

DevOps Certification Study Plan 2026

Tobias Weiss | tobias-weiss.org | [Graphwiz.AI](https://graphwiz.ai)

2026-07-25

? DevOps Certification Study Plan 2026

12-Week Accelerated Path to DevOps Certifications

By Tobias Weiss / tobias-weiss.org | @tobiasweiss_ai

? About This Study Plan

This **12-week study plan** is designed to help you pass DevOps certifications efficiently. It focuses on the **LPI DevOps Tools Engineer (701-100)** certification but also provides a roadmap for CKAD, CKA, and Terraform Associate.

What's Inside: ? Weekly study goals and objectives

? Daily study time recommendations

? Practice exam targets for each week

? Resource recommendations

? Exam registration tips

Prerequisites:

- Basic Linux command-line familiarity
 - 5-10 hours per week available for study
 - Access to a computer for hands-on practice
 - Motivation to complete the plan
-

? Certification Overview

Certification	Focus	Exam Length	Cost	Our Study Time
LPI DevOps Tools Engineer (701-100)	Full DevOps toolchain	60 MC, 90 min	~\$200	8-10 weeks
CKAD	Kubernetes application dev	19 tasks, 2 hours	\$395	6-8 weeks
CKA	Kubernetes admin	17 tasks, 2 hours	\$395	8-10 weeks
Terraform Associate	Terraform/IaC	57 MC, 60 min	\$70	2-4 weeks

Recommended Order for Maximum Efficiency:

1. **LPI DevOps Tools Engineer** (broad foundation, weeks 1-8)

2. **Terraform Associate** (quick win, weeks 8-10)
3. **CKAD or CKA** (deep Kubernetes, weeks 9-12+)

? 12-Week Study Calendar

Week 1: Foundations & Software Development (10% weight)

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Introduction	Read exam objectives, understand the DevOps toolchain	30 min
Tue	Git Basics	Git init, commit, branch, merge, rebase	60 min
Wed	Git Workflows	GitHub Flow, Git Flow, code review practices	45 min
Thu	Version Control	Tagging, release management, CHANGELOG	45 min
Fri	Practice	Hands-on: Create a repo, branch, PR, merge	60 min
Sat	Review	Command-line Git practice, branch management	45 min
Sun	Rest	-	-

? **Weekly Target:** Be comfortable with all core Git operations

Week 2: Container Management - Docker (20% weight)

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Docker Basics	Images, containers, docker run, pull, push	60 min
Tue	Dockerfile	Write Dockerfiles, multi-stage builds	60 min
Wed	Docker Compose	Multi-service applications, volumes, networks	60 min
Thu	Registries	Docker Hub, private registries, image tagging	45 min
Fri	Practice	Deploy a multi-service app using Docker Compose	90 min
Sat	Container Security	Image scanning, non-root users, minimal images	45 min
Sun	Practice Exam	Take first DevOps TLCE practice exam	45 min

? **Weekly Target:** Can containerize an application and deploy with Docker Compose

Week 3: Container Management - Advanced

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Podman	Understanding Podman as an alternative	30 min
Tue	Container Networking	Bridge, host, overlay networks, DNS	45 min
Wed	Container Storage	Volumes, bind mounts, tmpfs, drivers	45 min
Thu	Resource Limits	CPU/memory limits, cgroups, OOM handling	45 min
Fri	Practice	Deploy a production-like Docker Compose stack	90 min
Sat	Review	Weak areas from practice exam	45 min
Sun	Rest	-	-

Week 4: CI/CD (25% weight)

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	CI/CD Basics	Pipelines, stages, jobs, artifacts	45 min
Tue	GitHub Actions	Write workflow files, triggers, actions	60 min

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Wed	GitLab CI	.gitlab-ci.yml, runners, caching	60 min
Thu	Deployment Strategies	Blue-green, canary, rolling, feature flags	45 min
Fri	GitOps	ArgoCD, Flux, declarative deployments	60 min
Sat	Practice	Build a full CI/CD pipeline for a web app	90 min
Sun	Practice Exam	Take second DevOps TLCE practice exam	45 min

? **Weekly Target:** Can build a CI/CD pipeline from scratch

Week 5: CI/CD - Advanced & Artifact Management

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Artifact Management	Package registries, container registries	45 min
Tue	Pipeline Security	Secrets, SAST, DAST, dependency scanning	45 min
Wed	Testing in CI	Unit tests, integration tests, E2E tests	45 min
Thu	Pipeline Optimization	Caching, parallel jobs, caching strategies	45 min
Fri	Practice	Implement a secure, optimized pipeline	90 min
Sat	Review	Weak areas from practice exam	45 min
Sun	Rest	-	-

Week 6: Infrastructure as Code (15% weight)

