

# Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) Scrum Master 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. Which of the following is NOT a key responsibility of a Scrum Master in SAFe?**
  - A. Facilitating Scrum events**
  - B. Coaching the team**
  - C. Managing the project budget**
  - D. Removing impediments**
- 2. What is one example of effective Scrum Masters/Team Coaches thinking beyond the day-to-day?**
  - A. Help the team prioritize improvement activities to ensure progress**
  - B. Regularly remind the team of weekly deliverables**
  - C. Track team attendance at daily stand-ups**
  - D. Focus solely on immediate Sprint goals**
- 3. Which event is critical for Agile Teams to reflect on their work?**
  - A. Daily Stand-up**
  - B. Iteration Retrospective**
  - C. PI Planning**
  - D. Team Sync**
- 4. What is one anti-pattern of the Inspect and Adapt?**
  - A. Scrum Masters providing extensive training**
  - B. Product Owners presenting all of the work in the PI System demo**
  - C. Teams having too many retrospectives**
  - D. Focusing solely on numbers and metrics**
- 5. What is 'technical debt,' and how should a Scrum Master address it?**
  - A. It refers to budget constraints limiting project scope**
  - B. It is the additional work caused by choosing easy solutions; Scrum Masters should help prioritize it in backlog refinement**
  - C. It relates to team performance issues**
  - D. It signifies outdated technology being used in projects**

**6. What is the primary purpose of sprint planning?**

- A. To review past sprints**
- B. To establish team roles**
- C. To outline the work for the next iteration**
- D. To finalize release dates**

**7. What is a primary function of the portfolio level within SAFe?**

- A. To manage sprint cycles for agile teams.**
- B. To provide funding for various programs and projects.**
- C. To ensure team performance metrics are met.**
- D. To directly execute all team tasks.**

**8. How do programs create value within the SAFe framework?**

- A. By focusing solely on resource management.**
- B. By aligning projects that work towards a shared goal.**
- C. By operating independently of organizational strategy.**
- D. By maintaining detailed records of team performance.**

**9. What is one topic for each team member to speak about during Team Sync?**

- A. Any impediments to Iteration Goals**
- B. The preparation of Stories for the next iteration**
- C. Resources required to demo completed Stories**
- D. Enablers required for work to continue smoothly**

**10. What role does the Scrum of Scrums (SoS) serve in SAFe?**

- A. It is a meeting for discussing project funding**
- B. It is an event for coordinating efforts among multiple Scrum teams working on the same program**
- C. It focuses on performance evaluations of individual Scrum Masters**
- D. It manages the project scope and budget**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which of the following is NOT a key responsibility of a Scrum Master in SAFe?**

- A. Facilitating Scrum events**
- B. Coaching the team**
- C. Managing the project budget**
- D. Removing impediments**

The key responsibilities of a Scrum Master in the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) focus on guiding the Scrum Team and ensuring agile practices are effectively followed. This includes facilitating Scrum events, coaching the team, and removing impediments that hinder the team's progress. Facilitating Scrum events involves helping the team engage in necessary ceremonies like Sprint Planning, Daily Stand-ups, Sprint Reviews, and Retrospectives, ensuring they are productive and focused on achieving the team's goals. Coaching the team is vital for promoting continuous improvement, understanding agile principles, and fostering a culture of collaboration and self-organization. Removing impediments is another critical duty, as it empowers the team to work efficiently and effectively by addressing any obstacles that may disrupt their workflow. Managing the project budget, however, is not a primary responsibility of a Scrum Master. The Scrum Master's role centers around team dynamics, process facilitation, and agile coaching rather than overseeing financial aspects of a project. This responsibility typically falls to project managers or program managers within the organizational structure, who handle the broader strategic and financial planning necessary for project execution.

**2. What is one example of effective Scrum Masters/Team Coaches thinking beyond the day-to-day?**

- A. Help the team prioritize improvement activities to ensure progress**
- B. Regularly remind the team of weekly deliverables**
- C. Track team attendance at daily stand-ups**
- D. Focus solely on immediate Sprint goals**

One example of effective Scrum Masters or Team Coaches thinking beyond the day-to-day is helping the team prioritize improvement activities to ensure progress. This role involves not just managing current tasks, but also fostering an environment of continuous improvement and growth within the team. By prioritizing improvement activities, the Scrum Master encourages the team to reflect on their processes, identify areas for enhancement, and implement changes that can lead to better performance in future Sprints. This strategic mindset enables the team to evolve beyond their immediate goals, fostering enhanced productivity and effectiveness over the long term. Focusing on immediate deliverables, tracking attendance, or serving narrow goals are more operational aspects that do not contribute to the broader growth and improvement of the team. These approaches may create a sense of immediate control, but they can limit the team's potential for innovation and long-term success. In contrast, prioritizing improvement activities promotes a proactive approach, emphasizing learning and adaptation, which is at the heart of Agile methodologies.

