



Migration Specialist Study Guide

Generated on: 7 January 2026

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Migration Specialist Study Guide

This study guide will prepare you for the Migration Specialist (MGS) certification with resources and sample questions.

The latest questions added to this exam are written to Purity//FA 6.9.x. and Purity//FB 4.5.x. Existing questions from earlier versions remain in use where the content continues to apply.



About Pure® Certification Exams

Choose the career certification levels that best meet your experience and your desired career path. Industry recognition assures you, and your employer of the value of Pure Storage career certifications.

This is the Pure Certified Migration Specialist exam prep guide. Professional certifications:

- Showcase that you have deep technical knowledge in a specialized domain.
- Prove you can be trusted to lead a team or design, install, configure, migrate, optimize, and troubleshoot specialized solutions.



Introduction

Exam Description

As a Pure Certified Migration Specialist, you have what it takes to skillfully navigate, optimize, and troubleshoot complex migration scenarios across the entire Pure platform. You bring specialized IT industry knowledge and experience to the table and are competent in assessing the basics of 3rd party storage infrastructure. As the Pure Certified Migration Specialist certification validates your deep understanding of the relationship between pre-migration origin environments and all relevant Pure Storage solutions, you become an especially trustworthy authority for producing desirable migration outcomes.

Recommended Experience

- 5 years+ of relevant migration industry experience and 2 years+ of Pure experience.



Please review the PEAK Certification Experience Guide for detailed information regarding how to **prepare for the exam**, **schedule the exam**, and **claim your badge** after successfully passing the exam.

A Special Thank You to Our Subject Matter Experts!

The Certification Program extends its gratitude to all Subject Matter Experts who have contributed to the development and ongoing success of this exam. We would especially like to recognize the SMEs who supported the most recent maintenance phase for their valuable time, insights, and expertise.

- Joe Carrieri
- Maynor Melendez
- Ryan Oler
- Steve Reading
- Charles Sonntag
- Lydia Tomasini
- Alex Umanski

Study Resources for Migration Specialist Certification



Study Resources

The following list is designed to assist candidates in finding study resources to help fill any knowledge gap areas. This list is NOT intended to be exhaustive or a required reading list. Note, a combination of training and successful, on-the-job experience are critical to providing candidates with the knowledge and skills needed to pass the exam.

Recommended Training Courses

- [Pure Certified FlashArray Storage Professional Prep](#)
The Pure Certified FlashArray Storage Professional Prep gives you everything you need to manage a FlashArray enterprise array through its entire lifecycle.
- [Pure Certified FlashBlade Storage Professional Prep](#)
The Pure Certified FlashBlade Storage Professional Prep gives you everything you need to manage a FlashBlade enterprise array through its entire lifecycle.

Resources from Pure PEAK

- Find additional courses at [Pure PEAK Education](#).
- Visit our growing library of knowledge articles at [Pure PEAK Knowledge](#).
- Explore best practices in our [Pure PEAK Community](#).
- Tune in to upcoming [webinars](#) to see relevant content.
- Get [direct access](#) to our leaders, experts, partners, and latest product news.

Pure Storage Websites

[Data Migration Strategy Guide](#)

Exam Objectives and Commonly Referenced Documentation for Migration Specialist Certification



The following tables list the Migration Specialist exam objectives and how these objectives align to the corresponding commonly referenced product documentation and resources. Candidates are encouraged to review the applicable topics as part of their preparation for the exam.

- Note:** For Knowledge Portal documents, be sure to reference all subtopics, PDFs, and/or links that are part of the document link provided.
- Note:** This exam includes questions that assess knowledge of third-party migration tools. Some reference materials reside on external vendor websites and could require an account to access.

