

IAAP Web Accessibility Specialist (WAS) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What is the primary purpose of WCAG guidelines?**
 - A. To provide a legal framework for accessibility laws**
 - B. To outline testable standards for web content accessibility**
 - C. To set basic goals for making content accessible**
 - D. To define technical specifications for web development**
- 2. Which of the following is NOT one of the best practices of accessibility with SPAs?**
 - A. Update the page title using JavaScript**
 - B. Notify the user of updates inside the page**
 - C. Employ visual graphics exclusively**
 - D. Manage browser history using the History API**
- 3. Which of the following is an essential feature to check for in PDF accessibility?**
 - A. It includes hyperlinks**
 - B. It is visually appealing**
 - C. It is searchable (OCR)**
 - D. It has a print option**
- 4. What is the limitation of automated accessibility testing tools regarding images?**
 - A. They cannot check for alt text**
 - B. They can determine if images have alt text but not if it meets guidelines**
 - C. They only assess images in HTML5**
 - D. They do not cover color contrast issues**
- 5. How do accessibility standards influence the design and architecture phase?**
 - A. They increase project time**
 - B. Impact the choice of technologies and the user interface**
 - C. Limit the design options available**
 - D. Focus solely on visual elements**

- 6. What is the keyboard shortcut to navigate to main content using JAWS and NVDA?**
- A. Enter**
 - B. H**
 - C. Q**
 - D. Control**
- 7. What is the best title for a page displaying search results for the term "dogs"?**
- A. Dog Breeds**
 - B. Dog Information**
 - C. Search Results for Dogs**
 - D. Dog Products**
- 8. Which of the following is a new Success Criterion in WCAG 2.1?**
- A. 1.2.1 Audio Description**
 - B. 1.3.4 Orientation**
 - C. 2.4.4 Link Purpose**
 - D. 3.1.1 Language of Page**
- 9. What is one of the expected outcomes of the 'sustain' stage?**
- A. Modify existing websites**
 - B. Continue tracking standards and legislation**
 - C. Create new accessibility goals**
 - D. Reduce stakeholder engagement**
- 10. How do screen readers navigate within lists of items?**
- A. Page Up and Page Down**
 - B. Tab**
 - C. Arrow keys**
 - D. Enter**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary purpose of WCAG guidelines?

- A. To provide a legal framework for accessibility laws**
- B. To outline testable standards for web content accessibility**
- C. To set basic goals for making content accessible**
- D. To define technical specifications for web development**

The primary purpose of WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) is to set basic goals for making web content accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities. These guidelines help to ensure that web content is perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust for all users, including those with visual, auditory, motor, and cognitive disabilities. By establishing these foundational goals, WCAG encourages the development of accessible web content and helps organizations understand what they need to consider in their design processes. The goals serve not only as a framework for creating accessible experiences but also as a reference point for measuring progress in accessibility over time. While other options touch on relevant aspects of accessibility—such as legal frameworks and technical specifications—the core mission of WCAG is about the overarching aims of making digital content usable for individuals with varying abilities. This focus on setting clear, achievable objectives makes them essential for guiding web accessibility efforts globally.

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the best practices of accessibility with SPAs?

- A. Update the page title using JavaScript**
- B. Notify the user of updates inside the page**
- C. Employ visual graphics exclusively**
- D. Manage browser history using the History API**

Employing visual graphics exclusively is not considered a best practice for accessibility within single-page applications (SPAs). Accessibility aims to provide a usable experience for all users, including those with disabilities. Relying solely on visual graphics can exclude users who are blind or have low vision, as they may rely on screen readers that cannot interpret graphical content without alternative text or descriptions. Best practices in SPAs focus on ensuring that content is accessible and interactive for everyone, such as updating page titles dynamically, notifying users of updates to the content, and managing browser history to allow users to navigate back and forth through the application seamlessly. These practices help enhance the usability and accessibility of SPAs by ensuring that screen reader users and those who rely on keyboard navigation are not left at a disadvantage due to an over-reliance on non-text elements.

