SCALED AGILE FRAMEWORK (SAFE) SCRUM MASTER PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. What is an example of how Scrum Masters can help without diminishing others' commitment?

A. Facilitating necessary meetings for the team

B. Encouraging handoffs for team contributions

C. Demoing the team's completed work

D. Coaching the team to rely on external resources

2. What is one example of an Agile Team development practice?

A. Timeboxing discussions

B. Documenting every meeting

C. Creating individual performance reviews

D. Using a fixed schedule for releases

3. What is a primary function of the portfolio level within SAFe?

A. To manage sprint cycles for agile teams.

B. To provide funding for various programs and projects.

C. To ensure team performance metrics are met.

D. To directly execute all team tasks.

4. During the problem-solving workshop, which step follows identifying the biggest root-cause using Pareto analysis?

A. Restate the new problem

B. Conduct the 5 whys

C. Brainstorm solutions

D. Create improvement backlog items

5. In SAFe, what is the main purpose of a portfolio?

A. To manage day-to-day operations of projects.

B. To oversee a collection of programs and projects aligned with strategic business goals.

C. To evaluate individual team performances.

D. To create a schedule for all the projects within the program.

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6. In SAFe, what does a program primarily consist of?

A. A collection of unrelated tasks and initiatives.

B. A single large project with no dependencies.

C. A group of closely related projects designed to deliver value.

D. A portfolio of programs that manage resources.

7. How does a Scrum Master promote a culture of continuous improvement?

A. By conducting team-building exercises

B. By facilitating retrospectives and encouraging feedback

C. By implementing strict timelines for project deliverables

D. By focusing primarily on outcome metrics

8. What does the term 'increment' mean in Scrum?

A. It refers to the total number of team members in the sprint.

B. It refers to the quality assurance process during development.

C. It refers to the sum of all the completed product backlog items at the end of a sprint.

D. It refers to the time taken to complete each task in a sprint.

9. According to SAFe, how many Stories should teams maintain in their backlog?

A. 1-2 Iterations of detailed Stories

B. 2-3 Iterations of refined Stories

C. 3-4 Weeks of backlog items

D. 4-5 Stories per Iteration

10. According to SAFe, what is the recommended first step of Iteration Planning?

A. Reviewing team goals

B. Establishing capacity

C. Setting priorities

D. Assigning tasks

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Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is an example of how Scrum Masters can help without diminishing others' commitment?

A. Facilitating necessary meetings for the team

B. Encouraging handoffs for team contributions

C. Demoing the team's completed work

D. Coaching the team to rely on external resources

Facilitating necessary meetings for the team is an excellent example of how Scrum Masters can support their teams while fostering commitment among team members. By scheduling and facilitating meetings such as daily stand-ups, sprint planning, and retrospectives, Scrum Masters create structured opportunities for team members to communicate, collaborate, and align on goals. This support enhances transparency and accountability without taking over responsibilities from the team, allowing individuals to feel invested in the process and ownership of their contributions. Engaging in this way not only ensures that critical discussions occur but also reinforces the team's commitment to the Scrum framework and their collective objectives. The Scrum Master helps manage the process, allowing the team to focus on their work and fostering an environment of trust and collaboration, which is essential for high-performance teams.

2. What is one example of an Agile Team development practice?

A. Timeboxing discussions

B. Documenting every meeting

C. Creating individual performance reviews

D. Using a fixed schedule for releases

Timeboxing discussions is an essential Agile Team development practice because it establishes a set duration for meetings or conversations, promoting efficiency and focus. By limiting the time devoted to discussions, Agile teams can ensure that meetings stay on topic and do not drag on unnecessarily. This practice encourages all team members to actively participate and share their ideas while respecting one another's time. It fosters a collaborative atmosphere where quick decision-making can occur, allowing teams to adapt and respond to changes promptly. The other choices do not align with Agile principles. Documenting every meeting goes against the Agile preference for working software and effective communication over extensive documentation. Creating individual performance reviews conflicts with Agile's emphasis on team accountability and collective success rather than individual assessments. Using a fixed schedule for releases can hinder a team's ability to respond flexibly to change, as Agile promotes adaptability and iterative delivery rather than strict adherence to timelines.

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3. What is a primary function of the portfolio level within SAFe?

