# Mock Exam: iSAQB® Certified Professional for Software Architecture – Foundation Level (CPSA-F)®

2021.2-rev0-EN-20210503





## Introduction: General information about the iSAQB Advanced Level

Explanations to the mock exam Certified Professional for Software Architecture - Foundation Level (CPSA-F®) This examination is a mock exam, which is based on the certification exam of the Certified Professional for Software Architecture - Foundation Level (CPSA-F®) in form and scope. It serves to illustrate the real iSAQB® CPSA® examination as well as to prepare for the corresponding exam. The mock exam consists of 39 multiple-choice questions, which can be evaluated with 1 or 2 points depending on the level of difficulty. At least 60 percent must be achieved to pass the exam.

50.0 points can be achieved in this mock examination, you would need 30.0 points to pass.

The following general rules apply:

- Depending on the level of difficulty and the length of the question, you can achieve a score of 1 or 2 points.
- Correct answers result in plus points, incorrect answers result in a deduction of points, but only with regard to the respective question. If the wrong answer to a question leads to a negative score, this question is evaluated with a total of 0 points.

The multiple-choice questions of the mock exam are divided into three types of questions:

**A-Questions (Single Choice, Single Correct Answer):** Select the only correct answer to a question from the list of possible answers. There is only one correct answer. You receive the specified score for selecting the correct answer.

**P-Questions (Pick-from-many, Pick Multiple):** Select the number of correct answers given in the text from the list of possible answers to a question. Select just as many answers as are required in the introductory text. You receive 1/n of the total points for each correct answer. For each incorrect cross, 1/n of the points are deducted.

**K-Questions (Allocation Questions, Choose Category):** For a question, select the correct of the two options for each answer choice ("correct" or "incorrect" or "applicable" or "not applicable"). You will receive 1/n of the points for each correctly placed cross. Incorrectly placed crosses result in the deduction of 1/n of the points. If NO answer is selected in a line, there are neither points nor deductions.

For a more detailed explanation of the question types and scoring system, further information is available in the CPSA-F examination rules.

The allowed time is 75 minutes for native speakers and 90 minutes for non-native speakers. In order to ensure that the preparation for the exam is as authentic as possible, the processing time should be adhered to and any aids (such as seminar materials, books, internet, etc.) should not be used. The exam can subsequently be evaluated using the solution for this mock exam. Given that the iSAQB® e.V. is indicated as source and copyright holder, the present mock exam may be used in the context of training courses, for exam preparation or it may be passed on free of charge.

However, it is explicitly prohibited to use these exam questions in a real examination.



### Question 1

ID: Q-20-04-01

A-Que:	stion:	Select one option	1 point
How ma	any definit	ions of "software architecture" exist?	
[]	(a)	Exactly one for all kinds of systems.	
[]	(b)	One for every kind of software system (e.g. "embedde support", "web", "batch",).	d", "real-time", "decision
[X]	(c)	A dozen or more different definitions.	

## Question 2

ID: Q-20-04-02

[X]

(b)

P-Ques	tion:	Choose the three best aspects.	1 point
Which T	HREE of t	he following aspects are covered by the term "software architecture"?	
[X]	(a)	Components	

 $[X] \hspace{1cm} \hbox{(c)} \hspace{1cm} \hbox{(internal and external) Interfaces} \\$ 

Cross cutting concepts

- [] (d) Database schema
- [] (e) Hardware sizing



#### ID: Q-17-13-01

P-Question:		Select the <b>four</b> best fitting answers 2 points				
Which	FOUR of th	ne following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most approp	oriate?			
[]	(a)	Uniform usage of concepts reduces coupling between building block	s.			
[]	(b)	The definition of appropriate concepts ensures the pattern compliant architecture.	ce of the			
[X]	(c)	Uniform exception handling is most easily achieved when architects developers upon a suitable concept prior to implementation.	agree with			
[]	(d)	For each quality goal there should be an explicitly documented conce a means to increase consistency.	ept. Concepts are			
[X]	(e)	Concepts are a means to increase consistency.				
[X]	(f)	A concept can define constraints for the implementation of many built	lding blocks.			
[X]	(g)	A concept might be implemented by a single building block.				

