Professional Scrum Master (PSM) III 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

1. **What should happen if the Development Team faces obstacles in achieving the Sprint Goal?**

   A. They should discuss it during Sprint Review

   B. They should work overtime to meet the goal

   C. They should voice concerns in the Daily Scrum

   D. They must wait for a resolution from the Scrum Master

2. **What is the maximum length of a Sprint?**

   A. Two weeks

   B. One month

   C. Three weeks

   D. Six weeks

3. **Which Scrum event is focused on continuous improvement?**

   A. Sprint Planning

   B. Sprint Review

   C. Sprint Retrospective

   D. Daily Scrum

4. **What is a key aspect of the Scrum framework regarding teamwork?**

   A. Individual effort is prioritized over team collaboration

   B. The team is focused on the completed work only

   C. Collaboration among teams must be managed independently

   D. All team members must understand the product and its vision

5. **What is one of the benefits of Continuous Integration?**

   A. It results in slower development cycles

   B. It causes team members to consider each other's work

   C. It removes the need for communication

   D. It reduces the focus on individual tasks

6. Which topic is NOT appropriate for discussion in a Sprint Retrospective?

A. What went well during the Sprint

B. Plans for the next Sprint Backlog

C. Team dynamics and collaboration

D. Action items for team improvement

7. What are two important actions for a Scrum Master if the Product Owner is not collaborating with the Development Team during the Sprint?

A. Increase daily check-ins and write reports

B. Bring up the problem at the Sprint Retrospective and coach the Product Owner

C. Request more time for the Product Owner to engage

D. Conduct team-building activities to boost morale

8. What is the primary purpose of the Daily Scrum?

A. To provide updates to the Product Owner

B. To discuss personal issues

C. To synchronize activities and create a plan for the next 24 hours

D. To plan the upcoming Sprint

9. When does a Development Team make adjustments to its engineering practices?

A. At the beginning of every Sprint

B. Only during Sprint Retrospectives

C. Whenever needed

D. At the end of the project

10. What is a main benefit of establishing naming standards for code?

A. It ensures faster execution

B. It makes the code more readable

C. It reduces file sizes

D. It helps with code encryption

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What should happen if the Development Team faces obstacles in achieving the Sprint Goal?

A. They should discuss it during Sprint Review

B. They should work overtime to meet the goal

C. They should voice concerns in the Daily Scrum

D. They must wait for a resolution from the Scrum Master

When the Development Team encounters obstacles in achieving the Sprint Goal, voicing concerns during the Daily Scrum is the appropriate course of action. The Daily Scrum is a key event in the Scrum framework specifically designed to inspect progress towards the Sprint Goal and adapt the upcoming work accordingly. During this time, the Development Team can address any impediments or challenges they are facing, allowing for immediate dialogue and problem-solving within the group. By discussing obstacles in this forum, the team can collectively brainstorm solutions or adjustments to their approach, ensuring that everyone is aligned and aware of the issues at hand. This collaborative spirit is essential for facilitating quick resolutions and maintaining momentum towards achieving the Sprint Goal. In contrast, discussing obstacles during the Sprint Review does not allow for timely interventions, as this event focuses on demonstrating the work done, not lessening impediments. Working overtime may lead to burnout and is not a sustainable solution for overcoming challenges in Scrum. Lastly, relying solely on the Scrum Master for resolution means that the Development Team may not take ownership of their hurdles, which can hamper team empowerment and accountability. Thus, actively voicing concerns in the Daily Scrum fosters an environment of transparency and collaboration, leading to more effective problem-solving and ultimately supporting the team's ability to reach their Sprint Goal.

2. What is the maximum length of a Sprint?

A. Two weeks

B. One month

C. Three weeks

D. Six weeks

The maximum length of a Sprint is one month. This timeframe is defined in the Scrum Guide, which states that while Sprints can be as short as one week, they should not exceed one month. This limitation helps to ensure that Scrum teams maintain a consistent rhythm and cadence while allowing for regular feedback and adaptation. Having a maximum duration of one month encourages teams to deliver valuable increments of work while also providing sufficient time for thorough development and team reflection. Longer Sprints may introduce risks associated with changes in project direction, as more time may pass before adaptation occurs based on feedback received. Additionally, keeping the Sprint duration to a maximum of one month supports continuous delivery and enables rapid iteration cycles, which are hallmarks of the Agile framework and Scrum in particular. This promotes better collaboration, alignment, and transparency among the team and stakeholders, leading to improved project outcomes. In summary, one month is the maximum length of a Sprint to balance development needs with the core principles of Agile and Scrum methodologies.

