

AI-04650 Top 5 GCP Books

Top 5 Google Compute Platform Certification book

If by “**Google Compute Platform**” you mean **Google Cloud Platform (GCP)** certifications, I’d focus on books for the **Professional Cloud Architect (PCA)** and **Associate Cloud Engineer (ACE)** tracks. Google currently lists both as major GCP certifications; PCA is architecture-focused, while ACE is more hands-on administration/operations. ([Google Cloud](#))

Top 5 GCP certification books

1	Google Cloud Certified Professional Cloud Book Ed. — Dan Sullivan	Best overall PCA exam book Best for	★★★★★ My rating
Rank			
2	Ultimate Google Professional Cloud Architect Certification Guide — Shounak Acharya	Modern GCP + real-world architecture	★★★★★
3	Professional Cloud Architect Google Cloud Certification Guide, 2nd Ed. — Konrad Łapa & Brian Gerrard	Deep technical learning	★★★★½
4	Google Cloud Certified Professional Cloud Architect All-in-One Exam Guide — Iman Ghanizada	Comprehensive reference	★★★★
5	Official Google Cloud Certified Professional Cloud Architect Study Guide — Dan Sullivan	Foundational PCA study	★★★★

#1 — Dan Sullivan, 2nd Edition

My strongest recommendation if your goal is actually passing the Professional Cloud Architect exam.

The book emphasizes the *architectural thinking* Google tests: requirements → constraints → architecture choices → reliability → security → cost → operations. It also contains scenario-based questions, practice exams, flashcards and a glossary. ([Google Books](#))

A 2026 review specifically identifies Sullivan's **2nd Edition** as the definitive PCA preparation resource and notes its coverage of GKE, Anthos, Cloud Run, BigQuery, Spanner and networking. ([ComputingForGeeks](#))

Best for:

Exam preparation → architecture reasoning → practice questions

 #2 — Shounak Acharya**Ultimate Google Professional Cloud Architect Certification Guide**

This is the **newest book I'd add to your library**. Published in August 2025, it is 340 pages and covers Compute Engine, autoscaling, load balancing, networking, GKE, Cloud Run, Pub/Sub, Dataflow, databases, IAM, billing, observability, DevOps and SRE. ([Google Books](#))

For someone actually **building a GCP DockerLab**, I particularly like this one because it bridges certification knowledge with real infrastructure.

Best for:

Learning GCP → building systems → architecture

 #3 — Clapa & Gerrard**Professional Cloud Architect Google Cloud Certification Guide, 2nd Edition**

This is a very substantial **664-page** technical guide. It covers compute, storage, networking, security, monitoring, containers, automation, Big Data/ML and exam scenarios. ([Google Books](#))

I'd choose this if you want something closer to a **GCP textbook/reference manual** rather than simply an exam-cramming book.

#4 — Iman Ghanizada**Google Cloud Certified Professional Cloud Architect All-in-One Exam Guide**

Published by McGraw Hill, this is a 320-page comprehensive exam guide covering the PCA objectives, with an additional 100 practice questions through its online test engine. ([Google Books](#))

It's older than the two books above, so I would **not make it your primary 2026 resource**, but it remains useful as a supplementary reference.

#5 — Dan Sullivan, 1st Edition**Official Google Cloud Certified Professional Cloud Architect Study Guide**

This is the original Sullivan guide. It covers compute, storage, networks, migration, technical/business processes and the broader architectural concepts, with practice tests and flashcards. ([Google Books](#))

Because there is a newer 2nd edition, I'd buy this **only if you find it very cheap**.

What I'd buy in your situation

Given that you're already working with **Compute Engine, Docker, Nginx Proxy Manager, PostgreSQL, Cloudflare/Tailscale concepts, VM sizing and GCP infrastructure**, I wouldn't start with five books.

I'd do:

1. Dan Sullivan 2nd Edition

→ Primary **certification/exam** book.

2. Shounak Acharya 2025

→ Primary **modern GCP architecture/practical** book.

3. Google Cloud's official exam guide + learning path

→ Final authority for what is actually tested. Google currently recommends reviewing the exam guide, following the learning path and working through sample questions. ([Google Cloud](#))

[Google Professional Cloud Architect official certification guide](#)

One important distinction

If your goal is “**I want to become good at GCP administration and actually operate my DockerLab**”, I'd start with **Associate Cloud Engineer (ACE)** rather than jumping directly to PCA.

If your goal is “**I want a serious GCP certification and want to learn architecture**”, go straight toward **Professional Cloud Architect**.

Google recommends **6+ months hands-on GCP experience** for ACE and **3+ years industry experience including 1+ year designing/managing GCP solutions** for PCA. ([Google Cloud](#))

For you, I'd probably build a *GCP* → *ACE* → *PCA* progression rather than trying to memorize PCA material immediately.