

# MongoDB Associate Developer Study Guide

## MongoDB Associate Developer Exam (Node.js)

The essential NoSQL credential for MERN stack developers. This guide covers all exam domains, study strategies, costs, and resources — aligned with Code College's Full-Stack bootcamp curriculum.

**53**

Questions

**75 Min**

Duration

**Online**

Proctored

**MongoDB**

Issuer

### WHAT IS THIS EXAM?

## Certification Overview

The MongoDB Associate Developer Exam (Node.js track) validates your ability to build applications using MongoDB in a Node.js environment. It tests CRUD operations, aggregation pipelines, indexing strategies, data modelling, and transactions — the exact skills applied in Code College's MERN stack bootcamp.

**Track:** Node.js (JavaScript)    **Format:** Multiple Choice    **Questions:** 53    **Time:** 75 minutes    **Delivery:** Online, remotely proctored

**Issuer:** MongoDB Inc.

## EXAM DOMAINS

# What You'll Be Tested On

## MongoDB Overview & CRUD Operations (17%)

- › Documents, collections, and the document model
- › insertOne, insertMany, findOne, find
- › updateOne, updateMany, replaceOne, deleteOne, deleteMany
- › Query operators: \$eq, \$gt, \$lt, \$in, \$and, \$or, \$not
- › Projection and cursor methods: sort, limit, skip

## Indexes (17%)

- › Single-field and compound indexes
- › Multikey indexes for arrays
- › Text indexes and \$text queries
- › Explain plans and index utilisation
- › When to index and index overhead trade-offs

## Aggregation Framework (17%)

- › Aggregation pipeline stages: \$match, \$group, \$project, \$sort, \$limit
- › \$lookup for joining collections
- › \$unwind for array deconstruction
- › Accumulator operators: \$sum, \$avg, \$min, \$max, \$count
- › \$addFields, \$replaceRoot, \$facet

## Data Modelling (17%)

- › Embedding vs referencing — when to use each
- › One-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-many patterns
- › Schema design for read-heavy vs write-heavy workloads
- › Polymorphic pattern and the bucket pattern

## Transactions & Atlas (16%)

- › ACID transactions: startSession, startTransaction, commitTransaction
- › Multi-document transactions and when to use them
- › MongoDB Atlas cluster setup and connection strings
- › Atlas Search and Data API overview

## Drivers & Tooling — Node.js (16%)

- › MongoDB Node.js driver: MongoClient, connect, close
- › Mongoose ODM: schemas, models, validation
- › Connection pooling and error handling
- › mongosh shell commands for development and debugging

## EXAM INVESTMENT

# Costs & Budgeting

Official MongoDB Exam (via MongoDB University)

SINGLE EXAM

**\$150**

Standard price (USD)

RETAKE

**\$150**

Same price — no retake bundle

Check [university.mongodb.com](https://university.mongodb.com) for current pricing. MongoDB occasionally runs promotions with discounted vouchers.

## Preparation Resources

### MongoDB University (Free)

Official learning paths aligned to all exam domains

### MongoDB Documentation

The most accurate reference — free at [docs.mongodb.com](https://docs.mongodb.com)

### Udemy — Maximilian Schwarzmüller

\$19–\$49 — excellent practical MongoDB course

### MongoDB Atlas Free Tier

Hands-on cluster — no credit card required

## Recommended Budget for Code College Graduates

- › **Minimum (\$150):** Exam only — MongoDB University free path + bootcamp projects
- › **Recommended (\$170–\$200):** Exam + one Udemy course for aggregation depth
- › **Premium (\$300+):** Exam with retake buffer + full course suite

## STUDY STRATEGIES

# Prepare to Pass

## Before the Exam (4–6 weeks)

- › Complete the MongoDB University Associate Developer learning path — it maps directly to the exam
- › Build and query a real Atlas cluster — hands-on practice is non-negotiable
- › Write at least 20 aggregation pipelines from scratch covering all major stages
- › Practise explain() on queries and understand index usage output
- › Review the Mongoose schema and model patterns from your MERN bootcamp project

## During the Exam

- › Allocate ~85 seconds per question — 75 min for 53 questions
- › For aggregation questions: trace documents through each pipeline stage
- › Index questions: consider selectivity, cardinality, and ESR rule (Equality, Sort, Range)
- › Data modelling: always ask "how will this data be queried?" before choosing embed vs reference
- › Watch for Node.js driver syntax vs mongosh shell syntax — they differ slightly

## Topics That Trip Candidates Most

- › **Aggregation:** Stage ordering matters — \$match before \$group for performance
- › **Indexes:** Compound index field order follows ESR rule
- › **Transactions:** Only needed for multi-document atomicity — not every write
- › **\$lookup:** Pipeline vs equality syntax differences

## Recommended Resources

- › **Official:** [university.mongodb.com](https://university.mongodb.com) — free learning path
- › **Docs:** [docs.mongodb.com](https://docs.mongodb.com) — operator reference
- › **Practice:** Your MERN bootcamp project — extend it with indexes and aggregations

## FINAL TIPS

# You've Got This

You used MongoDB throughout Code College's Full-Stack bootcamp — every CRUD operation, every Mongoose model, every API endpoint hitting the database was exam preparation. The MongoDB Associate Developer exam rewards exactly the kind of practical, application-driven experience you have built.


## Keys to Success


- › Complete the free MongoDB University learning path — it was built for this exam
- › Revisit your MERN bootcamp project and add indexes, aggregations, and transactions
- › Spend extra time on aggregation — it is the most complex and highest-weighted domain
- › Use Atlas Free Tier daily for hands-on practice
- › The exam is manageable in 4–6 weeks with consistent daily practice
- › This cert pairs naturally with PCEP/PCAP for full-stack credential breadth


## Good luck with your MongoDB Associate Developer exam!

This guide is provided by Code College to support your certification journey. MongoDB skills are in high demand across startups, scale-ups, and enterprise teams building modern data-driven applications.

### Questions? Let's Connect

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We're here to support your learning journey. Reach out anytime!