Exam Domain 1: Migration Concepts (Weightage 33%)

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
1.01 - Block	
Objective Subtopics: Analyze key concepts of block storage and provisioning across platforms such as Windows, Unix, SAN, and PSC Dedicated, including iSCSI and Fibre Channel (FC)	- ActiveCluster Solution Overview - ActiveDR FAQ - AIX Recommended Settings - CirrusData Local Migration of Microsoft Windows - Cloning Oracle Database with FlashArray Snapshots Oracle RAC - Data Migration: The Road to Simplification

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
	7. Data mirroring 8. FlashStack Boot From SAN - Fibre Channel 9. Host Connectivity 10. How to Combine Two Logical Volumes on a Single Physical Volume With LVM 11. How to mount ufs file system under Debian testing? 12. Oracle Database Recommended Settings for FlashArray 13. Recommendations Common to ASM and File System 14. Solaris Recommended Settings
1.02 - File (NAS)	
Objective Subtopics: • Evaluate NAS/File storage security models, including permission structures • Differentiate between file access protocols (SMB vs. NFS)	1. Active Directory / LDAP Integration for FlashBlade 2. Active Directory privileged accounts and groups reference guide 3. FlashArray File - Requirements and Best Practices 4. FlashBlade Multi-Tenancy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 5. FlashBlade NFS FAQ 6. FlashBlade Service Guide 7. FlashBlade User Guide Version 4.5.6 (See Ch. 8 The Purity//FB GUI Policies Page) 8. How to Join FlashBlade to Active Directory in Native SMB 9. Introduction to the Parsec Appliance 10. Purity//FB 4.5 NFS Export Policies Best

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
	Practices 11. Purity//FB 4.5 Security Best Practices 12. RapidFile Toolkit v2.1 for FlashBlade 13. Red Hat Access Control Lists 14. Red Hat Managing Users and Groups 15. robocopy 16. rsync
1.03 - Object	
Objective Subtopics: • Interpret S3 protocol operations, including authentication mechanisms and object access controls	1. FlashBlade Best Practices for Object Storage 2. FlashBlade Object Replication FAQ 3. FlashBlade Object Storage Quick Start Guide 4. FlashBlade Object Store: AWS Compatibility 5. Virtual hosting of general purpose buckets
1.04 - Virtualization	
Objective Subtopics: • Assess virtual infrastructure platforms (VMware, KVM, Hyper-V) and their integration with Pure environments	1. Cluster to Cluster Storage Replication 2. FlashArray and VMware Integration 3. Migrating boot from SAN hosts 4. Migration from SCSI to NVMe-TCP 5. NVMe/TCP Best Practices 6. Storage Replica overview 7. VMware Multipathing policies in ESXi/ESX 8. VMware Native Multipathing Plugin (NMP)

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
	Configuration

Exam Domain 2: Troubleshooting (Weightage: 23%)

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
2.01 - Block	
Objective Subtopics: Diagnose and resolve block storage issues related to connectivity (cabling, zoning), multipathing, host/server configuration, performance, and data integrity	- Installing the Pure ODM File - Multi-path IO - Oracle Database Recommended Settings for FlashArray - Recommended DM-Multipath Settings - Recommended Multipath Settings - SAN Design and Best Practices Brocade Fibre Channel Platforms Design Guide - Setting the MPIO Policy - VMware Native Multipathing Plugin (NMP) Configuration - Cisco Nexus 9000 Series NX-OS SAN Switching Configuration Guide, Release 10.6(x) - Troubleshoot Fiber Links on Catalyst 9000 Series Switches
2.02 - File (NAS)	
Objective Subtopics: Identify and resolve issues in NAS	A Data Migration Mystery Solved – Can an Active Directory Object Have Two Security Identifiers?