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	IaC Basics	Terraform vs Ansible vs CloudFormation	45 min
Tue	Terraform Intro	HCL syntax, providers, resources, variables	60 min
Wed	Terraform State	State management, backends, remote state	45 min
Thu	Terraform Modules	Creating and using modules	45 min
Fri	Ansible Intro	Playbooks, inventory, roles, modules	60 min
Sat	Practice	Provision a server with Terraform and configure with Ansible	90 min
Sun	Practice Exam	Take third DevOps TLCE practice exam	45 min

? **Weekly Target:** Can provision infrastructure with Terraform and configure with Ansible

Week 7: IaC - Advanced

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Configuration Drift	Idempotency, desired state, drift detection	45 min
Tue	OpenTofu	Difference from Terraform, migration	30 min
Wed	Ansible Advanced	Templates, variables, facts, vault	45 min
Thu	Secret Management	HashiCorp Vault, SOPS, Sealed Secrets	45 min
Fri	Practice	Deploy a complete stack with IaC	90 min
Sat	Review	Weak areas from practice exam	45 min
Sun	Rest	-	-

Week 8: Monitoring & Observability (15% weight)

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Monitoring Basics	Metrics, logs, traces, USE method, RED method	45 min
Tue	Prometheus	Metrics types, scrape config, queries (PromQL)	60 min
Wed	Grafana	Dashboards, data sources, alerts	45 min
Thu	Log Aggregation	Loki, structured logging, log levels	45 min
Fri	SLIs, SLOs, Error Budgets	Defining and measuring reliability	45 min
Sat	Practice	Set up monitoring for a multi-service app	90 min
Sun	Practice Exam	Take full DevOps TLCE practice exam	90 min

? **Weekly Target:** Can set up comprehensive monitoring for a production application

Week 9: Security (15% weight)

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Security Basics	CIA triad, threat modeling, least privilege	45 min
Tue	Secrets Management	Vault, environment variables, encrypted configs	45 min
Wed	Image Security	Scanning, signing, minimal base images	45 min
Thu	Supply Chain Security	SBOM, dependency management, SLSA	45 min
Fri	SAST/DAST	Static analysis, dynamic analysis, tools	45 min
Sat	Practice	Implement security scanning in a CI pipeline	60 min
Sun	Rest	-	-

? **Weekly Target:** Understand security best practices for DevOps toolchain

Week 10: Practice & Review

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Domain 1 Review	Software Development (10%)	30 min
Tue	Domain 2 Review	Container Management (20%)	45 min
Wed	Domain 3 Review	CI/CD (25%)	45 min
Thu	Domain 4 Review	Infrastructure as Code (15%)	30 min
Fri	Domain 5-6 Review	Monitoring + Security (30%)	45 min
Sat	Full Practice Exam	Timed practice exam (90 min)	90 min
Sun	Analysis	Review incorrect answers, focus on weak areas	45 min

? **Weekly Target:** Score 700+ on practice exam

Week 11: Intensive Practice

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Practice Day	Hands-on: Docker Compose, Terraform, CI/CD	60 min
Tue	Practice Exam	Timed exam (90 min)	90 min
Wed	Weak Area Focus	Target specific domains needing improvement	60 min
Thu	Practice Day	Hands-on: Monitoring, security scanning	60 min
Fri	Practice Exam	Timed exam (90 min)	90 min
Sat	Final Review	Quick scan of all domains	45 min
Sun	Rest	Prepare for exam day	-

? **Weekly Target:** Score 750+ on practice exam consistently

Week 12: Exam Week

Day	Topic	Activities	Duration
Mon	Light Review	Quick scan of key concepts and commands	30 min
Tue	Environment Check	Test system for remote proctoring	30 min
Wed	EXAM DAY	Take LPI DevOps Tools Engineer (701-100)	90 min
Thu	Celebrate!	You've earned it	-
Fri	Plan Next Steps	Terraform Associate, CKAD, or next cert	30 min
Sat	Review Exam	Areas to improve, knowledge gaps	30 min
Sun	Rest & Recharge	-	-

? **Final Target:** PASS the LPI DevOps Tools Engineer certification!

? Additional Certification Paths

Terraform Associate (After Week 10)

Topic	Study Time	Resources
Terraform syntax (HCL)	1 week	HashiCorp Learn
State management	1 week	Terraform Cheatsheet
Modules and workspaces	1 week	Terraform documentation
Practice exams	1 week	LPI Practice Subscription

Total: 4 weeks, \$70 exam fee

CKAD (After DevOps TLCE)

Topic	Study Time	Resources
Pod design and configuration	2 weeks	CKAD curriculum
Services and networking	1 week	Kubernetes docs
Storage and persistence	1 week	Kubernetes docs
Troubleshooting	1 week	Hands-on labs
Practice	2 weeks	Killer Shell, CKAD practice tests

