

Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) Advanced Scrum Master Practice Exam (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. What could hinder a team's predictability measurement?**
 - A. Clear communication among team members**
 - B. Timely completion of tasks**
 - C. Frequent changes in requirements**
 - D. Regular feedback from stakeholders**

- 2. In the context of SAFe, what does 'DevOps' promote?**
 - A. Collaboration between development and operations teams**
 - B. Competition between development and operations teams**
 - C. Separation of development and operations processes**
 - D. Neglecting infrastructure management in projects**

- 3. What is the first action to take during a problem-solving workshop?**
 - A. List all possible solutions**
 - B. Agree on the problem to solve**
 - C. Identify stakeholders**
 - D. Set a timeline for the workshop**

- 4. In SAFe, why is it essential to celebrate team achievements during retrospectives?**
 - A. To distract teams from their failures**
 - B. To foster team morale and encourage continuous improvement**
 - C. To prepare for the next planning meeting**
 - D. To determine roles for future tasks**

- 5. What is an expected outcome of conducting an 'Inspect and Adapt' session?**
 - A. Strict adherence to past workflows**
 - B. Introduction of new technologies only**
 - C. Enhancement of team processes and performance**
 - D. Reduction of team meetings**

- 6. What is an important aspect of creating a culture of innovation in SAFe?**
- A. Restricting experimentation to maintain order**
 - B. Encouraging teams to think creatively during the planning process**
 - C. Focusing solely on meeting deadlines**
 - D. Eliminating all risks from the planning phase**
- 7. Which technique should a Scrum Master use for effective conflict resolution?**
- A. Delegation to stakeholders**
 - B. Facilitation to help parties reach common ground**
 - C. Authoritative decision-making**
 - D. Ignoring minor disputes to maintain focus**
- 8. What method does SAFe recommend for coordinating teams?**
- A. Scrum Masters**
 - B. Agile Release Trains (ARTs)**
 - C. Kanban Boards**
 - D. Program Increments (PIs)**
- 9. Which metric does SAFe recommend for assessing team performance?**
- A. Employee satisfaction scores**
 - B. Velocity, defect rates, and team feedback**
 - C. Revenue generation metrics**
 - D. Time taken to market**
- 10. How should a Scrum Master deal with multiple teams in an ART?**
- A. By avoiding collaboration between teams**
 - B. By facilitating collaboration, sharing best practices, and coordinating efforts**
 - C. By assigning specific tasks to each team**
 - D. By focusing solely on the performance of one team**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What could hinder a team's predictability measurement?

- A. Clear communication among team members
- B. Timely completion of tasks
- C. Frequent changes in requirements**
- D. Regular feedback from stakeholders

Frequent changes in requirements can significantly hinder a team's predictability measurement because they introduce variability and uncertainty into the workflow. When requirements change often, the team is forced to adapt their planning and execution frequently, making it difficult to estimate timelines, resource allocation, and the overall ability to deliver consistent outputs. This volatility means that the team may not have a stable baseline from which to measure their predictability, impacting their performance metrics and retrospectives. In agile environments, while adaptability is essential, constant shifts can disrupt the rhythm and focus necessary for achieving long-term planning and predictability. In contrast, clear communication, timely task completion, and regular feedback are all factors that generally enhance a team's ability to measure and achieve predictability. Effective communication among team members ensures that everyone is aligned on goals and task priorities. Completing tasks on time typically indicates a level of predictability in delivery. Similarly, regular feedback from stakeholders helps teams refine their processes and approaches based on actual performance, which can also contribute to improved predictability over time.

2. In the context of SAFe, what does 'DevOps' promote?

- A. Collaboration between development and operations teams**
- B. Competition between development and operations teams
- C. Separation of development and operations processes
- D. Neglecting infrastructure management in projects

DevOps in the context of SAFe promotes collaboration between development and operations teams. This collaborative approach integrates both functions, ensuring that they work together throughout the entire software development lifecycle. By emphasizing cooperation, DevOps aims to improve the speed and quality of software delivery while improving overall productivity. The focus on collaboration enables teams to share responsibilities and workflows, leading to faster feedback loops and improved continuous delivery practices. This integration helps in identifying and resolving issues more efficiently, thus aligning with the core SAFe principles of fostering a culture of innovation and encouraging cross-functional teamwork. The other options do not align with the fundamental goals of DevOps within SAFe. Competition and separation of teams can lead to silos, which hinder the effectiveness and agility that DevOps seeks to improve. Moreover, neglecting infrastructure management contradicts the DevOps philosophy of shared ownership of both development and operational tasks, highlighting why promoting collaboration is the key aspect of DevOps in the SAFe framework.

