Sample Exam

iSAQB® Certified Professional for Software Architecture – Foundation Level (CPSA-F®)

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Explanations to the sample exam Certified Professional for Software Architecture - Foundation Level (CPSA-F®)

This examination is a sample 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 sample 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 sample examination, you would need 30.0 points to pass.

The following general rules apply: 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 sample 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. Depending on the level of difficulty, you can achieve a score of 1 or 2 points.

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. The score is 1 or 2 points depending on the level of difficulty.

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. The score is 1 or 2 points depending on the level of difficulty.

For a more detailed explanation of the question types and scoring system, further information is available in the <u>CPSA-F examination guide</u>.

The processing 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 sample solution.

Given that the iSAQB® e.V. is indicated as source and copyright holder, the present sample 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.



Que	estion	1 A-Question: Select one option.	1 point
ID: C	Q-20-04·	-01	
How	many d	efinitions of "software architecture" exist?	
	(a)	Exactly one for all kinds of systems.	
	(b)	One for every kind of software system (e.g. "embedded", "real-time", "dec support", "web", "batch",).	cision
	(c)	A dozen or more different definitions.	
	estion	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1 point
ID: C	Q-20-04·	-02	
Whic	ch THRE	EE of the following aspects are covered by the term "software architecture"?	•
	(a)	Components.	
	(b)	Cross cutting concepts.	
	(c)	(internal and external) interfaces.	
	(d)	Database schemata.	
	(e)	Hardware Sizing.	
Que	estion	3 P-Question: Choose the four best answers.	2 points
ID: C	Q-17-13	-01	
Whic	ch FOU	R of the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate the following statements are most appropriate the following statement are most appropriate the following statements are most appropriate the following statemen	oriate?
	(a)	Uniform usage of concepts reduces coupling between building blocks.	
	(b)	The definition of appropriate concepts ensures the conceptual integrity of architecture.	the
	(c)	Uniform exception handling is most easily achieved when architects agre developers upon a suitable concept prior to implementation.	e with
	(d)	For each quality goal there should be an explicitly documented concept.	
	(e)	Concepts are a means to increase consistency.	
	(f)	A concept can define constraints for the implementation of many building	blocks.
	(g)	A concept might be implemented by a single building block.	



Question 4		4 K-Question:	K-Question: Select "Appropriate" or "Not appropriate" for each line.		
				2 points	
ID: Q-	17-13-0	2			
softwa	ire arch		d seven developers are working on the documentation o ods are appropriate in order to achieve a consistent and ch are not?		
Approp	priate	Not appropriate			
		□ (a)	The chief architect creates the documentation.		
		□ (b)	Identical templates are used for the documentation.		
		□ (c)	All parts of the documentation are automatically extracted from the source code.		
ID: Q-	stion 17-13-0 FOUR og block	of the following tech	Choose the four best options. niques are best suited to illustrate the interaction of runti	1 point	
	(a)	Flowcharts.			
	(b)	Activity Diagrams.			
	(c)	Depiction of screen	flows (sequence of user interactions).		
	(d)	Sequence diagram.			
	(e)	Linear Venn diagrar	m.		
	(f)	Numbered list of se	quential steps.		
	(g)	Tabular description	of interfaces.		
	(h)	Class diagrams.			



Que	stion (6	P-Question: Choose the two best options.	1 point
ID: Q-	17-13-0	4		
Which	THREE	E of the	e following principles apply to testing?	
	(a)	In ger	neral, exhaustive testing is not possible.	
	(b)	In con	nponents with many known previous errors, the chances for additional egh.	errors
	(c)	Suffic	ient testing can show that a program is free of errors.	
	(d)	Testin	ng can only show the existence of errors.	
	(e)	Funct	ional programming does not allow automated testing.	
Que	stion	7	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	2 points
ID: Q-	17-13-0	5		
	of the f are fals		ng statements regarding the design principle 'information hiding' are true	e and
True	False			
		(a)	Adhering to the "information hiding principle" increases flexibility for modifications.	
		(b)	Information hiding involves deliberately hiding information from callers consumers of the building block.	or or
		(c)	Information hiding makes it harder to distinguish between interface arimplementation.	ıd
		(d)	Information hiding is a derivative of the approach of incremental refine along the control flow.	∍ment
		(e)	In object-oriented development, information hiding is primarily relevant class level.	ıt at
Que	stion 8	B	P-Question: Choose the two best options.	1 point
ID: Q-	20-04-0	3		
What	are the	TWO n	nost important goals of software architecture?	
	(a)	Impro	ve accuracy of patterns in structure and implementation.	
	(b)	Achie	ve quality requirements in a comprehensible way.	
	(c)	Enabl	e cost-effective integration and acceptance tests of the system.	
	(d)		e a basic understanding of structures and concepts for the developmer ther stakeholders.	ıt team



