

CORE CERTIFICATION EXAM PREP GUIDE

Everything you need to know to
prepare for and pass the exam.

START YOUR ANALYTICS SUPERHERO JOURNEY HERE



The world is full of dirty data and complex problems. Luckily, there are analytic superheroes like you who harness their Alteryx powers for good. Whether you're brand-new or a seasoned veteran, the Alteryx Certification program provides you with ways to continue learning and a place to prove your Alteryx analytic skills. The Core Certification is where the learning journey begins.

Unlike traditional certification programs that are focused on only measuring your knowledge, our program is designed to help you assess your strengths and weaknesses, close the gaps with meaningful learning, and apply what you've learned so you can use your **superpowers** to **solve the impossible**.

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THE PATH TO CERTIFICATION SUCCESS

1
Prepare
and
Study

2
Take
the
Exam

3
Never.
Stop.
Learning.

Prepare for the exam by reading this guide and taking the [Core Certification Prep Training](#). Once you know what's on the exam, complete the self-assessment to identify your strengths and weaknesses. Use the Core Curriculum to study for the exam and sharpen your skills. Take the practice exam at the end of this guide.

From the [Certification page](#) you can take the exam on-demand. The exam isn't just a test, it's also part of the learning journey. Our certifications are designed to be low-pressure so you can focus on learning, not just passing. If you don't pass on your first attempt, identify areas of difficulty and study up before taking the exam again.

Passing the exam isn't the end - it's just the beginning. Continue your certification journey by becoming Advanced certified, share your knowledge with others on the Alteryx Community, or join a User Group.

EXAM FORMAT

The Core exam is designed to help you prove and *improve* your skills: it's free, online, on-demand, and open-book.

The Alteryx Designer Core certification exam is intended to test your aptitude around the tools in Designer that are used most often and are fundamental in data preparation and analysis. The "core" toolset is the foundation for analysis in Alteryx Designer.

Audience: Everyone!

Experience level: Beginner to Intermediate

Price: Free

Exam type: Online, on-demand

Time Allotted: 2 hours

Passing Score: 80%

References: Open Book

Prerequisites: none

Questions: 80

Question Types: 73 multiple choice questions, 7 practical application questions

Point Values: 1 pt for multiple choice, 3 points for practical application. Partial credit is awarded and deducted for multiple-response questions ("Select all that apply").

Attempts: 1 attempt every 7 days

Version: The exam tests on the latest version of Designer.

EXAM OUTLINE

The Alteryx Designer Core exam measures a candidate's knowledge and skills related to the following objectives.

The candidate should be able to demonstrate their ability to do the following with all tools covered on the exam:

- Identify the functionality, strengths, and limitations of the tool
- Identify when the tool would be used to create a given output
- Configure the tool to create a given output
- Differentiate the functionality of similar tools

In /Out

- Tools: Browse, Input Data, Output Data, Text Input
- Identify how to efficiently connect to multiple data sources and write out multiple files
- Describe how Data Profiling provides insight into a data set

Join

- Tools: Append Fields, Find Replace, Join, Union
- Determine which tool will most efficiently blend a given set of data
- Identify the join tools that have an embedded Select
- Identify common errors that may occur when joining data

Preparation

- Tools: Data Cleansing, Filter, Formula, Sample, Select, Select Records, Sort, Unique
- Identify the expression that would transform a given input into a given output
- Determine valid string and numeric formulas and expressions
- Differentiate ascending and descending sorting order





Transform

- Tools: Count Records, Cross Tab, Summarize, Transpose
- Determine valid Summarize functions
- Differentiate how Summarize and Count Records process values
- Differentiate how Cross Tab and Transpose transform data



Parse

- Tools: DateTime, Text to Columns
- Match delimiters to their descriptions
- Determine the output when given an input data set and a configured Text to Columns or DateTime tool



General

- Tools: Comment, Tool Container
- Recognize common UI elements and workflow settings, including: workflow dependencies, workflow constants, workflow optimization, keyboard shortcuts, and Alteryx file types.
- Determine the appropriate data type for a field and differentiate data types.
- Identify how to add documentation and annotations to workflows.

