Examination Rules and Examples

Certified Professional for Software Architecture

Foundation Level

International Software Architecture Qualification Board e. V.

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Examination Rules:

The examination is comprised of multiple choice questions. They need to be answered within a 75 minutes time frame (earlier submission possible).

Their value ranges from 1 - 3 points, depending on the level of difficulty; the total points possible for each question are shown in the question header. The general principle is: correct answers result in additional points, incorrect answers in subtracted points. The assessment is detailed below under "Types of Questions".

To successfully pass the exam, the participant must achieve a minimum of 60% of the total score.

No aids, tools or resources (like training material, books, telephones etc.) are allowed during the exam. In case the participant uses notepads or additional sheets of paper besides the official exam paper, he/she must leave them in the room at the end of the examination.

The participant is not allowed to leave the room during the examination.

Notification of Examination Outcome and Re-examination:

The participants will be notified of the outcome of the examination by the certifying body in written form. The certificate will be shipped by the certifying body to the participants' home address.

The examination fee must to be paid in full for the certificate to be sent.

The examination can be retaken twice without a waiting period. In case of a third failure, the examination can be retaken after a waiting period of one year.

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Types of Questions

1. Assortment Questions ("A" - „Single-Choice" - Questions):

Select one answer from a list of possible answers. Only one answer is correct. Depending on the formulation of the question this can be <u>the only right</u> or <u>the only wrong</u> answer.
There is only one correct choice per question.
The participant receives the corresponding points for selecting the correct answer. No selection, more than one selected answer of incorrect answers result in 0 points for that question. The point value of the answers range between 1-2, depending on the difficulty level.

Example of an "A" question:

Which American president was assassinated in 1963?   [2 points]

A Question: Choose one answer.

☐   a) Abraham Lincoln

☐   b) Harry S. Truman

☐   c) John F. Kennedy

The participant selected the correct answer. He/She receives 2 points.

☐   a) Abraham Lincoln

☐   b) Harry S. Truman

☐   c) John F. Kennedy

The participant did not choose any answer and therefore does not receive any points.

☐   a) Abraham Lincoln

☐   b) Harry S. Truman

☐   c) John F. Kennedy

The participant selected an incorrect answer. The score is 0 for this question.

☐   a) Abraham Lincoln

☐   b) Harry S. Truman

☐   c) John F. Kennedy

The participant receives 0 points. He/she marked too many answers for an s-type question.

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2. Multiple Selection Questions ("P" – "Pick from many" questions):

After the question itself a number of possible answers will be supplied, of which 2 to more can be correct. The expected number of answers (n) is explicitly stated in the text; e.g. Name the **three** types of diagram suitable for modeling … (n = 3).

You do not have to select the total number of expected answers (n); in doubt it may be better to give less answers in order to avoid deduction of points (see evaluation below). These questions often call for the identification of the best, most likely, or best fitting answers.

Some questions may be asked in negative form (e.g. which elicitation techniques are not suitable for …). Depending on the difficulty level, the score is 1-2 points.

Evaluation:

- For each correctly checked answer within the limit n: 1/n times the full points.
- For each incorrectly checked answer within the limit n: deduction of 1/n times the full points.
- Less than n answers checked: without consequence
- More than n answers checked: 0 points

The points for correct choices and the deduction for incorrect choices are totalized per question. If the total for a question results in a negative figure the question will be evaluated with 0 points (negative points in one question will not be carried forward to other questions or the total score)!

Example of a "P" question:

Who are the two most important American presidents?   [2 points]

"P" question: Choose from the four following answers the two that are most appropriate.

☐   a) George Washington
☐   b) Martin van Buren
☐   c) Abraham Lincoln
☐   d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant receives 2 points for answering the question correctly.

☐   a) George Washington
☐   b) Martin van Buren
☐   c) Abraham Lincoln
☐   d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant did not choose any answer and therefore does not receive any points.

☐   a) George Washington
☐   b) Martin van Buren
☐   c) Abraham Lincoln
☐   d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant receives 0 points since the chosen answer is incorrect.

☐   a) George Washington
☐   b) Martin van Buren
☐   c) Abraham Lincoln
☐   d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant does not receive any points, since one answer is correct and one answer is incorrect.

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☐   a) George Washington

☐   b) Martin van Buren

☐   c) Abraham Lincoln

☐   d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant receives 0 points, since more than the required answers were chosen.

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3. Allocation Questions ("K" – Questions):

Allocate **for each** answer the correct choice from two alternatives, e.g. "right" or "wrong", or "applicable"/"non applicable".

Points are awarded for each correct allocation, e.g. 1/3 of the points for each correct answer with three possible answers. An incorrect allocation results in a subtraction of the according (fractional) points. Depending on the difficulty level, the score is 1-3 points. If the total for a question results in a negative figure the question will be evaluated with 0 points (negative points in one question will not be carried forward to other questions or the total score)!

Example for a "C" question:

Which American presidents were assassinated?   [1 point]

C question: Allocate all answers.

assassinated	not assassinated		
☒	☐	a)	Abraham Lincoln
☐	☒	b)	George Washington
☒	☐	c)	John F. Kennedy

The participant receives 1 point for answering the all 3 questions correctly.

☐	☐	a)	Abraham Lincoln
☐	☐	b)	George Washington
☐	☐	c)	John F. Kennedy

The participant did not choose any answer and therefore does not receive any points.

☐	☒	a)	Abraham Lincoln
☐	☒	b)	George Washington
☒	☐	c)	John F. Kennedy

The participant receives 1/3 points. He/She answered 2 two answers correctly (2/3 points) and one incorrectly (1/3 points are subtracted).

☐	☒	a)	Abraham Lincoln
☒	☐	b)	George Washington
☒	☐	c)	John F. Kennedy

The participant receives 0 points. He/She answered 2 two answers incorrectly (2/3 points) and one correctly (1/3 point).

☒	☐	a)	Abraham Lincoln
☐	☐	b)	George Washington
☒	☐	c)	John F. Kennedy

The participant receives 2/3 points. He/She answered 2 answers and did not choose any answer for the second alternative

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Place, date   Signature

_____   _____

Questions - Example Sheet A

1. **Which American president was assassinated in 1963?** [2 points]

   A question: Please select one answer.

   - ☐ a) Abraham Lincoln
   - ☐ b) Harry S. Truman
   - ☐ c) John F. Kennedy

2. **Who are the two most famous American presidents?** [2 points]

   P question: Please select the two most appropriate answers.

   - ☐ a) George Washington
   - ☐ b) Martin van Buren
   - ☐ c) Abraham Lincoln
   - ☐ d) Calvin Coolidge

3. **Which American presidents were assassinated?** [1 point]

   K question: Allocate all answers.

assassinated	not assassinated		
☐	☐	a)	Abraham Lincoln
☐	☐	b)	George Washington
☐	☐	c)	John F. Kennedy

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