A. To manage sprint cycles for agile teams.

B. To provide funding for various programs and projects.

C. To ensure team performance metrics are met.

D. To directly execute all team tasks.

The primary function of the portfolio level within SAFe is to provide funding for various programs and projects. In the SAFe framework, the portfolio level is responsible for aligning the organization's strategy with its investment decisions. This involves prioritizing initiatives, allocating resources effectively, and ensuring that funding supports the highest-value work that aligns with strategic goals. This level focuses on maintaining a larger perspective to unify the various initiatives under a cohesive strategy, ensuring that the programs and projects funded contribute directly to the organization's long-term objectives. By managing funding at the portfolio level, it allows for agility in responding to changes in market demands or organizational priorities, enabling the enterprise to shift investments toward new opportunities or to discontinue funding for less valuable efforts. In contrast, managing sprint cycles for agile teams is a function at the team level rather than the portfolio level, ensuring team operations are efficient but not directly tied to portfolio management. Monitoring team performance metrics is also specific to agile teams and the program level, focusing on delivering value within sprints rather than overall portfolio alignment. Additionally, the direct execution of all team tasks is outside the scope of the portfolio level, as that responsibility is delegated to agile teams, which operate independently within the framework.

4. During the problem-solving workshop, which step follows identifying the biggest root-cause using Pareto analysis?

A. Restate the new problem

B. Conduct the 5 whys

C. Brainstorm solutions

D. Create improvement backlog items

In the context of a problem-solving workshop, after identifying the biggest root cause using Pareto analysis, the next logical step is to restate the new problem. This step is crucial because it ensures that all participants have a clear and mutual understanding of the identified issue. By restating the problem, the team can confirm that they are focused on addressing the correct root cause, which can often be complex and may have multiple facets. Restating the problem also provides an opportunity for the team to align on the specifics of the issue, ensuring that all voices in the discussion are heard, and enabling a more productive conversation moving forward. It sets the stage for the subsequent steps, such as brainstorming solutions and creating improvement backlog items, as it frames the context in which those discussions will occur. This approach aligns with effective problem-solving methodologies in the Scaled Agile Framework, where clarity and alignment among team members are critical for successful outcomes.

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5. In SAFe, what is the main purpose of a portfolio?

A. To manage day-to-day operations of projects.

B. To oversee a collection of programs and projects aligned with strategic business goals.

C. To evaluate individual team performances.

D. To create a schedule for all the projects within the program.

In the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), the primary purpose of a portfolio is to oversee a collection of programs and projects that are aligned with strategic business goals. This alignment ensures that the organization is investing in initiatives that support its overall vision and objectives. The portfolio provides a framework for strategic funding, governance, and prioritization of initiatives, enabling organizations to respond effectively to market changes and customer demands. By managing the portfolio, leadership can ensure that the right projects are selected and resources are allocated efficiently. This holistic view allows for better decision-making and alignment of business outcomes with strategic intent. It focuses on maximizing value and return on investment, emphasizing the importance of aligning execution at the portfolio level with the organization's long-term goals. The other options do not accurately represent the primary function of a portfolio in the SAFe context. Managing day-to-day operations is more related to team-level or project-level functions. Evaluating individual team performances pertains to metrics and feedback mechanisms at the team level rather than strategic oversight. Creating a schedule for projects falls under program or project management, rather than the broader strategic level that a portfolio encompasses.

6. In SAFe, what does a program primarily consist of?

A. A collection of unrelated tasks and initiatives.

B. A single large project with no dependencies.

C. A group of closely related projects designed to deliver value.

D. A portfolio of programs that manage resources.

A program in the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) primarily consists of a group of closely related projects that are aligned to deliver value collectively. This alignment means that the projects within a program share common goals, objectives, or themes, allowing for better coordination of resources, planning, and execution. The collaboration among these projects is essential for maximizing the value delivered to customers and stakeholders, as they are designed to work together toward achieving larger organizational goals. This structure facilitates a more efficient use of resources and helps in managing dependencies, risks, and integration challenges that may arise between projects. It enables teams to adapt to changes in requirements and prioritize features based on customer feedback and market demands, leading to a more agile and responsive development environment. The focus on value delivery also ensures that the outcomes of the program contribute significantly to the overall strategy of the organization. The other options do not accurately reflect the concept of a program in SAFe. A collection of unrelated tasks would lack the necessary coherence to deliver collective value; a single large project without dependencies contradicts the interconnected nature of projects within a program; and a portfolio of programs represents a higher level of organization that encompasses multiple programs rather than defining what a program consists of.

