

Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. During a Sprint, what must work meet to be considered part of an Increment?**
 - A. The initial project goals**
 - B. The expectations of the stakeholders**
 - C. The Definition of Done**
 - D. The capacity of the Development Team**
- 2. What is the primary focus of the Product Owner?**
 - A. Ensuring team morale**
 - B. Managing the Product Backlog**
 - C. Facilitating daily stand-up meetings**
 - D. Coaching team members**
- 3. Who ultimately determines the priority of the items in the Product Backlog?**
 - A. Scrum Master**
 - B. Product Owner**
 - C. Developers**
 - D. Stakeholders**
- 4. What is the primary responsibility of the Product Owner?**
 - A. Managing the Scrum Team**
 - B. Optimizing the value of the work the Scrum Team does**
 - C. Facilitating the Daily Scrum**
 - D. Developing user stories**
- 5. Who primarily serves the Scrum Team, Product Owner, and the Organization?**
 - A. The Product Owner**
 - B. The Scrum Master**
 - C. The Developers**
 - D. The Stakeholders**

- 6. Who has the final say on the content and ordering of the Product Backlog?**
- A. Developers**
 - B. Scrum Master**
 - C. Product Owner**
 - D. Project Manager**
- 7. Who is responsible for establishing Scrum as defined in the Scrum Guide?**
- A. Product Owner**
 - B. Scrum Master**
 - C. Developers**
 - D. Stakeholders**
- 8. What does the Definition of Done primarily ensure?**
- A. High-level stakeholder engagement**
 - B. Clarity on product requirements**
 - C. Consistent quality and completeness of the product**
 - D. Effective use of resources**
- 9. Should a Scrum Team only work on a single Product Goal at any time?**
- A. Yes, it should**
 - B. No, it can handle multiple goals**
 - C. It should if the Product Owner allows it**
 - D. Only for larger projects**
- 10. When does a Developer become accountable for the value of a selected Product Backlog item?**
- A. At the end of the Sprint**
 - B. When the Sprint Planning is complete**
 - C. Never; the whole Scrum Team is accountable**
 - D. When the item is first selected**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. During a Sprint, what must work meet to be considered part of an Increment?

- A. The initial project goals**
- B. The expectations of the stakeholders**
- C. The Definition of Done**
- D. The capacity of the Development Team**

To be considered part of an Increment during a Sprint, work must meet the Definition of Done. The Definition of Done is a crucial Scrum artifact that outlines the specific criteria that must be satisfied for a piece of work to be considered complete. This includes aspects such as coding standards, testing requirements, documentation, and any other criteria defined by the team. By adhering to the Definition of Done, the Scrum Team ensures that all completed work is not only finished but also ready for potential release, maintaining a high standard of quality and transparency. This practice fosters trust among the team members and stakeholders, ensuring that everyone has a clear understanding of what "done" really means. In contrast, initial project goals, stakeholder expectations, and the capacity of the Development Team do not directly determine whether work qualifies as part of the Increment. While all these factors are important for project alignment and planning, they do not define the specific quality and completeness of individual work items that contribute to the Increment. Thus, the focus on the Definition of Done is essential for determining the integrity and readiness of the Increment.

2. What is the primary focus of the Product Owner?

- A. Ensuring team morale**
- B. Managing the Product Backlog**
- C. Facilitating daily stand-up meetings**
- D. Coaching team members**

The primary focus of the Product Owner is managing the Product Backlog. This role is critical in a Scrum team's success, as the Product Owner is responsible for defining, prioritizing, and maintaining the items within the backlog. The Product Backlog serves as a dynamic list of features, enhancements, and fixes that need to be developed. By effectively managing this list, the Product Owner ensures that the team is always working on the highest priority items that deliver the most value to the customer and stakeholders. Effective backlog management involves communicating the vision and goals of the product, engaging with stakeholders to gather feedback, and making informed decisions about the trade-offs between different features based on customer needs, market changes, and team capacity. This central responsibility allows the Product Owner to align development efforts with business objectives, ensuring that the right features are delivered at the right time. While other aspects such as team morale, daily stand-up facilitation, and coaching team members are important in a Scrum environment, they are not the primary responsibilities of the Product Owner. Those tasks are often associated with roles like the Scrum Master or team members themselves, who contribute to the collaborative atmosphere and support in achieving the team's goals.

