Certification from SWIFT
The ultimate validation of skills

– How do you demonstrate to prospective employers that you are a true SWIFT Expert?

– How do you really know the SWIFT knowledge of candidates?

– Want to get ahead in your career?

Topic	SWIFT Certified Expert - Alliance Access Administrator
Aim	Individuals who pass this certification exam have a deep knowledge of the administration of Alliance Access 7.2.
Content	Upgrades and Updates
	Security Functions
	Gateway connectivity
	Message partners
	Routing
	Message searching and Reporting
	Archive and Backup
	Scheduling and Calender
	System Parameter and Event log
	Monitoring
Target Audience	Individuals who are an Alliance Access Administrators or Alliance Security Officers in a Financial Institution
Career Path Possible next steps for certificate holders includes:	SWIFT Operational Manager
Recommended Study SWIFTSmart Curricula's:	Deploy and Manage Solutions – Alliance Access Administrator – Associate
	Deploy and Manage Solutions – Alliance Access Administrator – Professional
	Deploy and Manage Solutions – Alliance Access Administrator – Expert
Experience	At least six months of recent experience in a Alliance support role
Exam Method	A variety of multiple choice questions and situational scenarios
	Proctored exam - onsite as part of tailored training event
Fee	Certification fee + Proctoring fee
Validity	Two years

As SWIFT certification is based on transparency, exam criteria is detailed below to help ensure you are fully prepared.

Exam questions may additionally test your ability to apply knowledge and theory to relevant situational scenarios.

In order to successfully pass the exam you need to be able to:

General Knowledge of Alliance Access

List the supported Operating systems for Alliance Access

List the Operating systems and browsers that are qualified for the client machine

Describe the Alliance Access GUI applications and their function

Arrange the various SWIFT components in a logical application diagram

Label the SWIFT components according to their Business data storage function

Identify the service, application and components needed to setup connections making use of FIN, InterAct, or FileAct protocols

List the benefits of Alliance Access in terms of automation and easy integration

Identify the enhancements/changes in Alliance Access 7.2 compared with previous versions

Upgrades and Updates

Select the normal actions that you must perform before installing an update

Indicate where you can find an overview of the upgrade and installation path for Alliance Access software

Indicate what the Message syntax Table contains

Explain the steps to install a new Message Syntax Table

List which other component of the SWIFT software stack, must usually be updated when there is an Alliance Access upgrade

List important steps related to the yearly 'Standards MT' change

Explain why "MX Message Standards deployment package" must be installed, when your institution uses an MX message SWIFTNet service (like SWIFTNet funds)

Describe the contents of the Alliance Bank file (sometimes referred to as the BIC file)

Explain the difference between an Alliance Bank file FULL and an Alliance Bank file DELTA

Recall where to download the Alliance Bank file

Select the 2 options you have to get the Alliance Bank Files (FULL or DELTA)

Select the 3 options (modes) you have to upload the Alliance Bank File into Alliance Access

Explain what an Application Service Profile contains

Recall where to download the Application Service Profile package

List the 2 most important contents of the Application Service Profile package

Security

List the factors of an Alliance Access License that influence the Initialisation & Master Passwords on the license

List at least one use of an Initialisation password (on an SAA license)

List at least one use of a Master password (on an SAA license)

Explain what an Operator Profile defines

Identify what entitlement or permission, left and right security officers (LSO and RSO) cannot assign to other operators

Identify who can add an operator profile

Explain the usage of permissions in an operator profile, specifically when it is expressed in the list values that are 'Prohibited' or 'Allowed'

List the two predefined operators that come with every Alliance Access installation

Explain how an operator is defined

List the steps to create a new operator and enable the new user to use it

Explain at least two characteristics of the Authentication Type: 'Password and TOTP'

List the characteristics of the Authentication Type: Password

Explain the characteristics of the Authentication Type: RADIUS one time password

List at least two characteristics of the Authentication Type: LDAP

List at least two characteristics of 'a UNIT' in Alliance Access

Identify who can see/change Security Parameters

List the security parameters that define the user password policy

Explain on which configuration the normal user or admin user password policy depends

Explain the purpose of the 'Security Best Practice Check Tool'

Explain the purpose of the new security parameter 'System – 4 eyes mechanism'

Identify the operators the 'Password Blacklist' applies

Gateway Connectivity

Identify the default port number that Alliance Gateway listens on for incoming connections

Explain what the SSL setting (in Gateway connection details); Data Encryption/Host Authentication means

Describe the resulting security features of implementing LAU between Alliance Access and Alliance Gateway

Describe a FIN Logical Terminal

Explain the auto-reconnect option for FIN Logical Terminals

Explain the FIN window size

Describe what additional information you need to provide for a Test & Training Logical Terminal. (for example BANKHKH0A)

Explain the benefit of defining multiple Alliance Gateway Connections and adding them to a FIN Logical Terminal

Explain what is needed to exchange InterAct and FileAct messages through SWIFTNet