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7. How does a Scrum Master promote a culture of continuous improvement?

A. By conducting team-building exercises

B. By facilitating retrospectives and encouraging feedback

C. By implementing strict timelines for project deliverables

D. By focusing primarily on outcome metrics

The choice of facilitating retrospectives and encouraging feedback is central to how a Scrum Master promotes a culture of continuous improvement within a team. Retrospectives are dedicated sessions where team members reflect on their work, discuss what went well, what didn't, and how processes can be improved. By creating a safe space for open communication, the Scrum Master encourages team members to share their insights and suggestions, which is vital for identifying areas that need enhancement. This approach fosters a mindset focused on learning and adaptation, allowing the team to evolve their practices over time. Encouraging feedback not only helps the team surface issues that may not be apparent in day-to-day activities but also reinforces a culture where everyone feels their input is valued, leading to collective ownership of improvements. Other strategies, like conducting team-building exercises, may contribute positively to team dynamics, but they do not specifically focus on continuous improvement of work processes. Implementing strict timelines for project deliverables can create pressure that stifles innovation and open dialogue about improvement. Lastly, focusing primarily on outcome metrics can lead to a narrow view that overlooks important qualitative insights gained through team discussions and reflections.

8. What does the term 'increment' mean in Scrum?

A. It refers to the total number of team members in the sprint.

B. It refers to the quality assurance process during development.

C. It refers to the sum of all the completed product backlog items at the end of a sprint.

D. It refers to the time taken to complete each task in a sprint.

The term 'increment' in Scrum specifically denotes the sum of all completed product backlog items at the end of a sprint. This concept is crucial to understanding how Scrum measures progress and delivers value. Each increment represents a step towards the final product, consisting of potentially shippable features that are fully developed, tested, and integrated. This means that with each sprint, the team not only aims to complete tasks but also to add tangible value to the product, contributing to its overall evolution. This understanding is foundational to Agile practices, where delivering usable increments frequently helps to gather feedback and adapt to changing requirements. The emphasis on producing a potentially shippable increment at the end of each sprint aligns with the Agile principle of customer collaboration and responsiveness. As a result, increments are central to the Scrum framework's effectiveness, ensuring that teams deliver consistent and valuable changes that stakeholders can evaluate and provide feedback on.

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9. According to SAFe, how many Stories should teams maintain in their backlog?

A. 1-2 Iterations of detailed Stories

B. 2-3 Iterations of refined Stories

C. 3-4 Weeks of backlog items

D. 4-5 Stories per Iteration

In the context of the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), maintaining 2-3 iterations of refined Stories in the backlog allows teams to operate effectively and ensures that they are well-prepared for upcoming work. This approach provides adequate detail and prioritization to enable the team to deliver value in the short term while allowing flexibility for adjustments based on stakeholder feedback or changing priorities. Having 2-3 iterations of refined Stories ensures that the team can continuously pull work into their current iteration without being overwhelmed. It allows for refinement sessions to take place where Stories can be further detailed and estimated, promoting clearer understanding among team members. This foresight aids in sprint planning and helps to accommodate any emergent work that may come up. The other options do not promote the same level of readiness for the team. Maintaining only 1-2 iterations of detailed Stories might limit the team's ability to plan adequately. A time-based estimation such as 3-4 weeks of backlog items may not provide clarity regarding the number of Stories and could lead to an ambiguous understanding of what is required for each iteration. Lastly, suggesting a fixed number of 4-5 Stories per Iteration does not account for the variability of Story size and complexity across different teams and contexts within SAFe

10. According to SAFe, what is the recommended first step of Iteration Planning?

A. Reviewing team goals

B. Establishing capacity

C. Setting priorities

D. Assigning tasks

The recommended first step of Iteration Planning in SAFe is to establish capacity. This step is essential as it involves determining how much work the team can realistically commit to during the iteration based on the team's availability and any potential vacation days, meetings, or other factors that may influence the team's capacity. By understanding capacity upfront, the team can make more informed decisions about what work to pull into the iteration and ensures that the team does not overcommit, leading to potential burnout or unfinished work. Establishing capacity helps set the groundwork for effective planning, allowing the team to align their work with their actual capabilities and to forecast more accurately. Once the capacity is understood, teams can then move on to setting priorities, reviewing goals, and assigning tasks with a clear understanding of the workload they can manage. This order ensures that the planning is realistic and achievable, fostering a productive iteration.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://safe-scrummaster.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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