### **Question 4**

ID: Q-17-13-02

K-Question:	Select "appropriate" or "not appropriate" for every line.	2 points

In your project, three architects and seven developers are working on the documentation of the software architecture. Which methods are appropriate in order to achieve a consistent and adequate documentation, and which are not?

Appropriate	Not appropriate		
[X]	[]	(a)	The lead architect coordinates the creation of the documentation.
[X]	[]	(b)	Identical templates are used for the documentation.
[]	[X]	(c)	All parts of the documentation are automatically extracted from the source code.

Things like *reasoning* or *alternatives* won't be contained in code, but need to be included in documentation, therefore not **all** parts of documentation can be extracted from source code.



### ID: Q-17-13-03

P-Question:		Select the <b>four</b> best fitting answers 1 Punkt				
	FOUR of to at runtim	he following techniques are best suited to illustrate the workflow or e?	behavior of the			
[X]	(a)	Flowcharts				
[X]	(b)	Activity Diagrams				
[]	(c)	Depiction of screen flows (sequence of user interactions)				
[X]	(d)	Sequence diagram				
[]	(e)	Linear Venn diagram				
[X]	(f)	Numbered list of sequential steps				
[]	(g)	Tabular description of interfaces				
[]	(h)	Class diagrams				

### Question 6

# ID: Q-17-13-04

P-Question:		Select the <b>three</b> best fitting answers	1 Punkt
Which	THREE of	the following principles apply to testing?	
[X]	(a)	In general, it is not possible to discover all errors in the	system.
[X]	(b)	In components with many known previous errors, the cl	hances for additional errors are
[]	(c)	Sufficient testing can show that a program is free of en	rors.
[X]	(d)	Testing shows the existence of errors rather than the al	bsence of errors.
[]	(e)	Functional programming does not allow automated tes	ting.



### ID: Q-17-03-05

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### **Question 8**

#### ID

ID: Q-20	)-04-03		
P-Question:		Choose the <b>two</b> best options	1 point
What ar	e the TW	O most important goals of software architecture?	
[]	(a)	Improve accuracy of patterns in structure and implementation.	
[X]	(b)	Achieve quality requirements in a comprehensible way.	
[]	(c)	Enable cost-effective integration and acceptance tests of the system.	
[X]	(d)	Enable a basic understanding of structures and concepts for the deve and other stakeholders.	elopment team



#### ID: Q-20-04-12

K-Question:	Select "True" or "False" for every line.	1 point

Put yourself in the position of a software architect for a large, distributed business application in the banking or insurance domain. Which of the following statements is true and which is false?

true	false		
[X]	[]	(a)	The architect collaborates with the stakeholders to determine where the requirements and constraints will change often (e.g., business processes, technologies), and designs the architecture such that changes can occur without requiring extensive restructuring of the software architecture.
[X]	[]	(b)	Required product qualities should drive your architectural decisions.
[]	[X]	(c)	The software architecture can be designed completely independent of the hardware and infrastructure.

### **Question 10**

#### ID: Q-20-04-03

P-Que:	stion:	Choose the <b>three</b> best options	2 points
What ar requirer	-	HREE most important responsibilities as a software architect with resp	pect to
[X]	(a)	Support the business people to specify explicit and concrete quality	y requirements.
[X]	(b)	Help to identify new business opportunities based on your technology	ogy know-how.
[]	(c)	Reject business requirements that contain technical risks.	
[]	(d)	Capture all business requirements in a terminology that can be und development team.	erstood by your
[X]	(e)	Check requirements for technological feasibility.	

(d): It's **not** our task to *reject* requirements just because they contain risks. We should identify and communicate those risks, but not reject such requirements.



