

Citrix Certified Associate – App Delivery and Security (CCA-AppDS-Gateway) Exam Prep Guide

Updated: Sep 15, 2025

Background

This guide will help you prepare for the Citrix Certified Associate – App Delivery and Security (CCA-AppDS-Gateway) certification. This certification validates the knowledge and skills required by network administrators and engineers to implement and manage Citrix ADC for traffic management, load balancing, content switching, and SSL offloading or to manage enterprise environments consisting of Citrix ADC and Citrix Gateway for secure remote access.

Exam: NetScaler 14.x Essentials and NetScaler Gateway

The exam for this certification is the NetScaler 14.x Essentials and NetScaler Gateway exam. This exam is designed to certify that an IT professional has the foundational knowledge and skills to deploy and manage Citrix Gateway for secure remote access to applications and to configure and manage traffic-handling features, including content switching, on a NetScaler 14.x environment.

Pre-requisite

There are no prerequisites to take the CCA-AppDS exam.

Intended Audience and Prerequisite Knowledge

The primary audience for this certification includes Network Administrators, Network Engineers, and Citrix Administrators.

Before taking this exam, candidates should have:

- Intermediate knowledge of TCP/IP, HTTP protocols, and the OSI model.
- Experience with network devices (e.g., routers, switches) and networking protocols.
- Familiarity with web server software (e.g., Apache, IIS), Windows and Linux Server administration, DNS, and SSL.
- Basic knowledge of systems administration, including logging and high availability.
- Knowledge of network security threats and site protection concepts.

Exam Structure and Format

- Number of items: 60-70 questions per form.
- Format: The exam is delivered and scored by a computer.
- Performance items: The desired percentage of performance-based items is 10%.
- Language: The exam is available in English and Japanese.
- Resources: No external reference materials or tools (e.g., calculator, Excel) are allowed during the exam.

Domains Covered by the Test (Blueprint Topics)

The exam content is based on the material covered in the associated courses, CNS-225 NetScaler Essentials and Unified Gateway and NS-232 NetScaler Gateway. The exam topics are broken down into the following modules:

- Module 1: Basic Networking: Covers NetScaler's networking model, IP addresses, routing, and link aggregation.
- Module 2: High Availability: Focuses on setting up and managing a NetScaler High Availability (HA) pair, including failover and synchronization.
- Module 3: Load Balancing: Explores load balancing concepts, service types, and various methods and monitors.
- Module 4: SSL Offload: Details SSL session processes, certificate management, and SSL offload benefits.
- Module 5: NetScaler Gateway: Covers gateway features, architecture, and user authentication.
- Module 6: Authentication and Authorization: Discusses configuring authentication, authorization, and auditing for users.
- Module 7: End-User Access and Experience: Focuses on session policies, client connections, and RDP proxy.
- Module 8: Troubleshooting: Teaches how to use NetScaler logs, tools like `nstrace`, and filtering to troubleshoot issues.
- Module 9: NetScaler Gateway and Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Integration: Addresses how to integrate NetScaler Gateway with Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops, including web interface/StoreFront integration.
- Module 10: AppExpert and Rewrite and Responder: Covers configuring AppExpert, rewrite, and responder policies and actions.
- Module 11: Content Switching: Explores content switching policies, virtual servers, and advanced load balancing methods.

Training and Study Resource

To prepare for this exam, you can utilize the following resources:

Instructor-Led Training: The recommended courses are CNS-225 NetScaler Essentials and Unified Gateway or NS-232 NetScaler Gateway.

On-Demand Training: You can also leverage on-demand training available through the partnership with Pluralsight. NetScaler has an Administrator Academy on Pluralsight that includes courses on various topics such as NetScaler administration, security, and management. If you are a current customer with an active Citrix or NetScaler subscription, you can access the available eLearning courses on Pluralsight at no additional cost.

Other Sources

- Technical documents in Citrix Docs.
- Relevant Knowledge Base Articles.
- White Papers.



Cloud Software Group, Inc.
www.cloud.com