3. Which Scrum event is focused on continuous improvement?

A. Sprint Planning

B. Sprint Review

C. Sprint Retrospective

D. Daily Scrum

The Sprint Retrospective is the Scrum event explicitly dedicated to continuous improvement. During this event, the Scrum Team reflects on the past Sprint, discussing what went well, what didn't, and identifying areas for improvement. The primary objective is to foster an open dialogue that encourages team members to share insights and experiences, leading to actionable improvement plans. The Retrospective allows the team to inspect their work processes and adapt them to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. This can include changes to workflows, communication practices, or even how the team collaborates on tasks. By regularly engaging in this reflection and improvement process, the team can continually refine its practices and contribute to increased productivity and satisfaction among team members. In contrast, while the other Scrum events serve important purposes—such as planning work (Sprint Planning), reviewing completed work (Sprint Review), and synchronizing daily tasks (Daily Scrum)—they do not have the specific focus on learning from experiences and fostering a mindset of continuous improvement that is characteristic of the Sprint Retrospective.

4. What is a key aspect of the Scrum framework regarding teamwork?

A. Individual effort is prioritized over team collaboration

B. The team is focused on the completed work only

C. Collaboration among teams must be managed independently

D. All team members must understand the product and its vision

A key aspect of the Scrum framework is that all team members must understand the product and its vision. In Scrum, having a shared understanding of the product and its goals is essential for effective collaboration and teamwork. This understanding ensures that everyone is aligned on what needs to be achieved and works towards the same objectives. When team members are aware of the product vision, they can contribute more effectively, make informed decisions, and ensure their efforts are directed towards delivering value to the customer. Scrum emphasizes cross-functionality and self-organization, which rely on every member's clear grasp of the vision to foster collaboration. Such alignment also enhances communication within the team and stakeholders, facilitating a more cohesive approach to solving problems and achieving project goals. In contrast, prioritizing individual effort over teamwork undermines the collaborative principles of Scrum. Focusing solely on completed work neglects the importance of team dynamics and collective output. Additionally, managing collaboration among teams independently can lead to silos and a lack of synergy that is crucial for agile methodologies. Thus, understanding the product and its vision is integral to the effective application of the Scrum framework.

5. What is one of the benefits of Continuous Integration?

A. It results in slower development cycles

B. It causes team members to consider each other's work

C. It removes the need for communication

D. It reduces the focus on individual tasks

One of the key benefits of Continuous Integration (CI) is that it encourages team members to consider each other's work. CI involves regularly integrating code changes into a shared repository, which often includes automated tests to verify the integrity of the combined code. This practice fosters a collaborative environment where developers must be aware of what their teammates are working on, leading to improved coordination and communication across the team. By integrating code frequently, team members not only have to review each other's contributions but also need to ensure that their changes do not conflict with one another. This collaborative mindset ultimately enhances the quality of the software being developed and helps to identify integration issues early in the development process. In contrast, other options present concepts contrary to the benefits or practice of Continuous Integration. Statements about slower development cycles, reduced communication, or less focus on individual tasks misrepresent the nature of CI, which is designed to streamline development processes, enhance collaboration, and integrate changes more efficiently.

6. Which topic is NOT appropriate for discussion in a Sprint Retrospective?

A. What went well during the Sprint

B. Plans for the next Sprint Backlog

C. Team dynamics and collaboration

D. Action items for team improvement

In a Sprint Retrospective, the primary focus is on reflecting on the past Sprint to identify improvements for the future. This involves discussing what went well, team dynamics, collaboration, and action items for team improvement. Plans for the next Sprint Backlog, however, fall outside the scope of the retrospective. This planning and backlog refinement typically occur in different meetings, such as Sprint Planning. The retrospective aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the previous Sprint, create actions for improvement, and strengthen the team's processes rather than dive into the specifics of the upcoming work. By keeping the retrospective focused on reflection and improvement rather than future planning, the team can foster a culture of continuous improvement and learning.

7. What are two important actions for a Scrum Master if the Product Owner is not collaborating with the Development Team during the Sprint?