Total: 6-8 weeks, \$395 exam fee

? Study Tips

Before the Exam

1. **Read the exam objectives** thoroughly
2. **Create a study schedule** and stick to it
3. **Practice hands-on** - theory alone won't cut it
4. **Use multiple resources** - don't rely on a single source
5. **Take practice exams** early and often
6. **Identify weak areas** and focus on them
7. **Join study groups** or forums for support

8. **Explain concepts** to someone else (rubber duck debugging)
9. **Take breaks** and avoid burnout
10. **Simulate exam conditions** for final practice attempts

During the Exam

1. **Read questions carefully** - watch for “NOT” and “EXCEPT”
2. **Eliminate wrong answers** first for MC
3. **Time management** - don't spend too long on any single question
4. **Mark difficult questions** for review
5. **Check all your answers** before submitting
6. **Stay calm** - you've prepared for this

After the Exam

1. **Review any incorrect questions** (if exam provides feedback)
2. **Identify knowledge gaps** for continuous learning
3. **Update your resume** and LinkedIn
4. **Plan next certification** if desired
5. **Share your experience** with the community

? Key Tools to Practice

Must-Have Tools

Tool	Purpose	Install Command
Docker	Container management	<code>sudo apt install docker.io</code>
Docker Compose	Multi-service apps	<code>sudo apt install docker-compose-v2</code>
Git	Version control	<code>sudo apt install git</code>
kubect1	Kubernetes CLI	<code>snap install kubect1 --classic</code>
k3s	Lightweight K8s	<code>curl -sfL https://get.k3s.io</code> <code>sh -</code>
Helm	K8s package manager	<code>snap install helm --classic</code>
Terraform	IaC	<code>snap install terraform --classic</code>
Ansible	Configuration mgmt	<code>sudo apt install ansible</code>

Recommended Practice Environment

- **Local:** Docker Desktop / Docker Engine on Linux VM
- **Cloud:** [Play-with-k8s](#) (free)
- **Killercoda:** Free K8s playground
- **K8s:** [k3s](#) on a VM (2GB RAM minimum)

? Recommended Resources

Free Resources

Resource	Type	Link
DevOps TLCE Exam Guide	Guide	Read ->
Zero to DevOps Career Path	Learning Path	Read ->
LPIC-1 Free Practice Questions	Practice	Try ->

Resource	Type	Link
Kubernetes Documentation	Docs	kubernetes.io/docs
Terraform Learn	Tutorials	learn.hashicorp.com
Docker Documentation	Docs	docs.docker.com

Paid Resources

Resource	What You Get	Price
LPI Practice Subscription	Unlimited practice exams for ALL LPI certs	EUR9.99/month
DevOps Cheatsheets Bundle	23 cheatsheets for DevOps tools	PWYW from EUR2.99
? LPI + DevOps Bundle -> Save 15%	Practice subscription + Cheatsheets	EUR11.99/month

? Progress Tracking

Use this table to track your practice exam progress:

Attempt	Date	Score (%)	Domain Weaknesses	Notes
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Target: 700+ before scheduling the real exam

? Exam Registration

LPI DevOps Tools Engineer

1. Create account at: **LPI.org**
2. Purchase exam voucher (~\$200 USD)
3. Schedule exam via Pearson VUE
4. Choose: In-person testing center or online proctoring
5. Check system requirements for online proctoring
6. Have photo ID ready
7. Test environment setup

Pro Tip: Schedule the exam 2-3 weeks in advance to commit your schedule

? Final Motivation

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.” - Steve Jobs

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” - Winston Churchill

“The best time to start was yesterday. The next best time is now.”

? Quick Links

- [DevOps Certifications Guide ->](#)
 - [LPI DevOps Tools Engineer Exam Guide ->](#)
 - [Zero to DevOps Career Path ->](#)
 - [Linux, DevOps, and AI ->](#)
 - [The Open-Source Infrastructure Stack ->](#)
-

? Resources Needed for Study

Resource	Price	Use Case
LPI Practice Subscription	EUR9.99/month	Unlimited practice exams
DevOps Cheatsheets Bundle	PWYW from EUR2.99	Quick reference for exams
Complete DevOps Bundle	EUR39.99	Production stacks for hands-on practice

Start studying today. Your future DevOps engineer self will thank you.

(C) 2026 Tobias Weiss / tobias-weiss.org | All rights reserved

This study plan is provided as-is. No warranties express or implied. Certification requirements and exam prices may change over time. Last updated: July 2026.

tobias-weiss.org

DevOps Engineering & Linux Certification

More Resources

- tobias-weiss.org Articles, guides, and free resources
 - courses.graphwiz.ai LPI practice exams & study tools
 - graphwiz.ai AI infrastructure & knowledge graphs
 - ki-kompetenz-training.de EU Act compliant AI literacy training
-

© 2025 Tobias Weiss. All rights reserved.

This document is provided as-is. No warranties express or implied.

Generated: <https://tobias-weiss.org>