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
environments related to permissions, authentication, configuration, data integrity, multi-protocol access, and networking	2. AD FS troubleshooting: Integrated Windows Authentication 3. Can't access shared folders from File Explorer in Windows 10 4. Connecting to FlashBlade Object Store from an S3 Client 5. Cross-Protocol File Access on FlashBlade 6. FlashBlade CLI Reference 4.5.6 (See Ch. 4 pureconfig) 7. SMB (Samba) FAQ 8. SMB file server share access is unsuccessful through DNS CNAME alias 9. What is the history of tiered storage?
2.03 - Object	
Objective Subtopics: • Troubleshoot object storage by diagnosing issues related to S3 account keys, bucket versioning, and replication configurations	1. CloudSnap User Guide 2. Configuring Versioning on a Flashblade S3 Bucket 3. Enabling Bucket Versioning 4. FlashBlade Administration Guide 4.6.3 5. FlashBlade Object Replication FAQ 6. FlashBlade Object Storage Quick Start Guide 7. Manage Object Retention with Object Life Cycle Policies
2.04 - Virtualization	
Objective Subtopics:	1. Capture System Performance Data with esxtop

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
• Troubleshoot virtual machine migration errors • Troubleshoot access to virtual center	2. VMware Host NVMe Ethernet Guide 3. ESXTOP overview for Performance Troubleshooting 4. iSCSI Best Practices 5. iSCSI Configuration 6. Managing iSCSI Session on ESXi Host 7. Multipath Configuration 8. Understanding the state of your Cluster Shared Volumes

Exam Domain 3: Network and Connectivity (Weightage: 15%)

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
3.01 - SAN Fabric	
Objective Subtopics: • Differentiate VSAN (Virtual Fabric) and zoning concepts in SAN environments • Compare zoning implementations between Cisco and Brocade fabrics • Analyze the impact of slow drain devices, QoS settings, buffer credits, and redundant fabrics on SAN performance and availability • Evaluate how SAN fabric components interact within an end-to-end architecture • Identify key hardware and logical components within SAN fabrics • Interpret the purpose and use of NPIV (N_Port	1. Cirrus Data CMO Path Insertion Diagnostic Guide 2. Cisco MDS SAN Zoning Best Practices 3. File Channel Buffer Credits and Frame Management White Paper 4. FlashArray Connectivity Reference 5. How To Identify And Troubleshoot Slow Drain Device In Cisco SAN Environment 6. Limitations and Restrictions of Virtual Fabrics

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
ID Virtualization) in SAN environments	
3.02 - Authentication and Authorization	
Objective Subtopics: Evaluate directory services and protocol-level permissions, including LDAP, Active Directory (Kerberos), SMB, and NFS	Cross-Protocol File Access on FlashBlade Setting Up File Services on FlashArray SMB Adapter (Samba) to Native SMB FAQ
3.03 - IP Network	
Objective Subtopics: Analyze IP networking principles as applied to FlashBlade and FlashArray, including iSCSI connectivity and common network troubleshooting tools	Does iSCSI initiator and target HAVE to be on the same subnet? FlashBlade Best Practices for Networking FlashBlade Best Practices For NFS Nconnect FlashBlade NFS Performance FAQ Setting up MPIO using the Control Panel Applet What Is MTU Size and How Do You Calculate It?

Exam Domain 4: Virtualization (Weightage: 13%)

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
4.01 - Migration strategies	

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
Objective Subtopics: - Evaluate migration options for virtual environments, including compute vMotion, storage vMotion, and converting physical RDMs to virtual RDMs - Migrate virtual machines across hypervisor platforms - Use KubeVirt to port virtual machines into containers	- Converting a Raw Device Mapping (RDM) into virtual disk (VMDK). - Data Migration Strategy Guide - Limits on Simultaneous Migrations - Storage-based Replication - User Guides for VMware Solutions - VMware Storage vMotion fails on virtual disks configured as independent non-persistent disk mode.
4.02 - Configuration	
Objective Subtopics: - Configure Pure VM provisioning and apply best practices for integration - Set up vMotion and Pure Storage plugins - Configure cross-vCenter environments	- Datastore Management - FlashArray Best Practices for Networking - Installing the vSphere Plugin with the Pure Storage VMware Appliance - iSCSI FAQ - Manage FlashArray Direct Access Shared Block Device (RWX Block) for KubeVirt VMs - Multi-Writer - OVA Collector Creation, Deployment, and Configuration - vCenter Server and Host Management - VMFS Version Recommendations - VMware Native Multipathing Plugin (NMP) Configuration