Practical Application

- Questions in the practical application section gauge your ability to use the above tools to solve questions.
- All questions in this category are worth 3 points.
- Practical application questions require you to connect to a provided data set in Alteryx Designer to solve the problem.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Use this sheet to assess your strengths and weaknesses and visualize your progress in your learning journey. Each 'tick box' is worth one point. Use the chart on the following page to plot your knowledge. For example, if you are competent in the "Browse" tool, select the first two boxes and award yourself 2 points.



Browse
Tool Difficulty: 1/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Text Input
Tool Difficulty: 2/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Input Data
Tool Difficulty: 5/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Output Data
Tool Difficulty: 5/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Select
Tool Difficulty: 2/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Select Records
Tool Difficulty: 2/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Formula
Tool Difficulty: 7/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Filter
Tool Difficulty: 5/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Sample
Tool Difficulty: 3/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Unique
Tool Difficulty: 3/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Sort
Tool Difficulty: 1/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Data Cleansing
Tool Difficulty: 1/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Text to Columns
Tool Difficulty: 4/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



DateTime
Tool Difficulty: 4/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Union
Tool Difficulty: 3/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Join
Tool Difficulty: 2/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Append Fields
Tool Difficulty: 5/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Find Replace
Tool Difficulty: 5/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Transpose
Tool Difficulty: 7/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Cross Tab
Tool Difficulty: 7/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Count Records
Tool Difficulty: 2/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Summarize
Tool Difficulty: 6/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient



Tool Container
Tool Difficulty: 1/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient

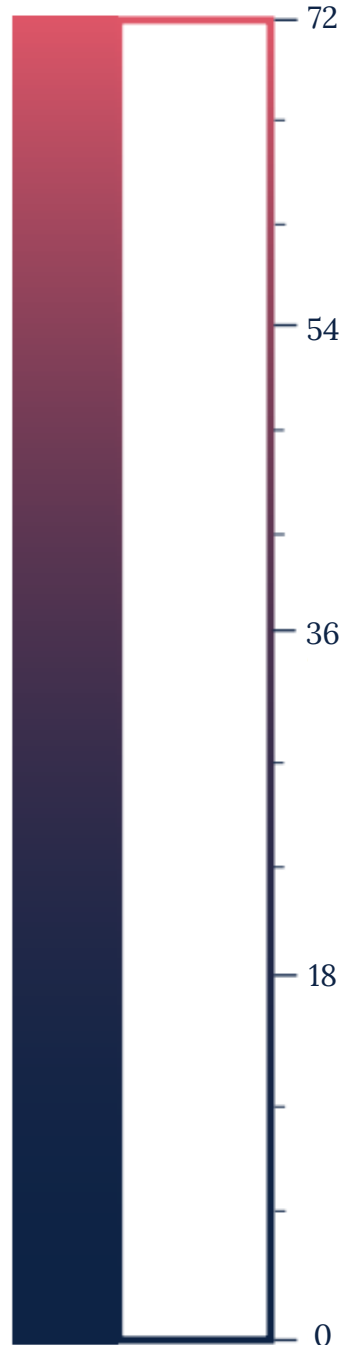


Comment
Tool Difficulty: 2/10
 Novice
 Competent
 Proficient

When assessing your skill level with each tool, remember that you'll need to be able to do the following on the exam:

- 1) Identify the functionality, strengths, and limitations of the tool
- 2) Identify when the tool would be used to create a given output
- 3) Configure the tool to create a given output
- 4) Differentiate the functionality of similar tools

From the previous page, fill the thermometer with your score (1 point for every box) to display your level of tool knowledge. Use your score and the certification preparedness key to gauge your readiness for the exam. If your score is less than 60, use the Core Curriculum on the next page to study for the exam and sharpen your skills.



Certification Preparedness Key:

- 1-18: Just Getting Started
- 19-36: Core Recruit
- 36-50: Core Apprentice
- 51-60: Core Sidekick
- 61-72: Core Superhero

CURRICULUM



The Alteryx Academy provides several modalities for learning, including interactive lessons, live training, and weekly challenges.

Use the results from your self-assessment to guide your study efforts. If you're a beginner, complete the curriculum sequentially to learn the knowledge and skills needed to become Core Certified. Make sure you're logged into the [Alteryx Community](#) to access all training.