ID: Q-20-04-07

P-Question:		Choose the	three best o	ptions	2 points	
			le as an architect for keeping a legacy system up and running according to the ongoing our business. What are the THREE most important action items on your agenda?			
[]	(a)	Negotiating	the mainten	ance budget for your team		
[X]	(b)	Assuring up	ssuring up-to-date documentation of the deployed system			
[X]	(c)	Analyzing t	he impact of	new requirements on the curren	t system	
[]	(d)	Encouragin	g the team m	embers to learn new programm	ing languages	
[X]	(e)	Suggesting manageme		updates in addition to the busine	ss requirements to your	
Quest	tion 12					
ID: Q-2	1-05-01					
K-Que	estion:	Select "true	e" or "false" fo	r every option.	1 point	
Which (	of the follo	owing stateme	ents regardin	g architecture decisions are true	, which are false?	
True		False				
[]		[X]	(a)	Architecture decisions never rebecause they are already known		
[X]		[]	(b)	An architecture decision recordecision's context understood	•	
[]		[X]	(c)	Once a decision has been ma fundamental framework (e.g. decision must not be changed	persistence framework), that	
[X]		[]	(d)	Quality requirements help sign decisions.	nificantly with architecture	



#### ID: Q-20-04-09

K-Question:	Select "true" or "	false" for	every line.	2 points
Decide for each of	the following sta	tements	whether it is true or false.	
appropriate	not appropriate			
[X]	[]	(a)	Each iteration of an agile development appr have a impact on the fundamental architect	
[]	[X]	(b)	The total effort spent on architectural work in iterative projects compared to waterfall p	•
[]	[X]	(c)	Agile projects do not need architecture doct the development team uses daily standup-n communicate decisions.	
[]	[X]	(d)	If your systems consist of a set of microser no need for a central architecture document service is free to choose its technologies.	

### **Question 14**

#### ID: Q-20-04-10

K-Question:	Select "true" or "false" for every line.	2 points

Which of the following statements regarding project goals and architectural goals is true and which is false.

true	false		
[X]	[]	(a)	Project Goals can include functional requirements as well as quality requirements.
[X]	[]	(b)	Architectural goals are a derived from the quality requirements for the system or product.
[]	[X]	(c)	Business stakeholders should concentrate on business goals and not interfere with architectural goals.
[]	[X]	(d)	To avoid conflicts business goals and architectural goals should be non- overlapping sets.

#### Explanation:

Business stakeholder might very well have goals like performance, flexibility or security, which are considered "architecture goals".



### ID: Q-20-04-11

What does the rule "explicit, not implicit" mean for architecture work? Choose the TWO best-fittin answers.  [ ] (a) Architects should avoid recursive structures and replace them by explicit loop  [X] (b) Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions explicit.  [ ] (c) Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanations (i.e. comm for each building block.  [ ] (d) Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least verbal justifications for development effort estimates from their team.  [X] (e) Architects should make prerequisites for their decisions explicit.	1 point	ion: Select the <b>two</b> best fitting answers	P-Question:			
<ul> <li>[X] (b) Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions explicit.</li> <li>[] (c) Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanations (i.e. comm for each building block.</li> <li>[] (d) Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least verbal justifications for development effort estimates from their team.</li> </ul>	best-fitting	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
<ul> <li>(c) Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanations (i.e. common for each building block.</li> <li>(d) Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least verbal justifications for development effort estimates from their team.</li> </ul>	plicit loops.	(a) Architects should avoid recursive structures and replace them by	(a)	[]		
for each building block.  [ ] (d) Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least verbal justifications for development effort estimates from their team.	it.	(b) Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions exp	(b)	[X]		
development effort estimates from their team.	i.e. comments)	. ,	(c)	[]		
[X] (e) Architects should make prerequisites for their decisions explicit.	ations for		(d)	[]		
		(e) Architects should make prerequisites for their decisions explicit.	(e)	[X]		

### **Question 16**

### ID: Q-20-04-19

P-Que	estion:	Select the <b>three</b> best fitting answers	1 point
Identify	the THR	EE most appropriate examples for typical categories of so	oftware systems.
[X]	(a)	Batch system	
[X]	(b)	Interactive online system	
[]	(c)	Linnés system.	
[X]	(d)	Embedded real-time system.	
[]	(e)	Integration test system.	