3. Which of the following is an essential feature to check for in PDF accessibility?

- A. It includes hyperlinks**
- B. It is visually appealing**
- C. It is searchable (OCR)**
- D. It has a print option**

Searching and accessing content in a PDF is crucial for accessibility, especially for users with disabilities who may rely on assistive technologies. Making sure that a PDF is searchable often involves ensuring that the text within it is selectable and readable by screen readers or other assistive devices. This is typically achieved through Optical Character Recognition (OCR), which converts scanned images of text into actual text that can be searched and read aloud. When a PDF is searchable, it significantly enhances the user's ability to find and interact with the information contained within the document. This accessibility feature is fundamental to providing equal access to information for all users, including those who are visually impaired or utilize other assistive technologies. While having hyperlinks, visual appeal, and print options are useful features, they do not directly impact the fundamental accessibility of the content. The ability to search within a PDF is a key factor in ensuring that the document meets accessibility standards and provides usable content for individuals who depend on technology to access information.

4. What is the limitation of automated accessibility testing tools regarding images?

- A. They cannot check for alt text**
- B. They can determine if images have alt text but not if it meets guidelines**
- C. They only assess images in HTML5**
- D. They do not cover color contrast issues**

The correct answer is that automated accessibility testing tools can determine if images have alt text but not if it meets guidelines. This highlights a key limitation of these tools. While they can scan web pages for the presence of `alt` attributes in images, they lack the capability to interpret the effectiveness or appropriateness of the provided text according to accessibility standards such as WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines). For example, an automated tool might flag an image as having `alt` text, but it cannot assess whether the text is descriptive enough or if it communicates the same content or function as the image. Manual reviews are necessary to ensure that `alt` text is not only present but also accurately conveys the intended information to users who rely on assistive technologies like screen readers. The other choices touch on various aspects but do not capture the specific limitation related to how automated tools evaluate the appropriateness of alt text. Automated tools can check for the presence of `alt` text, but they cannot fully evaluate its quality, which is crucial for ensuring effective accessibility.

5. How do accessibility standards influence the design and architecture phase?

A. They increase project time

B. Impact the choice of technologies and the user interface

C. Limit the design options available

D. Focus solely on visual elements

Accessibility standards play a crucial role in the design and architecture phase by impacting the choice of technologies and the user interface. When designers and architects consider these standards, they are guided to select tools, frameworks, and design patterns that ensure usability for all users, including those with disabilities. This can include making decisions about color contrast, keyboard navigation, screen reader compatibility, and other usability factors that enhance the overall user experience. By integrating accessibility standards early in the design process, teams are more likely to create inclusive products that are functional for a diverse audience. This proactive approach not only promotes compliance with legal standards but also fosters innovation in how technology can be used effectively, ultimately leading to more user-friendly interfaces. While some may assume that accessibility standards limit creativity or add time to projects, their true purpose is to serve as a foundation that ensures inclusivity and usability, benefiting all users and enhancing overall product quality.

6. What is the keyboard shortcut to navigate to main content using JAWS and NVDA?

A. Enter

B. H

C. Q

D. Control

The keyboard shortcut to navigate to the main content using JAWS and NVDA is typically the letter "H." This command is particularly useful because it allows users to jump through headings, making it easier to locate the main content section without having to navigate line by line or item by item. Using headings effectively is one of the fundamental principles of accessible web design, as it provides a clear structure to the content. Both JAWS and NVDA are designed to assist users, particularly those who are visually impaired, in navigating web pages efficiently. The "H" key specifically allows the user to move to the next heading, which can help them bypass redundant information and arrive at the primary content more quickly. Other options do not serve the purpose of navigating to main content effectively. For example, the Enter key is generally used to activate links, while the Control key is often associated with other commands (like select multiple items in many applications). The letter "Q" does not correspond to any standard navigation function in JAWS or NVDA. Thus, using "H" for heading navigation is the correct and widely recognized method in both screen readers.