List what is defined in an Emission Profile

List what service parameters are provided by the Emission Profile

List what is defined in a 'Store and Forward' Reception Profile

List the features that are provided by using input channels and input sequence numbers (ISN)

Explain the purpose of an output session

Message Partners

Define at least one use of Message Partners in Alliance Access

Describe the connection method used in a message partner profile

Describe the connection method File transfer

Explain what is needed to exchange FileAct messages using the File transfer connection method

Describe the connection method Interactive

Describe the Print connection method

Describe the WebSphere MQ connection method

Describe the connection method SOAP

Describe the connection method Direct FileAct

Label components: Input and output MP diagram

Explain the concepts of 'FROM' and 'TO' Message Partner

Define an 'Exit point'

Explain manual and automatic session initiation

Explain the input attachment path entry

Explain the usage of LAU in an Input MP

Explain where messages go when the routing reception parameter has been set to 'Route'

Explain where messages go when the routing reception parameter has been set to 'Dispose'

Describe how to define printers for use with a Print Message Partner

Indicate what happens if we manually start an input MP session

Indicate what happens if we manually Run an MP session

Explain output session triggers: 'Number of messages' and 'Or at (hh:mm)'

Explain the purpose of Direct Fileact

Explain the relation between Directory - Direct Fileact MP - a set of fileact settings (Requestor DN, Responder DN, Service and Request Type) - Correspondent

Compare the functionality of sending FileAct messages, using Direct FileAct to File Transfer

Routing

Label message flow within Alliance Access correctly

Explain the concept of a queue in Alliance Access

List the elements that make up a routing point

Define an Exit point

Explain the purpose of an ADK queue

Explain in which queue you need to setup routing rules to route Ack and Nack messages back to a back-office application for reconciliation

Explain what instance type in your routing action you need to select when you need to print out a hard-copy of a message before sending it out to SWIFT

Describe the purpose of a routing schema

List at least three elements of a routing rule

Explain how you can use a Routing Keyword

Describe IPLA

Message Searching and Reporting

Explain where you would go to find the messages (MT, MX or file) send and received

Explain at least one use of a message search criteria template

List the Wildcards that you can use when using Message Search criteria

Explain how to find FileAct messages using Message Search

Explain how to create a report using message search

Describe on which source file you can perform a search

Describe the result when you do not fill in any message search criteria

Explain the difference between LIVE and COMPLETED messages

Describe how to see the message details of a message

Explain where you would be able to see all the message interventions of a particular message and all its associated instances. (e.g. created, routed, sent to SWIFT, received from SWIFT, sent to a printer, etc.)

Explain what 'Display expanded text' does in the Test tab of the message details

List the kinds of reports you can get from Message Management

List the formats in which a report can be generated

List the operations that can be performed on a message instance

Archive and Backup

List the three stages of maintenance

Describe the Normal Archival process

Explain why you must archive regularly in relation to message/event backups

Explain why it is important to have all message instances of a day completed (in relation to archiving)

Describe the easiest way to complete 'all' message instances

List the where different backup 'tools' available through Alliance Webplatform (Access configuration) can be found

Explain what an Alliance Access database backup contains

Indicate if it is possible to use command line tools to create backups of the Alliance Access Database and message/event archives

Explain why it is important to backup and remove Event and Message archives in relation to disk space

Explain why it is important to have message and event archive backups on an external storage

List the options you have to start a restore of a message/event archive backup

List the options you have to start a restore of a database backup

Explain the difference between a partial database restore and a full database restore

List the database Restore Sets you can choose from

Name the license option that allows you to recover the database content to its last committed state before an incident leading to a media failure occurred

List the main database recovery functions

Explain which command line tool is used to activate database recovery or to perform a recovery

Scheduling and Calendar

Name what needs to be defined before any process can be scheduled to occur automatically

List the processes that can be scheduled to occur automatically

System Parameters and Event Log

List at least three tasks that can be completed using System Parameters

Explain the purpose of a System Check

Explain a Software Integrity Check

Explain at least one use of the FLIC tool (File Level Integrity Checker)

Explain what the result is from failing integrity check during: server startup, Component startup, at run time

Describe the Database Integrity Check

Describe the Controlled Stop check box in the Scheduled Action Details popup of the Restart/Stop scheduling

Explain which Components need to be stopped when changing gateway details of an LT and an Emission profile

Describe where you can find a description of the alarms that Alliance Access sends to an SNMP manager

Explain the purpose of an alarm distribution list

Explain to what kind of application Alliance Access can send alarms

Explain the options (All, Specific, None) of the Operators in the Distribution List details

Recall which configuration parameter indicates which message structure of events to send to the local system log

Describe an Alarm in Alliance Access

Monitoring

Describe Alliance Access Monitoring

Explain what allows operators to easily focus on the situations which require their attention

Explain what the Monitoring Scope definition allows you to do

List what constitutes as an exceptional state