

Professional Scrum Master (PSM) I Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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.

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!

Questions

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1. When can updates be made to the Product Backlog?

- A. Only at the end of each sprint
- B. Anytime the Product Owner or Scrum Team sees a need
- C. Only during scheduled meetings
- D. At the beginning of each quarter

2. What role does the Development Team have in the Scrum framework?

- A. To facilitate Scrum ceremonies
- B. To perform the work of delivering the product increment
- C. To manage the product vision and strategy
- D. To organize stakeholder meetings

3. How does Scrum support innovation within a team?

- A. By minimizing changes to the original plan
- B. By encouraging experimentation, learning, and rapid feedback with each Sprint
- C. By focusing solely on task completion
- D. By limiting team interactions to a minimum

4. Which area can Scrum be applied to?

- A. Only software development
- B. Only project management
- C. Various fields, including product and organizational development
- D. Only in educational institutions

5. What guides the prioritization of items in the Product Backlog?

- A. Team preferences
- B. Product Owner's vision of value and clarity
- C. External stakeholder requests
- D. Market trends

- 6. Who is tasked with addressing issues related to incomplete artifact transparency?**
- A. The Development Team
 - B. The Product Owner
 - C. The Scrum Master
 - D. The stakeholders
- 7. Who is responsible for deciding how to distribute work among team members?**
- A. The Scrum Master
 - B. The Product Owner
 - C. The Development Team
 - D. The Stakeholders
- 8. What techniques can a Scrum Master use to promote collaboration?**
- A. Facilitation of team-building activities, open discussions, and conflict resolution tactics
 - B. Forced competition among team members
 - C. Strictly monitoring individual performance
 - D. Limiting communication to written reports
- 9. What is the primary responsibility of a Scrum Master?**
- A. To manage the project timeline
 - B. To facilitate the Scrum process and ensure the team follows Scrum practices
 - C. To oversee the financial budget of the project
 - D. To perform the tasks of the Development Team
- 10. When creating development teams, how many members do Scrum guidelines recommend for an optimal team size?**
- A. 1 to 5 members
 - B. 5 to 7 members
 - C. 3 to 9 members
 - D. 10 or more members

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When can updates be made to the Product Backlog?

- A. Only at the end of each sprint
- B. Anytime the Product Owner or Scrum Team sees a need**
- C. Only during scheduled meetings
- D. At the beginning of each quarter

The Product Backlog is a dynamic and continually evolving artifact in Scrum, and updates can be made at any time the Product Owner or the Scrum Team identifies a need. This flexibility allows the team to adapt to changes in requirements, market conditions, or stakeholder feedback. The Product Owner is responsible for managing the Product Backlog and can refine, add, or remove items as necessary to ensure that it reflects the most current priorities and insights. This ongoing refinement process is essential for maintaining the backlog's relevance and ensuring that the team always works on the most valuable items next. Additionally, the backlog can be updated as new information emerges or when the team gains a better understanding of the work required. This approach supports the Agile principle of responding to change over following a plan, making it easier for the Scrum Team to deliver value consistently. The other choices suggest more restrictive conditions under which the Product Backlog can be updated, which do not align with the Scrum framework's emphasis on adaptability and continuous improvement.

2. What role does the Development Team have in the Scrum framework?

- A. To facilitate Scrum ceremonies
- B. To perform the work of delivering the product increment**
- C. To manage the product vision and strategy
- D. To organize stakeholder meetings

The Development Team plays a crucial role in the Scrum framework by being primarily responsible for delivering the product increment. This involves working collaboratively to design, build, and test the product based on the items selected from the Product Backlog during each Sprint. The team's accountability encompasses ensuring that the increment is of high quality and meets the Definition of Done established by the team. The emphasis on collaboration within the Development Team is essential, as members bring different skills and expertise that facilitate the production of a potentially releasable product increment at the end of each Sprint. In Scrum, the Development Team's focus is not on managing ceremonies or stakeholder engagement. While they participate in Scrum events, such as Sprint Planning and the Daily Scrum, those activities are not their primary responsibility. Rather, the Scrum Master facilitates these ceremonies, and the Product Owner manages the product vision and strategy by prioritizing the work in the Product Backlog. Stakeholder meetings are often organized by the Product Owner or the Scrum Master to gather feedback and align stakeholders with the team's direction, ensuring that the Development Team can focus on their core mission of delivering value through working increments.

