 questions that test learners' ***comprehension*** of these concepts in context

Format of the Examination

Candidates must achieve a passing score to gain the Observability Foundation Certificate.

Exam Type	40 multiple choice questions
Duration	60 minutes
Prerequisites	It is recommended that candidates complete the Observability (OBSF) Foundation course from an accredited DevOps Institute Education Partner
Supervised	No
Open Book	Yes
Passing Score	65%
Delivery	Web-based
Badge	Observability Foundation Certified

Exam Topic Areas and Question Weighting

The Observability Foundation exam requires knowledge of the topic areas described below.

Topic Area	Description	Max Questions
OBSF – 1: Exploring Observability	Observability definition, importance of observability, limitations of traditional monitoring and why it is not enough, and Observability Maturity Model	7
OBSF – 2: Pillars of Observability	Definition and application of telemetry including the Three Pillars of Observability (logs, metrics, tracing)	8
OBSF – 3: Open Source Landscape	Elements of observability, clarifying OpenTelemetry and understanding the open source ecosystem	7
OBSF – 4: Service Maps and Topology	Understanding service maps, defining topology, and understanding the benefits of time travel topology, and reading escalation graphs	2
OBSF – 5: DataOps Helps Get Observability Right	Observability and data paradox, understanding why Observability needs DataOps, understanding data ownership and governance along with data privacy and observability	4
OBSF – 6: Building Observability with AIOps	Enterprise platforms and AIOps and AIOps using artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies	3
OBSF – 7: Security and Networking with Observability	Observing security, container security, network observability, and visibility and integration of securities	5
OBSF-8: Observability Practices for DevOps and SRE	Understanding observability indicators, dashboards and visualization with observability, and chaos engineering	4

Concept and Terminology List

The candidate is expected to understand, comprehend and apply the following Observability Foundation concepts and vocabulary at a Blooms 1 (Knowledge) and 2 (Comprehension)

Application Performance Management (APM)	Metrics
Automatic Instrumentation	Monitoring
Cardinality	Observability
Causal Observability	Observability Backend
Chaos Engineering	Observability Enablement
CI/CD Pipeline Scanning	Observability Center of Excellence
CIA (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability) Triad	Observability Driven Design (ODD)
Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF)	Observability Maturity Model
Cloud Networking	OpenTelemetry (OTel)
Container Scanning	Open Telemetry Protocol (OTLP)
Data Governance	Predictive Analytics
Data Paradox	RED (Rate, Errors, Duration) Metrics View
DataOps	Registry Scanning
DEI (Distributed, Immutable, Ephemeral) Triad	Root Span
Dependency Relations	Sample Rate
Distributed Debugging	Sampling
Distributed Logging	Saturation
Distributed Traces	Service Map
Domain-Agnostic Solutions	Signals
Domain-Centric Solutions	Service Level Agreement (SLA)
eBPF	Service Level Indicator (SLI)
ELK (Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana) Stack	Service Level Objective (SLO)
Escalation Graph	Span
Events	Span ID
Filtering Metrics	Structured Logs
Filtering Traces	Telemetry
Instrumentation	Temporal Relations
Instrumenting with Agents	Three Pillars of Observability
Instrumenting with Libraries	Time Travel Topology
Kubernetes	Topology
Latency	Trace ID
Local Development Scanning	Trace Propagation
Log Analysis	Traces
Log Management	USE (Utilization, Errors, Duration) Metrics
Logs	User Interface (UI)
MELT	W3C Standard