Exam Domain 5: Methodology (Weightage: 15%)

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
5.01 - Discovery and Analysis	
Objective Subtopics: • Use Pure1 to gather and analyze environment data • Perform SAN fabric discovery for Cisco and Brocade environment • Identify host systems across multiple operating systems • Discover and assess existing storage systems from various vendors	1. Data Migration Strategy Guide 2. Data Migration: Preparing for a Large Migration 3. getfacl — Display owner, group, and access control list (ACL) entries 4. Hard links and soft links in Linux explained 5. Pure Migration Methodology (PMM) Guide 6. Pre-Sales Customer Engagement for Migration Architects
5.02 - Plan and Design	
Objective Subtopics: • Present the migration process clearly to the customer • Communicate the implementation plan to the customer • Define migration groups and schedules for customer alignment • Evaluate infrastructure, authentication, and data migration methods during planning	1. Altering Disk Groups 2. CirrusData Migrate Cloud Oskernel Requirements 3. Connectrix B-Series, MDS-Series: Check Link Connectivity between Host and Storage on SAN Switches 4. Data Migration Strategy Guide 5. Optimizing AI and HPC Workloads with Parallel NFS 4.2: A Practical Overview 6. Part 1: Streamline Your Cloud Data Migration with Pure Storage Cloud and Cirrus Migrate 7. QoS 8. Types of Data Migration

Exam Objectives	Applicable Documentation and Resources
	9. Wave planning overview in Azure Migrate (preview)
5.03 - Prepare and Execute	
Objective Subtopics: • Install and configure tools required for migration execution • Conduct a pilot migration to validate the proposed plan • Implement configuration on the target array in preparation for migration	1. CirrusData Device Discovery 2. CirrusData DMS Migration for AIX 3. Host Group 4. Pure Migration Methodology (PMM) Guide 5. Purity//FA 6.8.8 FlashArray Administration Guide (GUI) (See Ch. 2 FlashArray Concepts and Features) 6. Purity//FA FlashArray User Guide 6.7.5

Sample Exam Questions for Migration Specialist Certification



Review the following 16 sample questions prior to taking an exam to gain a better understanding of the types of questions that will be presented on the exam.

These sample test questions are for informational purposes ONLY and are provided to give prospective candidates an idea about the format and type of questions that will appear on the actual examination. These items are not to be used to determine a candidate's readiness to test. It does not guarantee a pass or fail result.

Question 1: A Cirrus CMO appliance has been deployed in a customer environment, and the customer has agreed to use a logical insertion method to place the appliance into the datapath between the Dell EMC PowerMax array and the hosts being migrated. The environment includes several legacy hosts, and the insertion method must support a high level of host granularity.

Which insertion type supports this high-level of granularity?

A. Path-based logical insertion

B. Storage-side logical insertion

C. Host-side logical insertion

Question 2: A Migration Architect needs to migrate a 500 TB NFSv3 file system containing millions of small configuration files on FlashBlade A to an S3 bucket on FlashBlade B. The primary business requirement is to achieve the fastest possible final sync to minimize cutover downtime.

Which migration method meets these requirements while minimizing configuration changes on the source and target systems?

A. Robocopy

B. Native Replication between FlashBlade A and FlashBlade B

C. PARSEC

Question 3: A Migration Architect has a requirement from an application vendor to create S3 buckets for an object store and replication between two different sites. The data has to be accessed from both sites for reading and writing objects.

With the installation of two FlashBlade storage arrays, what is the required process sequence for this configuration?

A.

- Creation of S3 multi-site-writable bucket on the FlashBlades in both sites
- Creation of replica link for empty S3 buckets
- Start up copy

B.

- Creation of S3 classic bucket on both FlashBlades in both sites
- Creation of replica link for empty S3 bucket
- Start up copy

C.