3. How does Scrum support innovation within a team?

- A. By minimizing changes to the original plan
- B. By encouraging experimentation, learning, and rapid feedback with each Sprint**
- C. By focusing solely on task completion
- D. By limiting team interactions to a minimum

Scrum fosters innovation within a team by emphasizing experimentation, learning, and rapid feedback during each Sprint. This framework allows teams to work in short, iterative cycles, enabling them to test new ideas and approaches quickly. The iterative nature of Scrum encourages teams to explore different solutions without the fear of failure, as they can assess and learn from their outcomes after each Sprint. Through regular Sprint Reviews, teams receive immediate feedback from stakeholders, which helps refine their ideas and increases engagement with the project. This feedback loop is crucial for sparking creativity and innovation, as it allows team members to make adjustments based on real-world responses and insights, encouraging a culture of continuous improvement. The other approaches mentioned do not promote an innovative environment. Focusing on minimizing changes to the original plan restricts flexibility and adaptability, while concentrating solely on task completion can hinder exploration of new ideas. Similarly, limiting team interactions would stifle communication and collaboration, both of which are vital for fostering an innovative team culture.

4. Which area can Scrum be applied to?

- A. Only software development
- B. Only project management
- C. Various fields, including product and organizational development**
- D. Only in educational institutions

Scrum is a versatile framework designed to facilitate complex problem-solving and can indeed be applied across various fields beyond just software development. While Scrum was initially conceived for software projects, its principles and practices are adaptable and have been successfully implemented in numerous other areas like product development, marketing, education, healthcare, and organizational transformations. This broad applicability allows teams to harness the benefits of Scrum, such as improved team collaboration, increased transparency, and enhanced adaptability to change, in diverse contexts. By focusing on iterative progress and collaborative teamwork, Scrum can help organizations in various sectors to manage their projects more effectively, leading to continuous improvement and value delivery. In today's dynamic environments, such adaptability is crucial, making Scrum a valuable tool for any field looking to embrace agility and responsiveness.

5. What guides the prioritization of items in the Product Backlog?

- A. Team preferences
- B. Product Owner's vision of value and clarity**
- C. External stakeholder requests
- D. Market trends

The prioritization of items in the Product Backlog is primarily guided by the Product Owner's vision of value and clarity. The Product Owner is responsible for maximizing the value of the product resulting from the work of the Scrum Team. This involves understanding the needs of stakeholders, aligning them with the overall product strategy, and ensuring that the most valuable features are delivered first. The Product Owner considers various factors – including customer needs, business objectives, and market demands – to evaluate and prioritize backlog items effectively. By maintaining a clear understanding of the product vision and value proposition, the Product Owner can streamline decision-making and provide the Scrum Team with a clear focus on what is most important for the product and its users. While team preferences, external stakeholder requests, and market trends can all influence the prioritization of backlog items to some extent, they do not replace the overarching guidance provided by the Product Owner's vision. The Product Owner synthesizes input from various sources and determines how it aligns with the product's goals and priorities, ensuring that the backlog remains relevant and strategically focused.

6. Who is tasked with addressing issues related to incomplete artifact transparency?

- A. The Development Team
- B. The Product Owner
- C. The Scrum Master**
- D. The stakeholders

The Scrum Master is tasked with addressing issues related to incomplete artifact transparency. This role is essential in facilitating communication and collaboration among the team members and ensuring that the Scrum process is followed effectively. Transparency is one of the pillars of Scrum, as it allows all stakeholders to understand the progress and state of the work, which is critical for informed decision-making. If there are issues with transparency—whether artifacts like the product backlog, sprint backlog, or increment are not adequately visible or understood—it is the Scrum Master's responsibility to help remedy the situation. The Scrum Master works closely with the Development Team and Product Owner to make sure that artifacts are clear, up-to-date, and accessible to all relevant stakeholders, thus fostering an environment of openness. In contrast, while the Development Team is responsible for creating and managing the artifacts, and the Product Owner prioritizes and refines them, these roles do not specifically focus on the broader issues of transparency. Stakeholders may be impacted by the lack of transparency, but they are not in a position to address these issues directly within the Scrum framework. Therefore, the Scrum Master is the key figure in managing and resolving transparency-related challenges.