1 point

## **Question 17**

#### ID: Q-20-04-32

P-Que	estion:	Select the <b>three</b> best fitting answers	1 point			
	There are many approaches that lead to a software architecture. Which of the following are the THREE most often found in practice?					
[]	(a)	User interface driven design				
[X]	(b)	Domain driven design				
[X]	(c)	View based architecture development				
[X]	(d)	Bottom-up design				
[]	(e)	Majority voting				

### **Question 18**

#### ID: Q-20-04-38

P-Question:

Several architecture development methods suggest a view-based approach. Which three of the following views are most often used?

Select the three most often used architecture views

[]	(a)	Physical database view
[X]	(b)	Context view
[X]	(c)	Building Block/Component view
[]	(d)	Test-driven view
[]	(e)	Configuration view
[X]	(f)	Runtime view



#### ID: Q-20-04-22

[X]

[]

[]

(c)

(d)

(e)

P-Question:		Select the <b>two</b> best fitting answers 1 point					
	Then documenting a building block of your software architecture, which two information should the black-ox description contain?						
[X]	(a)	Public interfaces.					
[X]	(b)	Responsibility of the building block.					
[]	(c)	Internal structure of the building block.					
[]	(d)	Specification of the implementation details.					
Ques	tion 20						
ID: Q-2	0-04-17						
P-Que	estion:	Select the <b>two</b> best fitting answers	1 point				
	prerequis oriate ansv	ites have to be fulfilled before developing a software archwers.	itecture? Pick the TWO most				
[ ] (a) The requirements specification for the system is complete, detailed and co		plete, detailed and consistent.					
[X]	(b)	The most important qualities for the system are known	1.				

In most cases it is unrealistic to have *complete* requirements specification. Often it is enough to have an overview and know certain details (e.g. quality requirements).

Organizational constraints are known.

The programming language has been selected.

Hardware for the development team is available.



### ID: Q-20-04-18

P-Question:		Select the <b>three</b> best fitting answers	1 point	
Which answer		n influence the design of a software architecture? Pick the THREE most appropriate		
[X]	(a)	Political.		
[X]	(b)	Organizational.		
[X]	(c)	Technical.		
[]	(d)	Virtual.		

## **Question 22**

### ID: Q-20-04-18

A-Question:		Select one option	1 Point		
Which c	of the follo	wing qualities can most likely be improved by using a layered architecture?			
[]	(a)	Runtime efficiency (performance).			
[X]	(b)	Flexibility in modifying or changing the system.			
[]	(c)	Flexibility at runtime (configurability).			
[]	(c)	Non-repudiability.			



### ID: Q-20-04-33

A-Ques	stion:	Select one option	1 Point
For whic	h kind of	system can the Blackboard Architecture pattern be used?	
[]	(a)	Hard real-time systems	
[X]	(b)	Rule-based systems	
[]	(c)	Linnés systems	
[]	(c)	Safety critical systems	

### **Question 24**

### ID: Q-20-04-20

A-Quest	ion:	Select one option 1 Poi	nt
Which go	als are y	you trying to achieve with the dependency inversion principle?	
[]	(a)	Big building blocks shall not depend on small building blocks.	
[]	(b)	Components shall be able to create dependent components more easily.	
[X]	(c)	Building blocks shall only depend on each other via abstractions.	



2 points

### **Question 25**

#### ID: Q-20-04-21

P-Question:

K-Question:	Select "tight cou	ıpling" c	or "loose coupling" for each line.	1 point
What are charact	eristics of tight (hi	gh) or lo	pose (low) coupling?	
tight coupling	loose coupling			
[X]	[]	(a)	Building blocks directly call depende without using indirect calls via interf	
[X]	[]	(b)	Building blocks use shared complex	data structures.
[X]	[]	(c)	Building blocks use a shared table w database.	vithin a relational
[]	[X]	(d)	When designing building blocks, you applied the dependency inversion pr	•
Question 26 ID: Q-20-04-14				

Which two statements about the principle "Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In other words: What could happen, if parts of the source code or configuration do exist in multiple copies in the system?

