Arista Academy Certification Exams

This overview offers key tips and valuable recommendations to help students significantly increase their chances of success in the challenging Arista Certified Engineer (ACE) Exams. These exams are designed to rigorously assess candidates' knowledge and practical skills in real-world networking scenarios. Unlike traditional multiple-choice tests, these are live, hands-on exams that require configuring virtualized Arista equipment. This format emphasizes understanding and applying concepts, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, rather than just basic information retention or memorization.

Success therefore demands demonstrable hands-on experience and the ability to effectively apply your understanding under time constraints, as the assessment objectively evaluates both your knowledge and your practical application capabilities.

Exam Structure

Prerequisites

Arista Academy Certification exams are open to all, regardless of prior Arista training or certifications, especially those with networking experience. While not required, active participation in Arista Academy Learning training and hands-on labs is strongly recommended for success, as lab time directly correlates with higher pass rates. Skipping labs increases the risk of failure, leading to waiting periods and retake fees. Only the Expert L7 certification has a pre-qualification requirement.

Open Book

Arista Academy Certification exams are open-book, reflecting real-world troubleshooting scenarios where engineers utilize various resources. This approach encourages the use of available documentation and tools, with the sole exception of collaboration with other individuals. While open-book, the exams are not easy; familiarity with the material, particularly the labs for your chosen track, is essential to successfully complete the evaluation within the allotted time.

Online & Self-Service

All Arista Certified Engineer exams are conducted online and are self-service. Once an exam is purchased (either directly online, through an Arista Account Manager or an authorized Arista Training Partner) the candidate decides when to activate their exam session. Exam integrity is maintained

through the Honorlock system and requires a functioning webcam, microphone, and government-issued ID for verification.

Exam Content

Arista Academy Certification exams assess specific skills directly aligned with the content of our Learning Track program syllabus. These practical exams feature tasks derived from the syllabus, requiring hands-on application in a virtual lab environment to configure devices and software to achieve desired outcomes.

Academy Certification exams are aligned with our Learning Track content, and the following summarizes the topics covered in each. For a comprehensive list of exam topics, please consult the "Arista Academy Exam Data Sheets" PDF documents or other Arista Academy data sheets relevant to your Learning Track.

Exam Policies

Confidentiality Agreement

Arista certification exam materials, including but not limited to specific tasks, answers, and diagrams, are confidential and are the exclusive, proprietary property of Arista. These materials may not be copied, altered, reproduced, published, posted, transmitted, uploaded, or otherwise distributed in any form without prior explicit authorization from Arista. Before starting any Arista certification exam, candidates must acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agreed to comply with the Arista Exams policy. Failure to accept these terms will result in the immediate termination of the exam session and forfeiture of the full exam fee.

Code of Conduct

Achieving an Arista certification demonstrates not only technical skill but also a commitment to high professional and ethical standards. Arista's certification programs operate under established policies and procedures to ensure the impartiality, independence, and objectivity of all activities, and to address potential conflicts of interest. Candidates must not engage in any behavior that compromises the security, integrity, or confidentiality of an Arista certification exam or program, as detailed within this document. Failure to comply with these policies may lead to disciplinary measures, including permanent exclusion from all future Arista certification exams and the revocation of any previously attained certifications.

Exam Violations

Disclosure of exam content and any other form of misconduct is strictly forbidden. Should you suspect a violation or observe unusual activity, please report it immediately to Arista at training@arista.com. Arista reserves the right, to the maximum extent permissible by law, to deny access to certification exams, lab environments, or any associated services for any lawful reason.

Exam Restrictions

To ensure a fair and secure testing environment, the following are strictly prohibited during the exam, and enforced by the Honorlock system:

- Electronic personal "smart" devices (phones, watches, AR glasses, calculators, etc.)
- Headgear (hats, headphones or other head, facial or eye obscuring wear)
- Public areas (for taking the exam)
- Disruptive noise or visual activity (maintain a well lit and "quiet" environment)

Permitted Resources

- Open Book Policy
  - Candidates may use any available materials, including documentation, online resources, and personal notes, with the sole exception of collaboration with other individuals.

- Tools and Software
  - Use of any tools or software (CLI, AVD, CloudVision, Ansible, Python) is allowed, unless specifically restricted in a task.

Exam Grading

Exams are graded as either pass or fail and candidates receive an email with their result typically within 3 business days with the exception of the L7 Expert Exam, which may take 5 business days. Please be aware that U.S. holidays may cause further delays in receiving results.