- Creation of S3 multi-site-writable bucket on the FlashBlades in both sites
- Start up copy
- Creation of replica link for empty S3 bucket

Question 4: A Migration Architect is preparing to migrate KVM virtual machines from local disk to a FlashArray using iSCSI block storage.

To ensure uninterrupted I/O during controller failover or path remediation events, which host-side requirement must be validated before beginning the migration?

A. The KVM hosts have consistent iSCSI session bindings and interface-based login policies configured to prevent path flapping during target re-registration.

Question 4: A Migration Architect is preparing to migrate KVM virtual machines from local disk to a FlashArray using iSCSI block storage.

To ensure uninterrupted I/O during controller failover or path remediation events, which host-side requirement must be validated before beginning the migration?

B. The `qcow2` backing files are provisioned on block devices with write-barrier support according to Pure best practices to avoid metadata inconsistencies during path recovery events.

C. The KVM hosts must maintain active device-mapper multipath configurations using Pure-supported settings for path grouping, I/O retry intervals, and ALUA policy handling.

Question 5: After migration of a cluster using LVM to a FlashArray, a Migration Architect needs to test a resource failover. The resource works on one cluster node, but fails to move to a second node of the cluster. The cluster components were operating normally before the data migration.

What is likely causing the failure?

A. Host with initiator WWPN members has been created for only one node of the cluster.

B. Host group has been created with two nodes of the cluster initiator WWPN.

C. Export policy is missing for the root access for the second node of the cluster.

Question 6: A Migration Architect completes the NAS (NFS) data migration cutover. The Linux servers are updated, and the filesystem is remounted to the new Pure Storage system. Minutes later, users report data inconsistencies and missing files.

What is a likely cause of the issue?

A. The target storage was NOT mounted as read-only during the last iteration.

Question 6: A Migration Architect completes the NAS (NFS) data migration cutover. The Linux servers are updated, and the filesystem is remounted to the new Pure Storage system. Minutes later, users report data inconsistencies and missing files.

What is a likely cause of the issue?

B. Input/output (I/O) was NOT suspended on the source system during the final copy iteration.

C. The Linux server was NOT rebooted after updating the /etc/fstab.

Question 7: A Migration Architect has an existing S3 account/user and bucket that Application Team A uses as an object store. Application Team B now needs access as well, but Team B's access must be read-only.

For Application Team B, what should be done to disable writes on buckets?

A. Create a new S3 user with correct read-only policies and designate this user to Team B.

B. Create a new S3 account with correct read-only policies and designate this account to Team B.

C. Create a new S3 bucket, copy the data from the previous S3 bucket, and provide access to Team B.

Question 8: A customer is preparing to migrate all VMs in their vSphere 7 environment from a legacy array to new datastores on a newly installed FlashArray. Planning is complete, and the first batch of migrations is underway.

However, the customer receives the following error when attempting the first migration:

`Storage vMotion license error`

Which VMware editions include Storage vMotion as a standard feature?

A. vSphere Essentials

B. vSphere Standard

C. vSphere Essentials Plus

Question 9: A Migration Architect is migrating block storage and must move a host-connected fabric port into a new production virtual storage area network (VSAN) where the new FlashArray ports are configured. The host resides in a blade chassis with multiple other hosts and uses the chassis's shared Fibre Channel (FC) port to connect to the Cisco SAN fabric.

What must be considered when planning this move?

A. Confirm that the new VSAN has available fabric login (FLOGI) resources and that zoning will automatically adapt to the change without requiring additional configuration.

B. The chassis port hosts the World Wide Names (WWNs) of multiple hosts, so appropriate inter-VSAN routing (IVR) configuration is required to maintain connectivity.

C. The source storage port must also be moved to the new VSAN to maintain connectivity.

Question 10: What is the powershell command to verify permissions on an SMB share?

A. `get-smbshareaccess`

B. `get-acls`

C. `get-dacls`

Question 11: Replication between a physical FlashArray and Pure Storage Cloud Dedicated (PSC Dedicated) in Azure fails. The customer configured a Site-to-Site VPN and opened TCP/8117 between the sites. However, replication still does NOT initiate.