3. Who ultimately determines the priority of the items in the Product Backlog?

- A. Scrum Master**
- B. Product Owner**
- C. Developers**
- D. Stakeholders**

The priority of the items in the Product Backlog is determined by the Product Owner. This role is crucial because the Product Owner is responsible for maximizing the value of the product that the Development Team delivers. By prioritizing the backlog, the Product Owner ensures that the team is working on the most valuable features first, allowing for the most efficient use of resources and alignment with stakeholder expectations. The Product Owner interacts closely with stakeholders to gather feedback and understand market demands. This stakeholder input is essential, but it is the Product Owner who makes the final call about what gets prioritized based on a range of factors including business value, urgency, and strategic goals. As for the other roles, the Scrum Master facilitates the process and helps to ensure that Scrum practices are followed, but does not get involved in the decision-making regarding backlog priorities. Developers contribute to understanding the complexity and effort needed for backlog items but do not prioritize them. Stakeholders provide input and feedback to the Product Owner, but they do not have the authority to set the priority themselves. This clear delineation of roles is what helps streamline decision-making within the Scrum framework.

4. What is the primary responsibility of the Product Owner?

- A. Managing the Scrum Team**
- B. Optimizing the value of the work the Scrum Team does**
- C. Facilitating the Daily Scrum**
- D. Developing user stories**

The primary responsibility of the Product Owner is to optimize the value of the work the Scrum Team does. This role is critical in ensuring that the team focuses on delivering the highest value features and functions that align with the organization's goals and customer needs. The Product Owner establishes and maintains the Product Backlog, prioritizing items based on their value to the stakeholders and ensuring that the most valuable work is done first. This prioritization helps maximize return on investment and keeps the team aligned with the overall vision for the product. While the Product Owner collaborates closely with the Scrum Team and participates in the overall Scrum process, their key duty is centered around maximizing value rather than managing the team or facilitating specific Scrum ceremonies. Developing user stories is part of their responsibilities, but it encompasses a broader focus on aligning those stories with business objectives and stakeholder feedback to ensure that what the team works on is truly valuable.

5. Who primarily serves the Scrum Team, Product Owner, and the Organization?

- A. The Product Owner**
- B. The Scrum Master**
- C. The Developers**
- D. The Stakeholders**

The Scrum Master primarily serves the Scrum Team, Product Owner, and the Organization by ensuring that everyone understands and follows the Scrum framework. This role is vital in facilitating the Scrum process and helping remove any impediments that might hinder the team's progress. The Scrum Master acts as a coach for the Scrum Team, guiding them in self-organization and cross-functionality, which are essential for reaching high performance. In addition to supporting the Scrum Team and Product Owner, the Scrum Master also advocates for Scrum practices within the broader organization, helping to foster a culture that embraces agile principles. This includes working with stakeholders to ensure that their expectations are realistic and aligned with the Scrum process, thereby enhancing collaboration and communication among all parties involved. Overall, the Scrum Master's role is centered around serving and supporting others to maximize the effectiveness of the Scrum framework, which is why this answer is recognized as the primary one.

6. Who has the final say on the content and ordering of the Product Backlog?

- A. Developers**
- B. Scrum Master**
- C. Product Owner**
- D. Project Manager**

The final say on the content and ordering of the Product Backlog belongs to the Product Owner. This role is pivotal in Scrum as the Product Owner is responsible for maximizing the value of the product developed by the Scrum Team. The Product Backlog is essentially a prioritized list of work for the team, and the Product Owner is tasked with defining the features, setting priorities based on stakeholder input, market conditions, or business needs, and ensuring that the backlog is visible and understood by all team members. This prioritization is crucial as it guides the Scrum Team's efforts and determines what is most important to work on next. By collaborating with stakeholders and understanding user needs, the Product Owner continually updates and refines the Product Backlog, ensuring it reflects the current needs of the business and the market. This authority over the backlog allows the Product Owner to influence the direction of the product and ensure that the Scrum Team focuses on delivering the highest value items first. In contrast, while Developers may contribute to the refinement and prioritization process, and the Scrum Master facilitates Scrum practices, neither holds the accountability for the content and ordering of the backlog. The Project Manager typically does not have a role in Scrum, being more aligned with traditional project management frameworks.