Connect to, View, and Write Data

Interactive Lessons:

- [Connecting to Files](#)
- [Connecting to Multiple Sheets at Once](#)
- [Adding Data to Your Workflow](#)
- [Writing Data](#)
- [Viewing Your Data](#)

Documents:

- [Browse Tool](#)
- [The Ultimate Input Data Flowchart](#)

Blend Data

Interactive Lessons:

- [Blending Data with Joins](#)
- [Blending Data with Unions](#)
- [VLookUps with Designer](#)

Documents:

- [Append Fields](#)
- [Join Tool](#)

Format and Cleanse Data

Interactive Lesson:

- [Formatting Column Names and Layout](#)

Document:

- [Data Cleansing](#)

Sort and Sample Data

Interactive Lesson:

- [Sorting Data](#)
- [Sampling Data](#)

Filter Data

Interactive Lessons:

- [Removing Rows from Your Data](#)
- [Removing Duplicate Values](#)

Pivot and Summarize Data

Interactive Lessons:

- [Creating Pivots and Totals](#)

Documents:

- [Summarize Tool](#)
- [Summary Processes](#)
- [Count Records](#)

Parse Data

Interactive Lesson:

- [Separating Data into Columns and Rows](#)

Document:

- [DateTime Tool](#)

Formulas & Expressions

Interactive Lessons:

- [Diving into Expressions](#)
- [Conditional Statements](#)
- [Preparing Data with String Functions](#)
- [Using Numeric Functions](#)
- [Functions](#)

Documents:

- [Adding Comments to Expressions](#)

User Interface & Workflow Configuration

Interactive Lesson:

- [Understanding Data Types](#)

Documents:

- [Workflows and Constants](#)
- [Shortcuts and File Types](#)
- [Tool Container and Comment](#)

Practical Application

Weekly Challenges:

- [Data Blending for Batch Output](#)
- [Preparing Delimited Data](#)
- [Data Preparation Using Pivot Tables](#)
- [Data Cleansing Practice](#)

Exam Preparation

Training Videos:

- [Core Certification Prep Part 1](#)
- [Core Certification Prep Part 2](#)
- [Core Certification Prep Part 3](#)
- [Core Certification Prep Part 4](#)

Additional Resources

Read about each tool's functionality and configuration in the [Help Documentation](#) and [Tool Mastery](#) series. See each tool in action in Designer with One Tool Examples: go to the Help Menu > Sample Workflows > Learn One Tool at a Time. Quiz your tool knowledge with [Alteryx Tool Flashcards](#).

A photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in shades of green and blue, illuminating a dark night sky filled with stars. Below the sky, a dark silhouette of a person stands on a rocky shore, looking out over a calm body of water. The overall mood is serene and awe-inspiring.

PRACTICE

EXAM

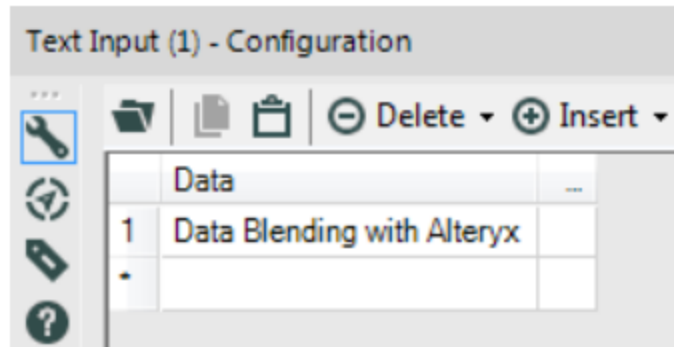
Get a feel for the questions on the exam
and test out your analytic superpowers.

QUESTION #1

Consider the following workflow (assume no leading or trailing spaces):



The Text Input tool is configured as follows:



The Formula Tool contains the expression: `FindString([Data], "B")`

What is the result of the formula? (1 pt)

- A) 5
- B) 4
- C) 6
- D) 7

QUESTION

#2

Which tool would be used to create the following output? (1pt)

ID	Column A	Column B
1	Bruno	Nelson
2	Tara	Mathias
3	Maxine	Cameron

ID	Column A	Column B
4	Maxine	Nathaly
5	Bruno	Maxine
6	Mathias	Hilary



A	B	A1	B1
Bruno	Nelson	Bruno	Maxine
Maxine	Cameron	Maxine	Nathaly

- A) Formula
- B) Union
- C) Join
- D) Append Fields

QUESTION

#3

Practical Application Question (3 points)

The data set [SchoolStore_Sales](#) contains the monthly sales numbers for different categories of products. What are the total sales for the Education category?