What networking requirement is missing?

A. VPN tunnel must terminate on the System subnet rather than the Replication subnet.

B. Management interfaces must have bidirectional connectivity.

C. The iSCSI subnet must be peered to the on-premises replication network.

Question 12: An administrator's VMware environment is running ESXi 6.x attached to a third-party storage array using VMFS 5. The admin team has set up a new VMware environment 7.0.3 running on new ESXi hosts attached to a newly purchased FlashArray running VMFS 6.

How should the VMs be migrated safely?

A. Enable Advanced Cross vCenter and Compute & Storage vMotion in the new VMware environment.

B. Enable Advanced Cross vCenter and Compute vMotion in the new VMware environment.

Question 12: An administrator's VMware environment is running ESXi 6.x attached to a third-party storage array using VMFS 5. The admin team has set up a new VMware environment 7.0.3 running on new ESXi hosts attached to a newly purchased FlashArray running VMFS 6.

How should the VMs be migrated safely?

C. Enable Advanced Cross vCenter and Storage vMotion in the new VMware environment.

Question 13: A Migration Architect needs to configure a path selection policy and I/O operation settings on newly provisioned volumes from a FlashArray.

How should these settings be verified on each host?

A. Use the VMware command `esxcli storage nmp device list -d naa.<device NAA>.`

B. Use the VMware command `esxcli storage core path list -d naa.<device NAA>.`

C. Use the Vsphere client.

Question 14: A Migration Architect needs to determine if NFSv4 ACLs are used in an NFS export from FlashBlade.

How should the Migration Architect mount the filesystem from FlashBlade on Linux, and which utility should be used to discover whether NFSv4 ACLs are used?

A. `mount -o vers=4.1 flashblade:/nfs4-enabled-fs/ /mount/local_mountpoint/` and then run `nfs4_getfacl /mount/local_mountpoint/`

B. `mount flashblade:/nfs4-enabled-fs/ /mount/local_mountpoint/` and then run `nfs4_getfacl /mount/local_mountpoint/`

Question 14: A Migration Architect needs to determine if NFSv4 ACLs are used in an NFS export from FlashBlade.

How should the Migration Architect mount the filesystem from FlashBlade on Linux, and which utility should be used to discover whether NFSv4 ACLs are used?

C. mount -o vers=4.1 flashblade:/nfs4-enabled-fs/ /mount/local_mountpoint/ and then run getfacl /mount/local_mountpoint/

Question 15: A Migration Architect is presenting a migration plan to a customer with mixed Windows and Linux workloads. The customer wants all hosts migrated during a single maintenance window to accelerate the timeline, but the assessment reveals multiple dependencies that require staggered cutovers.

How should the Migration Architect respond to the customer's request for a single-window migration, given the identified technical dependencies?

A. Propose a Wave-Based Approach

Group hosts into logical "Move Groups" based on application affinity and shared dependencies (e.g., App/Web/DB), and schedule them into sequential migration waves.

B. Agree to the Big Bang Approach

Proceed with the single window but increase the number of migration architects during the cutover. Since modern arrays like FlashArray have high ingest rates, the technical risk of simultaneous data synchronization is negligible compared to the business value of a shorter project.

C. Implement a Storage-Level Snapshot Strategy

Use the legacy array's snapshot capability to create a "Gold Copy" of all LUNs 24 hours prior to the window. This allows the team to attempt the full migration, and if the dependency mapping fails, they can instantly revert the entire environment to the previous day's state.

Question 16: A Migration Architect has a stretched Brocade fabric and would like to create new logical switches.

Which type of ISL automatically connects VSANs of the same FID, even though they are on different physical switches?

A. A standard ISL

B. XISL

C. ICLs

Sample Exam Answers for Migration Specialist Certification

1. C

2. C

3. A

4. C

5. A

6. B
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. A
11. B
12. A
13. A
14. A
15. A
16. B

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