Retaking Exams

For all exams except the L7 Expert Exam:

- A candidate who does not pass must wait 14 calendar days before attempting the same exam again. This waiting period begins the day after the unsuccessful attempt.

For the L7 Expert Exam:
Should a candidate fail the exam, the waiting period before a retake will be extended with each successive failed attempt:

- **First failed attempt:** 30-calendar-day waiting period.
- **Second failed attempt:** 60-calendar-day waiting period.
- **Third and subsequent failed attempts:** Six-calendar-month waiting period.

Note, the waiting period starts the day following the failed attempt.

Exam Retirement

When an exam is retired, it may be succeeded by a newer exam, and the retired exam will no longer be offered after its designated End of Life (EOL) date. Certifications earned by passing an exam prior to its EOL will remain valid beyond the exam's retirement and continue to be recognized until the applicable recertification date, as defined in the Arista Academy Recertification Policy.

No-Show

After activating an exam, candidates are allotted a three-hour window to begin the test. If the exam is not started within this timeframe, the session will be recorded as an exam attempt, scored as a failure, and the full exam fee will be forfeited. Any subsequent attempt must be scheduled in accordance with the applicable exam retake policy.

Mandatory Technical Requirements

Arista Academy ACE Exams and Labs run on a cloud platform. For unrestricted access to the exam/lab portal, documentation, virtual devices, and exam platforms, ensure your network allows all traininglabs.arista.com subdomains. Corporate users should check with IT to prevent firewall, proxy, or content filter interference, which can affect specialized protocols like WebSockets.

System Requirements

- ☐ Windows 10/11, MacOS 10.15+, or ChromeOS laptops and desktops
- ☐ Google Chrome browser, latest version
- ☐ Complete the Honorlock setup: Honorlock Student Tutorial
- ☐ Disable any browser extensions that might interfere with lab functionality
- ☐ Test browser compatibility: BrowserTest
- ☐ Functioning webcam and microphone (Honorlock requires full access to webcam & microphone)
- ☐ Dual monitors are **not supported** (other than an external mirrored display).

Network Connectivity

- ☐ Stable & unrestricted internet connectivity
- ☐ Test access to *.traininglabs.arista.com domains (complete & unrestricted access to all subdomains of traininglabs.arista.com)
- ☐ Confirm TCP port 22 is open for SSH connections (not blocked by firewall or other security method)
- ☐ Verify WebSocket connections are allowed: WebSocket Echo Test
- ☐ Test gRPC connectivity.
- ☐ Connect to a stable internet connection (wired connection recommended)
- ☐ Verify network speed: Speedtest

Firewall and Security

- ☐ Temporarily disabled or configure firewall to allow lab connections
- ☐ Verify your network allows secure WebSocket connections (wss://): Websockets Test

Environment Setup

- ☐ Clear browser cache and cookies
- ☐ Disable any VPN services that might interfere with connectivity (unless required)
- ☐ Close unnecessary applications to free up system resources
- ☐ Ensure your computer will not enter sleep mode during the lab/exam

Credentials and Access

- ☐ Valid government issued photo ID (e.g., driving license, passport, etc).
- ☐ Bookmark the lab portal URL for quick access

Potential Issues and Solutions

CVP Startup

CloudVision Portal (CVP) needs time to start up before your exam environment is ready; an on-screen notification will confirm when it is available. Should this startup period take longer than 30 minutes, please contact our technical support at exams@arista.com

Cannot access Studios or Dashboards within CVP

If CVP Studios/Dashboards are inaccessible, it's usually due to security blocking gRPC or WebSocket connections. Check firewalls, security devices, or browser extensions. You may need IT assistance to adjust settings or try a less restricted network or a different browser.

WebSSH not working

If WebSSH isn't working, check your security settings to ensure WebSocket traffic is allowed, as corporate firewalls often block it. Also, update your browser for full technology support. If issues continue, try clearing your browser cache and cookies, or use standard SSH instead.

Exam Process

1. Pay & Register for Exam

   To start the certification process, participants need to enroll in the desired exam. This is done by logging into their Academy portal and navigating to the exam section. Enrollment requires providing a primary professional and a backup email address for certification purposes.

   Payment for the exam is mandatory before it can be scheduled or activated, ensuring eligibility. However, payment is not required if the exam is already associated with the participant's portal profile, such as when it's included in a subscription package.