7. What is the best title for a page displaying search results for the term "dogs"?

A. Dog Breeds

B. Dog Information

C. Search Results for Dogs

D. Dog Products

The best title for a page displaying search results for the term "dogs" is "Search Results for Dogs" because it clearly communicates the intent and content of the page to users and assistive technologies. This title is descriptive and specific, informing users exactly what they can expect to find on the page. When users search for a term, they generally want to see results related to that specific query. The title "Search Results for Dogs" addresses this by indicating that the content has been filtered or compiled specifically in response to the search for "dogs." This clarity is vital for users who rely on screen readers or other assistive technologies, as it allows them to navigate with a better understanding of the context. In contrast, titles like "Dog Breeds" or "Dog Information" may imply that the page is solely focused on those specific topics, potentially misdirecting users whose search intent might encompass a wider range of dog-related subjects. "Dog Products" similarly narrows the focus to items for sale, which may not be the intent of the user searching for "dogs." These options do not provide the comprehensive context that the search results encompass, making them less effective as title choices.

8. Which of the following is a new Success Criterion in WCAG 2.1?

A. 1.2.1 Audio Description

B. 1.3.4 Orientation

C. 2.4.4 Link Purpose

D. 3.1.1 Language of Page

The correct answer focuses on a new Success Criterion introduced in WCAG 2.1, specifically related to orientation. Success Criterion 1.3.4, titled "Orientation," addresses the need for content to be accessible regardless of the user's orientation or device rotation, which is particularly significant for mobile devices. This criterion ensures that content remains usable in both portrait and landscape orientations, promoting a more accessible experience for users with disabilities who may rely on specific device orientations for usability. In contrast, the other listed Success Criteria are part of WCAG 2.0 and were not newly introduced in WCAG 2.1. For example, Audio Description (1.2.1) focuses on providing aural descriptions for video content, Link Purpose (2.4.4) emphasizes clear link descriptions, and Language of Page (3.1.1) ensures the primary language of a page is identified. These criteria already existed in the previous versions of WCAG and were not additions in the 2.1 update. Understanding these distinctions highlights the evolving nature of web accessibility standards and the emphasis on making digital content usable across diverse contexts and devices.

9. What is one of the expected outcomes of the 'sustain' stage?

- A. Modify existing websites**
- B. Continue tracking standards and legislation**
- C. Create new accessibility goals**
- D. Reduce stakeholder engagement**

The 'sustain' stage focuses on maintaining and improving accessibility practices over time. One of the expected outcomes in this stage is to continue tracking standards and legislation. This is essential because accessibility guidelines, such as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) or relevant laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), can evolve. By staying informed about changes in standards and legislation, organizations can ensure that their practices remain compliant and up-to-date. This vigilance helps prevent regression in accessibility and reinforces a commitment to inclusivity. Staying current with standards also allows organizations to adapt their strategies and provide better experiences for users with disabilities, demonstrating a proactive approach to accessibility. The other choices may involve activities relevant at different stages of accessibility initiatives but do not capture the ongoing nature of monitoring compliance and evolving standards like the sustain stage does.

10. How do screen readers navigate within lists of items?

- A. Page Up and Page Down**
- B. Tab**
- C. Arrow keys**
- D. Enter**

Screen readers primarily use arrow keys to navigate within lists of items. This method allows users to move through the items one at a time in a controlled manner, enabling them to listen to each option and decide how to interact with it. The up and down arrow keys allow users to move through the list efficiently, while features like announcing the currently focused item or providing context about the number of items can enhance the experience. When users press the up arrow, they move to the item above the currently focused item, and similarly, the down arrow moves them to the item below. This direct navigation is particularly important for maintaining accessibility, as it gives users the opportunity to absorb information about each item without losing their place in the list. Other methods of navigation, such as using Page Up and Page Down or Tab, are not as effective for list navigation because they can jump large distances, leading to a disjointed experience. Enter is typically used to activate or select an item, rather than for the purpose of navigating through a list. Thus, the arrow keys represent the most intuitive and user-friendly method for managing navigation within lists for individuals using screen readers.