A. Increase daily check-ins and write reports

B. Bring up the problem at the Sprint Retrospective and coach the Product Owner

C. Request more time for the Product Owner to engage

D. Conduct team-building activities to boost morale

The focus on bringing up the problem at the Sprint Retrospective and coaching the Product Owner is essential for several reasons. First, the Sprint Retrospective is a dedicated event within the Scrum framework where the team reflects on the past Sprint, evaluates what went well, what could be improved, and how to enhance their processes moving forward. By addressing the lack of collaboration during this meeting, the Scrum Master facilitates open communication, creates awareness of the issue, and encourages collective problem-solving among team members. Coaching the Product Owner is equally important. The Scrum Master plays a vital role in helping the Product Owner understand their responsibilities better and the importance of engaging with the Development Team. This coaching can lead to improved collaboration, helping the Product Owner see the value of regular interaction and feedback loops with the Development Team, which is crucial for maximizing product value. Engaging in this way not only aims to resolve the immediate challenge but also strengthens the relationship between the Product Owner and the Development Team, fostering a more effective Scrum environment. This reflective and coaching approach aligns with the principles of servant leadership that the Scrum Master embodies, ultimately benefiting the entire Scrum Team.

8. What is the primary purpose of the Daily Scrum?

A. To provide updates to the Product Owner

B. To discuss personal issues

C. To synchronize activities and create a plan for the next 24 hours

D. To plan the upcoming Sprint

The primary purpose of the Daily Scrum is to synchronize activities and create a plan for the next 24 hours. This daily event, typically lasting around 15 minutes, is designed to give the Development Team an opportunity to inspect progress toward the Sprint Goal and adapt their plan for the day based on what has been accomplished so far. During the Daily Scrum, each team member discusses what they accomplished since the last meeting, what they plan to do before the next one, and any impediments they are facing. This structure ensures that everyone is aligned, aware of each other's work, and can adjust efforts to maximize productivity and collaboration toward achieving the Sprint Goal. The focus is squarely on current work and collaboration rather than updating the Product Owner, discussing personal issues, or planning for future Sprints. This distinction is essential for maintaining the Daily Scrum's effectiveness as a tool for team synchronization and immediate planning.

9. When does a Development Team make adjustments to its engineering practices?

A. At the beginning of every Sprint

B. Only during Sprint Retrospectives

C. Whenever needed

D. At the end of the project

The Development Team makes adjustments to its engineering practices whenever needed to ensure they are working as effectively and efficiently as possible. This flexibility is rooted in the Agile principles, which encourage continuous improvement and adaptation throughout the entire development process. Engineering practices are an essential part of the team's workflow, and they may need to be revised in response to a variety of factors, such as changes in project requirements, lessons learned from previous work, new technologies, or challenges faced during a Sprint. This ongoing adaptability allows the team to respond promptly to any obstacles and improves their processes incrementally, leading to better quality outcomes and higher productivity. The Scrum framework promotes self-organization and empowerment among the team members, which means they should feel free to make necessary adjustments as they see fit, rather than being constrained to specific times for making changes. In contrast, making adjustments only at the beginning of every Sprint or exclusively during Sprint Retrospectives would limit the team's ability to improve continuously. Waiting until the end of the project to address engineering practices could hinder progress and lead to issues that are more difficult to resolve later on. Therefore, the emphasis on making adjustments as needed is vital for maintaining a high-performing Development Team.

10. What is a main benefit of establishing naming standards for code?

A. It ensures faster execution

B. It makes the code more readable

C. It reduces file sizes

D. It helps with code encryption

Establishing naming standards for code primarily enhances the readability of the code. When developers adhere to consistent naming conventions, it becomes easier for anyone reading the code to understand its purpose and function at a glance. This improved readability facilitates collaboration among team members, especially in environments where multiple developers contribute to the same codebase. Clear, descriptive names help to convey the intent behind variables, functions, and classes, reducing the cognitive load on developers who need to maintain or extend the code later on. This practice leads to higher quality code and can significantly streamline the onboarding process for new team members. While faster execution, reduced file sizes, and code encryption are certainly important aspects of software development, they are not directly related to the benefits of naming standards. Naming conventions do not impact the performance of code execution or its size, nor do they contribute to security measures like encryption. Their primary role is in enhancing clarity and maintainability.

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://scrummasterpsm3.examzify.com

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