7. Who is responsible for establishing Scrum as defined in the Scrum Guide?

- A. Product Owner**
- B. Scrum Master**
- C. Developers**
- D. Stakeholders**

The Scrum Master is responsible for establishing Scrum as defined in the Scrum Guide. This role is crucial in ensuring that the Scrum framework is understood and enacted effectively. The Scrum Master serves as a facilitator, helping the Scrum Team and the organization to understand and implement Scrum principles and practices. They educate the team about the Scrum process and promote adherence to the Scrum values. Additionally, the Scrum Master works to support the team in optimizing their processes and removing any impediments that may hinder their progress, thereby fostering a productive environment for collaboration and high performance. This role is key in creating a shared understanding of Scrum, promoting transparency, and ensuring that the team learns and adapts their practices over time.

8. What does the Definition of Done primarily ensure?

- A. High-level stakeholder engagement**
- B. Clarity on product requirements**
- C. Consistent quality and completeness of the product**
- D. Effective use of resources**

The Definition of Done primarily ensures a consistent quality and completeness of the product. It is a shared understanding among the Scrum team regarding what it means for a product backlog item or an increment to be considered finished. This shared understanding helps the team to maintain a uniform standard for quality across all deliverables. By having a clear Definition of Done, the team can ascertain that every increment not only meets the acceptance criteria defined in the user stories but also adheres to necessary requirements such as code reviews, testing, documentation, and other parameters that contribute to the overall quality. This practice helps minimize the risk of rework and ensures stakeholders receive potentially shippable product increments that can be reliably used or demonstrated. In contrast, the other options focus more on aspects like stakeholder communication or resource utilization which, while important, do not directly pertain to the specific purpose of the Definition of Done in maintaining product integrity and assurance of quality.

9. Should a Scrum Team only work on a single Product Goal at any time?

A. Yes, it should

B. No, it can handle multiple goals

C. It should if the Product Owner allows it

D. Only for larger projects

A Scrum Team is designed to focus on a single Product Goal to ensure clarity, alignment, and effective delivery. This singular focus allows the team to concentrate their efforts and resources on achieving one objective, which in turn facilitates better collaboration and productivity. Working toward a single goal helps to prioritize tasks, manage risks effectively, and streamline communication within the team and with stakeholders. When a team focuses on multiple goals, it can lead to confusion, conflicting priorities, and diluted efforts, which may ultimately impact the quality and timeliness of the delivered product increment. The Scrum framework emphasizes adapting to change, but it still insists on a clear, shared objective that the whole team is rallying around at any given time. By maintaining a single Product Goal, teams can ensure that all their activities are aligned and that progress can be more easily assessed and measured.

10. When does a Developer become accountable for the value of a selected Product Backlog item?

A. At the end of the Sprint

B. When the Sprint Planning is complete

C. Never; the whole Scrum Team is accountable

D. When the item is first selected

A Developer becomes accountable for the value of a selected Product Backlog item as part of the overall accountability of the Scrum Team. In Scrum, accountability for delivering value does not rest solely with individual Developers; rather, it encompasses the entire Scrum Team, which includes the Scrum Master, Product Owner, and Developers. This collective approach ensures that everyone is aligned towards maximizing the value delivered in the product increments. While Developers play a crucial role in implementing and completing tasks associated with the selected Backlog items, the decision-making regarding the value of those items is influenced significantly by the Product Owner, who is responsible for defining what constitutes value and prioritizing items in the Product Backlog. The Scrum framework fosters a collaborative environment where all members of the team share accountability, ensuring that responsibilities are not siloed but are rather seen as a team effort to drive success and value creation for stakeholders. This perspective affirms that the entire Scrum Team is engaged in ensuring that the increments produced are valuable and meet the stakeholders' needs, which emphasizes the importance of teamwork and shared responsibility in Scrum.