Select the **two** best fitting answers

[]	(a)	DRY reduces security.
[X]	(b)	Strict adherence to DRY could lead to higher coupling.
[X]	(c)	The components of the system that contain redundant code can be improved independently of each other.
[]	(d)	Adherence to DRY leads to additional attack vectors in IT security.
[]	(e)	Applying the Layer patterns allows a consistent application of the DRY principle.



ID: Q-20-04-15

K-Question:	Select "true" or "false" for every line.	2 points

You can communicate aspects of your software architecture verbally and/or in writing. How do these variants correlate? Decide for each of the following statements whether it is true or false.

true	false		
[X]	[]	(a)	Verbal communication should supplement written documentation.
[]	[X]	(b)	Feedback to architecture decisions should always be done in writing to ensure traceability.
[]	[X]	(c)	Written documentation should always precede verbal communication.
[]	[X]	(d)	Architects should pick one variant (verbal or written) and stick to this choice during the whole development.

- Sometimes verbal communication needs to come first, there is no general rule.
- Feedback should not be restricted to written statements.

#### **Question 28**

ID: Q-20-04-37

K-Question:	Select "true" or "false" for every line.	2 points

Which of the following statements about notations for architectural views is true and which is false?

true	false		
[]	[X]	(a)	Business Process Model & Notation (BPMN) should only be used by Business Analysts and not for architecture documentation.
[]	[X]	(b)	UML deployment models are the only way to document the mapping of software components to infrastructure.
[X]	[]	(c)	UML Package Diagrams can be used to capture the building-block view of software architectures.
[X]	[]	(c)	As long as the notation is explained (e.g. by a legend), any notation can be sufficient to describe building block structures and collaboration.



#### ID: Q-20-04-13

P-Question:		Select the <b>two</b> best fitting answers	1 point
Which a	architectu	ural views have the most practical application for developing software	e architectures? 1
[]	(a)	Pattern View.	
[]	(b)	Observer View.	
[X]	(c)	Building-Block View (Component View).	
[X]	(d)	Deployment View.	

## **Question 30**

#### ID: Q-20-04-23

[X]

(e)

P-Question:		Select the <b>two</b> most appropriate answers	1 point
		v might contain a business context and a technical context, or wers that apply to the technical context.	both. Pick the two most
[X]	(a)	The technical context contains the physical channels between environment.	een your system and its
[]	(b)	The technical context contains all the infrastructure on whi system are deployed.	ch the components of your
[]	(c)	The technical context should include hardware pricing or pused as infrastructure for your architecture.	ricing of cloud services
		The technical context contains information about the chose as well as all frameworks used to implement your software	

The technical context might contain different elements than the business context.



#### ID: Q-20-04-24

P-Question:		Select the <b>two</b> best reasons	1 point
		ecture documentation could contain descriptions of cross-c y documentation of cross-cutting concerns is useful.	eutting concerns. Pick the TWO
[]	(a)	Cross-cutting concepts should focus on the domain and information.	be free of technical
[X]	(b)	Aspects or concepts that are used in multiple parts of you should be described in a non-redundant way.	our software architecture
[X]	(c)	Cross-cutting concepts can be reused in more products	within the same organization.
[]	(d)	Cross-cutting concepts should be implemented by spec documentation is useful.	ialists. Therefore, separate

## **Question 32**

### ID: Q-20-04-25

K-Question:	Select "true" or "false" for every line.	2 points

What are guidelines for good interface design? Check which of the following statements are true and which are false.

true	false		
[X]	[]	(a)	Use of interfaces should be easy to learn.
[X]	[]	(b)	The client code should be reasonably easy to understand in relation to the functional complexity.
[]	[X]	(c)	An interface should provide access to a comprehensive set of implementation details.
[X]	[]	(d)	Interface specifications should contain functional and non-functional aspects.
[]	[X]	(e)	Local and remote calls to this interface should behave identically in all aspects.