2. Exam Activation & Commencement

   Upon successful payment, the selected certification exam will appear within the candidate's dashboard in the Arista Academy, a central hub for all enrolled training and certification activities.

   After preparing for the exam, participants must watch several instructional videos about the exam process and acknowledge their understanding before activating the exam. Once activated, the exam must be started within a strict 30-minute time window. Failure to do so may result in the need for reactivation or rescheduling.

3. Accessing the Exam Topology

To start their exam, candidates click the "Click Here to Access Topology" button. This launches their dedicated exam environment, providing all tools and configurations needed for their practical assessment. Candidates should only click when ready, as this action grants access to the timed exam environment.

Important: The topology page **must not be closed** as that will end the exam.

4. Exam Integrity Management

The integrity of our examinations is maintained through the use of Honorlock proctoring. This comprehensive proctoring solution records student video, audio, desktop activity, and website traffic. Please adhere to the following requirements:

● **Webcam and Microphone Access:** Honorlock must be granted full access to the webcam and microphone installed on the system. These peripherals are vital for identity verification and continuous proctoring during the exam. A quiet, well lit room is also required for the proctoring system to function properly.

● **Screen Sharing:** Participants will be prompted to share their entire screen with the Honorlock extension. This allows proctors to monitor activity and ensure no unauthorized resources are being used.

● **Identity Verification:** Participants must present a valid, government-issued photo ID to their webcam for Honorlock to verify their identity. ID must be clear and legible on camera and the participant must abide by the exams restrictions.

● **Detection:** Arista Academy certification exams are proctored by Honorlock, using a mix of live proctors and AI. Proctoring involves browser lockdown, continuous video/audio recording, and detection of suspicious activity (e.g., unauthorized people or devices). Live proctors are available to observe AI-flagged events. All recordings are kept, and Arista instructors review flagged incidents post-exam to ensure integrity. Candidates must adhere to the exam restrictions at all times. Note that Honorlock's monitoring is strictly limited to the testing device and does not extend to home networks or data on other devices.

● **Privacy:** Arista and Honorlock secure all recordings and data with encryption and restricted access to authorized personnel. Systems are regularly audited for continuous security.

● **Breaks:** Restroom and other breaks are permitted; however, the exam timer continues to run if the participant leaves the exam for any reason. Upon returning, the participant will have to show their face to the camera for proper identification for the exam to resume.

● **Technical Support:** For Honorlock issues, contact the live proctor for immediate assistance. Honorlock also offers 24/7 chat support via their support page, within the tool, or at support@honorlock.com. For other exam support requirements, please contact exams@arista.com (note, responses may be delayed outside of standard hours of 8am to 5pm ET, Monday through Friday).

5. Exam Page

Once all Honorlock checks are complete, participants then proceed to the specific exam page within your testing portal.

Note: Honorlock proctoring starts automatically upon loading the exam topology page, minimizing to the background so participants can focus on the test while exam integrity is maintained.

6. Initiating the Exam:

Once CVP is loaded (as indicated by a pop-up), the user can begin the exam by clicking the "Start Exam" button.

7. Exam Countdown Commencement:

Once the "Start Exam" button is clicked, a countdown timer will begin, displaying the time remaining for the examination. Test-takers are advised to manage their time efficiently. Pop-up notifications will appear periodically to remind students of the time left.

8. Taking and Passing the Exam:

To achieve an exam pass, candidates must commit to completing all exam tasks to the best of their ability.

9. Exam Submission Procedures:

Candidates have the option to manually submit an exam once all tasks are finished, or the system will automatically submit it if the allotted time expires. To maintain fairness and consistency, Arista Academy certification exams have a defined time limit. Once this duration has elapsed, the virtual lab environment and participant's configurations will be automatically submitted for grading, ensuring all candidates have the same amount of time to complete the assessment.

10. Certification Badges

After successfully passing an Arista Academy ACE exam, you will receive an industry-recognized digital certification badge (typically active within 15 business days). This credential validates your Arista expertise and can be shared on professional networks and platforms to boost your credibility within the networking community.

Exam Support

Should an exam candidate encounter any issues during their exam, they should contact support at the following:

- Arista: **exams@arista.com**
- Honorlock: **support@honorlock.com**

Headquarters

5453 Great America Parkway
Santa Clara, California 95054
408-547-5500

Training

training@arista.com
www.training.arista.com

Sales

sales@arista.com
408-547-5501
866-497-0000

v1.3

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