7. Who is responsible for deciding how to distribute work among team members?

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

In Scrum, the Development Team has the autonomy and responsibility to decide how to distribute work among its members. This principle is fundamental to the self-organizing nature of Scrum teams, which empowers them to manage their workflows effectively. Each member of the Development Team brings unique skills and expertise to the table, allowing the group to allocate tasks based on individual strengths, current capacity, and team dynamics. This decision-making responsibility supports several core Scrum values, including collaboration, accountability, and commitment. By owning the distribution of work, the Development Team can react quickly to changes, optimize their processes, and take collective responsibility for delivering high-quality increments of the product. In contrast, the other roles, such as the Scrum Master and the Product Owner, play different functions. The Scrum Master facilitates the process and helps remove obstacles but does not assign tasks. The Product Owner works on managing the product backlog and prioritizing work based on stakeholder needs but does not dictate how the Development Team executes the work. Stakeholders provide input and feedback but do not have a role in how the team organizes itself. Thus, the Development Team is entrusted with the flexibility to decide on the distribution of work to enhance collaboration and efficiency within the Scrum framework.

8. What techniques can a Scrum Master use to promote collaboration?

- A. Facilitation of team-building activities, open discussions, and conflict resolution tactics**
- B. Forced competition among team members
- C. Strictly monitoring individual performance
- D. Limiting communication to written reports

Promoting collaboration within a Scrum team is essential for achieving high performance and cohesion. The focus on facilitation of team-building activities, open discussions, and conflict resolution tactics directly supports this goal. When a Scrum Master organizes team-building activities, it helps the team members build relationships and trust, which are foundational for collaborative work. Open discussions create an environment where team members feel safe to express their ideas, challenges, and feedback, encouraging transparency and cooperation. Additionally, having tactics in place for conflict resolution ensures that disagreements can be addressed constructively, allowing the team to maintain a healthy working dynamic without escalating tensions. These techniques foster a culture of collaboration, aligning with the Scrum framework principles of transparency, inspection, and adaptation. Effective collaboration is integral to the success of a Scrum team; it helps them to work together to solve problems, innovate, and improve processes collectively. Thus, the practices of facilitating team-building, encouraging open dialogue, and resolving conflicts are key strategies a Scrum Master can employ to enhance team collaboration effectively.

9. What is the primary responsibility of a Scrum Master?

- A. To manage the project timeline
- B. To facilitate the Scrum process and ensure the team follows Scrum practices**
- C. To oversee the financial budget of the project
- D. To perform the tasks of the Development Team

The primary responsibility of a Scrum Master is to facilitate the Scrum process and ensure that the team adheres to Scrum practices. This role is crucial for fostering an environment where the Scrum framework can thrive. By acting as a servant leader, the Scrum Master helps the team understand and implement Scrum principles, encourages collaboration, and removes obstacles that may impede the team's progress. In this capacity, the Scrum Master serves as a coach, guiding the team through the various Scrum events such as Sprint Planning, Daily Stand-ups, Sprint Reviews, and Sprint Retrospectives. They also work with the Product Owner to help the team manage the Product Backlog effectively and ensure that development aligns with the overall product vision. This focus on facilitating adherence to the Scrum framework is what empowers teams to achieve higher levels of efficiency and innovation in their work, ultimately leading to better product outcomes.

10. When creating development teams, how many members do Scrum guidelines recommend for an optimal team size?

- A. 1 to 5 members
- B. 5 to 7 members
- C. 3 to 9 members**
- D. 10 or more members

Scrum guidelines suggest that an optimal development team size is between three to nine members. This range is recommended because it strikes a balance between having enough diversity in skills and perspectives to tackle complex problems, while also remaining small enough to maintain effective communication and collaboration. Teams that are too small may struggle to cover all necessary skills and may lack the capability to deliver a potentially shippable Increment. Conversely, teams that are too large can face coordination challenges, difficulties in communication, and reduced individual accountability. The recommendation of three to nine members ensures that the team is adequately equipped to be self-sufficient, fosters collaboration, and is agile enough to adapt to changes or challenges. Other sizes outside this range, such as having only one member or having ten or more, are not aligned with the principles of Scrum and can hinder the team's performance and effectiveness.

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://scrummasterpsm1.examzify.com>

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

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