### 3. Which event is critical for Agile Teams to reflect on their work?

- A. Daily Stand-up**
- B. Iteration Retrospective**
- C. PI Planning**
- D. Team Sync**

The Iteration Retrospective is a critical event for Agile teams to reflect on their work because it is specifically designed for the team to review their processes, performance, and teamwork over the iteration period. During this event, team members collaborate to identify what went well, what could be improved, and how to implement changes moving forward. The Iteration Retrospective fosters a culture of continuous improvement by encouraging open dialogue. Team members can share their perspectives on the iteration, highlight successes, and address any challenges they faced. This feedback loop is essential for enhancing team effectiveness and productivity in future iterations. While other Agile events like the Daily Stand-up and PI Planning serve important purposes—such as daily alignment and planning for a larger increment—the Retrospective is uniquely focused on reflection and learning. Team Sync is typically a coordination meeting that may not specifically emphasize reflection on past work like the Iteration Retrospective does. This makes the retrospective the most pivotal event for teams to critically assess and evolve their work practices.

### 4. What is one anti-pattern of the Inspect and Adapt?

- A. Scrum Masters providing extensive training**
- B. Product Owners presenting all of the work in the PI System demo**
- C. Teams having too many retrospectives**
- D. Focusing solely on numbers and metrics**

The identification of an anti-pattern in the Inspect and Adapt process within the Scaled Agile Framework highlights the misunderstanding of roles and collaboration within the Agile framework. When Product Owners present all the work in the PI System demo, it undermines the intent of the demonstration, which is to provide a platform for showcasing the accomplishments of the entire team. The demo should be a collaborative effort that reflects the joint contributions of cross-functional team members, including developers and testers. This approach fosters transparency, engagement, and collective ownership of the work. When only the Product Owner presents, it shifts the focus away from the collaborative achievements of the team and attributes the entire outcome to one role. This can lead to diminished morale among team members, stifle collaborative culture, and prevent a comprehensive overview of the progress made during the Program Increment (PI). The Inspect and Adapt mechanism relies on collective participation and input, and deviating from this principle by allowing only one role to present detracts from the Agile values of collaboration and teamwork. The other choices reflect issues that do not directly undermine the core collaborative goals of the Inspect and Adapt process. Providing extensive training can be beneficial for team development, having too many retrospectives might dilute their effectiveness but still shows a desire for improvement, and a

## 5. What is 'technical debt,' and how should a Scrum Master address it?

- A. It refers to budget constraints limiting project scope
- B. It is the additional work caused by choosing easy solutions; Scrum Masters should help prioritize it in backlog refinement**
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- D. It signifies outdated technology being used in projects

The concept of 'technical debt' refers to the accumulation of work that arises when teams choose quick and easy solutions to problems instead of more time-consuming, but more effective, approaches. This can happen for several reasons, including tight deadlines, pressure to deliver features quickly, or a lack of understanding of best practices. Over time, this "debt" can accumulate, leading to increased maintenance costs, reduced quality, and higher complexity, making future development more challenging and costly. In the context of Scrum, the Scrum Master plays a crucial role in addressing technical debt by facilitating discussions during backlog refinement sessions. During these sessions, the Scrum Master helps the team identify and prioritize technical debt alongside other user stories and tasks. This prioritization is essential because it ensures that the team allocates time and resources to improve the codebase and system architecture, rather than just focusing on delivering immediate functionality. By acknowledging and managing technical debt, the team can maintain a sustainable pace of work and ensure the long-term health of the product. In summary, the correct answer emphasizes the importance of prioritizing technical debt in the backlog refinement process, which is a key responsibility for the Scrum Master, ensuring that both current and future work can be accomplished effectively.

## 6. What is the primary purpose of sprint planning?

- A. To review past sprints
- B. To establish team roles
- C. To outline the work for the next iteration**
- D. To finalize release dates

The primary purpose of sprint planning is to outline the work for the next iteration. During sprint planning, the Scrum team collaborates to define the sprint goal and determine which items from the product backlog will be selected for the upcoming sprint, based on their capacity and priorities. This process involves breaking down the selected items into manageable tasks, ensuring that everyone has a clear understanding of what needs to be accomplished to achieve the sprint goal. By focusing on the specific work that will be completed within the sprint, the team creates a shared commitment and clarity, which is crucial for fostering alignment and productivity during the iteration. Establishing this foundation helps to ensure that the team works toward common objectives, ultimately leading to enhanced collaboration and success in delivering value to stakeholders.