3. What is the first action to take during a problem-solving workshop?

- A. List all possible solutions**
- B. Agree on the problem to solve**
- C. Identify stakeholders**
- D. Set a timeline for the workshop**

The first action to take during a problem-solving workshop is to agree on the problem to solve. This step is essential because a clear and mutual understanding of the problem ensures that all participants are aligned and focused on addressing the same issue. If the team does not agree on what the problem is, efforts to find solutions might diverge, leading to confusion and inefficiency. Identifying the specific problem also helps set the context for the discussion and allows participants to analyze the root causes more effectively. Once consensus is reached regarding the problem, the team can then proceed to explore possible solutions, identify stakeholders, and establish timelines. This foundational agreement is crucial to the overall success of the workshop, as it shapes the direction of the collaborative efforts that follow.

4. In SAFe, why is it essential to celebrate team achievements during retrospectives?

- A. To distract teams from their failures**
- B. To foster team morale and encourage continuous improvement**
- C. To prepare for the next planning meeting**
- D. To determine roles for future tasks**

Celebrating team achievements during retrospectives is crucial because it helps foster team morale and encourages a culture of continuous improvement. Acknowledging and celebrating successes reinforces positive behaviors and accomplishments, which can significantly enhance team cohesion and motivation. When team members see that their hard work is recognized and valued, it can lead to increased engagement and a stronger commitment to both the team and the overall goals of the organization. This positive reinforcement promotes an environment where team members feel safe to discuss challenges and areas needing improvement, ultimately driving the team towards greater effectiveness and innovation. By highlighting what has gone well, the team can build upon their strengths and maintain momentum, making it easier to address any setbacks or obstacles in a constructive manner. While other options address aspects of team dynamics or planning, they do not encapsulate the importance of recognition and morale-building in the same way. Celebrating successes is a fundamental part of effective retrospective practices within the SAFe framework.

5. What is an expected outcome of conducting an 'Inspect and Adapt' session?

- A. Strict adherence to past workflows**
- B. Introduction of new technologies only**
- C. Enhancement of team processes and performance**
- D. Reduction of team meetings**

Conducting an 'Inspect and Adapt' session is fundamentally focused on continuous improvement and assessing the current state of the team's processes and performance. The expected outcome of this session is to enhance team processes and performance through reflection on what has occurred, identifying areas for improvement, and developing actionable steps to implement those improvements. This practice aligns with Agile principles, which emphasize adaptation based on feedback and learning from past experiences. By fostering a culture of openness and collaboration, teams can better understand their strengths and weaknesses, encourage innovation, and drive performance improvements, thereby contributing to the overall success of the project. The other options do not accurately reflect the purpose of an 'Inspect and Adapt' session. Strict adherence to past workflows contradicts the spirit of continuous improvement, as it suggests a reluctance to evolve or change based on new insights. The introduction of new technologies may be part of a team's strategy but is not the primary focus of these sessions, which prioritize process enhancement. Lastly, while team meetings may be evaluated for their effectiveness, the aim is not to reduce them indiscriminately but to ensure they are productive and serve their intended purpose.

6. What is an important aspect of creating a culture of innovation in SAFe?

- A. Restricting experimentation to maintain order**
- B. Encouraging teams to think creatively during the planning process**
- C. Focusing solely on meeting deadlines**
- D. Eliminating all risks from the planning phase**

Encouraging teams to think creatively during the planning process is essential to fostering a culture of innovation in SAFe. This practice involves allowing team members to explore new ideas, challenge the status quo, and experiment with different approaches to problem-solving. When teams are prompted to think creatively, they are more likely to generate innovative solutions that can lead to improved products and services. In the SAFe framework, the planning process is a collaborative effort where input from all team members is vital. By promoting a creative mindset during planning, teams can leverage diverse perspectives and experiences, ultimately enhancing their ability to deliver value. This aspect aligns with SAFe's emphasis on continuous improvement and adaptability, which are critical for thriving in a rapidly changing business environment. The other options do not support innovation effectively. Restricting experimentation can stifle creativity, focusing solely on meeting deadlines can lead to a rigid mindset, and eliminating all risks overlooks the inherent uncertainties in innovative efforts. Therefore, fostering creativity during planning is a key ingredient for cultivating an innovative culture in SAFe.