ID: Q-20-04-26

K-Question:	Select "true" or "false" for every line.	1 point

One definition says: "Software architecture is the sum of all the decisions you have taken during development. Check which of the following statements about architectural/design decision is true and which is false.

true	false		
[X]	[]	(a)	Architectural decisions can impact the structure of the building block or components.
[]	[X]	(b)	Software architects shall justify all design decisions in writing.
[X]	[]	(c)	Architectural decisions can have interdependencies between each other.
[X]	[]	(d)	Tradeoffs between conflicting quality requirements should be explicit decisions.

Not *all* decisions need to be justified in writing - as the requirement for *written* documentation depends on the situation, the team, the system and other factors.

### **Question 34**

ID: Q-20-04-31

K-Question:	Select "typical" or "not typical" for every line.	2 points

Which of the following statements are typical reasons for maintaining adequate architecture documentation and which are not typical reasons?

typical	not typical		
[X]	[]	(a)	To support onboarding of new developers.
[]	[X]	(b)	To support the automated testing approach of the system.
[X]	[]	(c)	To support the work of distributed teams.
[X]	[]	(d)	To assist in future enhancements of the product.
[X]	[]	(e)	To conform to legal constraints.



[ ] [X] (f) To ensure that developers have enough work to do.



#### ID: Q-20-04-30

K-Question:	Select "conflic	cting" or "r	not conflicting" for every line.	1 point
Which of the fol	llowing pairs of qu	ualities are	e usually in conflict to each other, and w	hich are not?
conflict	no conflict			
[]	[X]	(a)	Understandability – Readability.	
[X]	[]	(b)	Usability - Security.	
[X]	[]	(c)	Runtime configurability – Robustnes	SS.
[]	[X]	(d)	Security - Legal Compliance.	

## **Question 36**

ID: Q-20-04-27

P-Question:	Select the <b>two</b> best alternatives	1 point

ISO 25010 provides generic quality characteristics for software systems. How can quality requirements concerning these characteristics be made more concrete? Pick the two best alternatives.

[]	(a)	By developing UI prototypes.
[]	(b)	By defining explicit interfaces.
[X]	(c)	By discussing or writing scenarios.
[]	(d)	By creating automated tests.
[X]	(e)	By creating a quality tree.



#### ID: Q-20-04-28

P-Question:		Select the <b>four</b> best alternatives	1 point
		owing alternatives are most suitable for supporting a qualitative a ck the four best alternatives.	analysis of your software
[X]	(a)	Quantitative dependency analysis.	
[X]	(b)	Architecture models.	
[X]	(c)	Quality scenarios.	
[]	(d)	Team size.	
[X]	(e)	Log files.	
[]	(f)	Organizational structure.	

### **Question 38**

### ID: Q-20-04-29

P-Question:	Select the <b>two</b> best fitting answers	2 points
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You try to analyze your architecture quantitatively. Which are the two most appropriate indicators for architectural problem areas?

[X]	(a)	High coupling of components.
[]	(b)	Names of public methods do not reflect their purpose.
[]	(c)	Missing comments.
[X]	(d)	Clusters of errors in certain building blocks of the system.
[]	(e)	Number of test cases per component.



#### ID: Q-20-04-36

P-Que	stion:	Select the <b>three</b> best fitting answers	1 point
-	•	tatively analyze your architecture. Which three of the following properties in your software architecture? Pick the three best fitting answers.	s can you
[X]	(a)	Size of building blocks (e.g. LOC).	
[X]	(b)	Change rate of the source code of components.	
[]	(c)	Cohesion of the architectural components.	
[]	(d)	Security level of a component.	
[X]	(e)	Number of the developers that contributed to a specific component.	

#### **Explanation**

- Size can easily and reliably be measured when statically analyzing source code (lines-of-code metric is a reliable size metric)
- change-rate and number-of-developers-per-component can reliably be measured when taking the version control history into account, which is perfectly feasibly with systems like git, subversion or similar tools that are widely used in development.