## 7. What is a primary function of the portfolio level within SAFe?

- A. To manage sprint cycles for agile teams.
- B. To provide funding for various programs and projects.**
- C. To ensure team performance metrics are met.
- D. To directly execute all team tasks.

The primary function of the portfolio level within SAFe is to provide funding for various programs and projects. In the SAFe framework, the portfolio level is responsible for aligning the organization's strategy with its investment decisions. This involves prioritizing initiatives, allocating resources effectively, and ensuring that funding supports the highest-value work that aligns with strategic goals. This level focuses on maintaining a larger perspective to unify the various initiatives under a cohesive strategy, ensuring that the programs and projects funded contribute directly to the organization's long-term objectives. By managing funding at the portfolio level, it allows for agility in responding to changes in market demands or organizational priorities, enabling the enterprise to shift investments toward new opportunities or to discontinue funding for less valuable efforts. In contrast, managing sprint cycles for agile teams is a function at the team level rather than the portfolio level, ensuring team operations are efficient but not directly tied to portfolio management. Monitoring team performance metrics is also specific to agile teams and the program level, focusing on delivering value within sprints rather than overall portfolio alignment. Additionally, the direct execution of all team tasks is outside the scope of the portfolio level, as that responsibility is delegated to agile teams, which operate independently within the framework.

## 8. How do programs create value within the SAFe framework?

- A. By focusing solely on resource management.
- B. By aligning projects that work towards a shared goal.**
- C. By operating independently of organizational strategy.
- D. By maintaining detailed records of team performance.

In the context of the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), programs create value by aligning projects that work towards a shared goal. This alignment is fundamental because it ensures that all teams within a program are contributing toward a common vision, which enhances collaboration and helps to drive the organization's strategic objectives. When teams are focused on a shared goal, they can streamline their efforts and leverage synergies among various projects, ultimately resulting in increased efficiency and effectiveness. This collaborative approach fosters an environment where communication across teams is prioritized, enabling quicker responses to changes in market demand or customer feedback. Shared goals also facilitate better prioritization of work, ensuring that resources are allocated towards the most impactful initiatives. This not only enhances team motivation but also improves the overall value delivered to customers and stakeholders, as teams are more likely to produce high-quality, relevant products and solutions. Other options are less effective because they do not promote the level of integration and collective purpose necessary for driving value in a SAFe environment. For example, focusing solely on resource management can lead to a siloed approach that stifles collaboration, while operating independently of the organizational strategy means that programs may not contribute to broader business outcomes. Maintaining detailed records of team performance, while valuable for tracking progress, does not

## 9. What is one topic for each team member to speak about during Team Sync?

- A. Any impediments to Iteration Goals**
- B. The preparation of Stories for the next iteration**
- C. Resources required to demo completed Stories**
- D. Enablers required for work to continue smoothly**

Focusing on any impediments to Iteration Goals during Team Sync is crucial because it directly impacts the team's ability to achieve their objectives within the iteration. This practice aligns with the Agile principle of transparency, encouraging team members to openly discuss challenges they might be facing. When team members communicate impediments, it fosters collaboration in finding solutions and ensures that everyone is aware of potential roadblocks that could hinder the progress of the iteration. While discussing other topics such as story preparation, resource requirements, or enablers is also important, they do not address the immediate and pressing issues that could affect the current iteration's success. Impediments represent obstacles that can derail the team's commitments, making it essential for the team to prioritize these discussions during sync meetings. This focus helps maintain momentum and ensures that the team is collectively oriented toward resolving challenges together.

## 10. What role does the Scrum of Scrums (SoS) serve in SAFe?

- A. It is a meeting for discussing project funding**
- B. It is an event for coordinating efforts among multiple Scrum teams working on the same program**
- C. It focuses on performance evaluations of individual Scrum Masters**
- D. It manages the project scope and budget**

The Scrum of Scrums (SoS) plays a critical role in the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) by facilitating coordination among multiple Scrum teams that are working on the same program. As Agile practices grow to encompass larger projects that involve various teams, the need for effective communication and collaboration increases. The SoS serves this purpose by bringing together representatives from different Scrum teams to discuss progress, share updates on their work, and identify dependencies and impediments that might affect their collective goals. This synchronized communication helps ensure that all teams are aligned and working towards a shared program objective. By doing so, the SoS promotes transparency, fosters collaboration, and enhances the overall productivity of the program, allowing teams to adapt quickly to changes and resolve issues that could impact delivery. Other options do not align with the primary function of the SoS. For instance, discussing project funding is unrelated to the coordination of team efforts, as is the focus on performance evaluations of individual Scrum Masters or managing project scope and budget. These activities are usually handled at different levels of the organization or through other specific events and processes within the SAFe framework, highlighting the importance of SoS in maintaining alignment across numerous teams.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://safe-scrummaster.examzify.com>**

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

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