A. 4856095

B. 4967908

C. 10782606

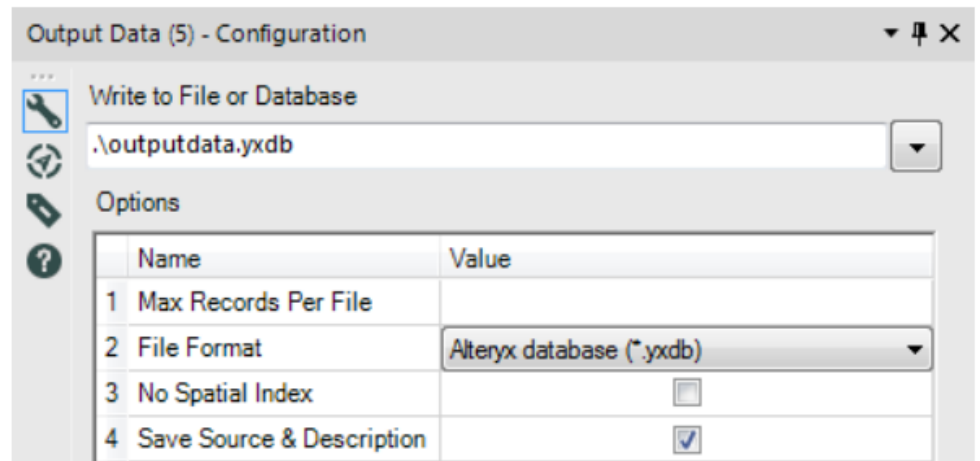
D. 958603

E. 1034592

QUESTION

#4

Where will the outputdata.yxdb file be saved? (1 pt)



- A) You will receive an error. ‘.\’ is not recognized by the output tool
- B) On the machine’s desktop
- C) In the parent folder of the folder where the workflow is saved
- D) In the same folder where the workflow is saved

QUESTION #5

Match the file extension with the Alteryx file type: (1 pt)

File Types:	File Extensions:
Alteryx Workflow	.yxft
Alteryx Analytic App	.yxwz
Alteryx Macro	.yxdb
Alteryx Field Types	.yxmd
Alteryx Database	.yxzp
Alteryx Packaged Workflow	.yxmc

Note: In the examination, matching will be done with drop-downs in the right-side table.

ANSWER KEY

Question 1) A.

This question is testing two concepts – 1) formula knowledge and 2) familiarity with zero-based strings expressions. The FindString() function searched for a specified bit of text and returns the beginning position from where the text was found. In this case, we were looking for what position “B” was at in the string “Data Blending with Alteryx”. When counting the characters we see that it is the 6th character in the string. But hold up! Alteryx functions start the count of characters at zero. While you count the “D” as 1, Alteryx starts at 0. Knowing this, we realize that “B” is really the 5th character. Therefore, the answer is 5 (A).

Question 2) C.

This question tests your ability to differentiate the functionality of 3 tools in the Join palette. You can see in the output that the two data sets have been joined, which allows you to eliminate option A. The Union tool joins data by stacking records, so option B can be eliminated. The Append Fields tool joins records from the source input to every record in the target input. In this case, the output data set would have 9 records, so it's safe to eliminate option D. The Join tool would blend the two input data sets to create the output data by joining on Column A.

Question 3) D.

This question is worth 3 points, so you'll want to spend more time on this question than the others. There are many different workflow configurations that can get this answer. Your workflow does not need to match the workflow below.

First, the data is filtered to remove products that are not in the Educational category. Then, the data is transposed to get all of the sales figures in one column. The data type of the sales figures column is made a numeric data type so that calculations can be done. Lastly, the sales figures are summed using a Summarize tool.



Question 4) D.

This question tests knowledge of relative paths. If you are unfamiliar with the concept (you are not alone!), go into the Designer and simulate the situation. After running your workflow, you'll see that the output is placed in the same folder as the workflow!

Question 5

File Types and Extensions:

Alteryx Workflow - .yxmd

Alteryx Analytic App - .yxwz

Alteryx Macro - .yxmc

Alteryx Field Types - .yxft

Alteryx Database - .yxdb

Alteryx Packaged Workflow - .yxzp