7. Which technique should a Scrum Master use for effective conflict resolution?

- A. Delegation to stakeholders**
- B. Facilitation to help parties reach common ground**
- C. Authoritative decision-making**
- D. Ignoring minor disputes to maintain focus**

Using facilitation to help parties reach common ground is a highly effective technique for conflict resolution within a Scrum team. This approach emphasizes collaboration and communication, allowing team members to express their perspectives and concerns in a structured manner. The Scrum Master acts as a neutral facilitator, creating an environment where open dialogue can occur and encouraging each party to actively listen to one another. By guiding the discussion and focusing on shared goals, the Scrum Master helps conflicting parties identify mutual interests and explore potential solutions collaboratively. This technique fosters trust and respect among team members, ultimately leading to stronger relationships and improved teamwork. Additionally, resolving conflicts through facilitation enables the team to develop its conflict resolution skills, making them more resilient in the future. Other techniques, such as delegation to stakeholders or authoritative decision-making, do not encourage team engagement or resolution from within the group. Ignoring minor disputes can also lead to bigger issues down the line, as unresolved conflicts may undermine team dynamics or affect project outcomes. Thus, facilitation stands out as the most constructive and empowering approach to conflict resolution in the context of a Scrum team.

8. What method does SAFe recommend for coordinating teams?

- A. Scrum Masters**
- B. Agile Release Trains (ARTs)**
- C. Kanban Boards**
- D. Program Increments (PIs)**

SAFe recommends using Agile Release Trains (ARTs) as the primary method for coordinating teams. An ART is a long-lived team of Agile teams that, along with other stakeholders, delivers value in the form of working, tested software and systems. This framework emphasizes alignment, collaboration, and delivery of cross-functional features by multiple teams working in tandem. ARTs are crucial in scaling Agile practices across an organization because they operate on a defined cadence, typically with fixed-length Program Increments (PIs), which helps in synchronizing the efforts of various teams. Within an ART, teams plan their work during PI Planning events, allowing them to collectively commit to delivering integrated pieces of functionality. This approach fosters increased communication, accountability, and dependency management among teams, enabling them to respond effectively to changes in requirements and to deliver value consistently. In contrast, while Scrum Masters play a crucial role in facilitating Agile practices within their teams, they do not provide the cross-team coordination that ARTs offer. Kanban Boards are valuable tools for visualizing work within individual teams, but they do not coordinate efforts across multiple teams or programs. Program Increments serve as the time frame for delivering value within an ART but are not a method for coordinating teams in and of themselves; rather

9. Which metric does SAFe recommend for assessing team performance?

- A. Employee satisfaction scores**
- B. Velocity, defect rates, and team feedback**
- C. Revenue generation metrics**
- D. Time taken to market**

In the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), the recommended metric for assessing team performance includes velocity, defect rates, and team feedback. Velocity allows teams to measure the amount of work they can complete in a given iteration, which helps in forecasting and planning future work. Defect rates provide insight into the quality of the output, indicating how many issues are being introduced into the product and allowing teams to focus on improvements. Team feedback plays a crucial role in assessing how well a team collaborates and meets the needs of its stakeholders, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Together, these metrics create a balanced view of team performance by addressing aspects of productivity, quality, and collaboration. This holistic approach aligns with the SAFe principle of focusing on the flow of value and the continuous learning aspect intrinsic to Agile methodologies.

10. How should a Scrum Master deal with multiple teams in an ART?

- A. By avoiding collaboration between teams**
- B. By facilitating collaboration, sharing best practices, and coordinating efforts**
- C. By assigning specific tasks to each team**
- D. By focusing solely on the performance of one team**

The chosen answer highlights the essential role of the Scrum Master in fostering a collaborative environment among multiple teams within an Agile Release Train (ART). In SAFe, the framework encourages teams to work closely together to achieve common objectives, leverage each other's strengths, and effectively share knowledge and resources. By facilitating collaboration, the Scrum Master helps to break down silos that can occur when teams operate independently. This collaboration is crucial for aligning the teams' efforts with the overarching goals of the ART and ensuring that they are moving in the same direction. Sharing best practices enables teams to learn from each other's experiences and enhances the overall performance of the ART. Furthermore, coordination of efforts helps to synchronize work across teams, reduces dependencies, and facilitates the integration of deliverables, which is critical for delivering value effectively and efficiently. This approach aligns perfectly with the principles of the SAFe framework, emphasizing the importance of teamwork, communication, and alignment in achieving higher productivity and quality outcomes.

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-advancedscrummaster.examzify.com>

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

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