Question 9		9	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	2 points	
ID: Q	-20-04-	12			
			osition of a software architect for a large business application in the ba . Which of the following statements is true and which is false?	nking	
True	False				
		(a)	Your architecture should be structured in a way that allows changes	to	
corresponding business processes without requiring extensive restructur of the software architecture.					
		(b)	Required product qualities should drive your architectural decisions.		
	☐ (c) To be independent of the infrastructure you should decide your key softwar architecture structure before infrastructure architects select the hardware o infrastructure for a product.				
☐ ☐ (d) Your software architecture should foresee changes in technology (i.e. UI-frameworks, different deployment strategies, new peripheral device only require local adaptation when it happens.					
Que	stion	10	P-Question: Choose the three most important responsibilities.	2 points	
ID: Q	-20-04-0	06		<u></u>	
	are you ements		EE most important responsibilities as a software architect with respect	to	
	(a)	Help t	he business people to express quality requirements in a way that can	be	
	(b)	Help to identify new business opportunities based on your technology know-how.		-how.	
	(c)	Reject business requirements that contain technical risks.			
	(d)		te business requirements in a terminology that can be understood by sopment team.	our/	



Ques	stion	11	P-Question: Choose the three most important action items.	1 point
ID: Q-	20-04-0)7		
	ng requ		as an architect for keeping a legacy system up and running according ts of your business. What are the THREE most important action items of	
	(a)	Negot	tiating the maintenance budget for your team.	
	(b)	Assur	ing up-to-date documentation of the deployed system.	
	(c)	Analy	zing the impact of new requirements on the current system.	
	(d)	Encou	uraging the team members to learn new programming languages.	
	(e)		esting technology updates in addition to the business requirements to y gement.	our ′our
<u> </u>	stion	12	V. Ougstion: Salast "True" or "False" for each line	2 nainta
	20-04-0		K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	2 points
You a overal	re the re	espons	ible architect for one product in a product family. The product family ha y architect. Select which of the following statements is true or false.	s an
True	False –			
		(a)	You have to accept constraints that apply to the whole product family your product.	also for
		(b)	Since parts of this product family are separately sellable products, yo product is not bound to the constraints of the suite.	ur
		(c)	You should have regular meetings with your fellow product architects family architect to negotiate common quality requirements and constr	
		(d)	You can negotiate deviations from quality requirements that have been defined for the overall suite with the suite architect.	



Question 13		13	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	1 point
ID: Q-	20-04-0	9		
Decide	e for ea	ch of th	e following statements whether it is true or false.	
True	False			
		(a)	Architectural cornerstones might be decided during iterative development of features.	
		(b)	The total effort spent on architectural work is much higher in iterative projects compared to waterfall projects.	
		(c)	Agile projects do not need architecture documents since the development team uses daily standup-meetings to communicate decisions.	
		(d)	If your systems consist of a set of microservices there is no need for a central architecture document since each service is free to choose its technologies.	
Oue	stion '	1.4	V. Overstiens, Colort "True" on "Folor" for each line	
	20-04-1		K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	2 points
Discus		n of the	following statements regarding project goals and architectural goals is	true
True	False			
		(a)	Project Goals can include functional requirements as well as quality requirements.	
		(b)	Architectural goals are a derived from the quality requirements for the or product.	system
		(c)	Business stakeholders should concentrate on business goals and not interfere with architectural goals.	
		(d)	To avoid conflicts business goals and architectural goals should be non- overlapping sets.	



Qu	estion	15 P-Question: Choose the two best-fitting answers.	1 point
ID: 0	Q-20-04·	-11	
	it does t vers.	he rule "explicit, not implicit" mean for architecture work? Choose the TW 0) best-fitting
	(a)	Architects should avoid recursive structures and replace them by explic	it loops.
	(b)	Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions explicit.	
	(c)	Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanations (i.e. for each building block.	comments)
	(d)	Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least oral justifications development effort estimates from their team.	for
	(e)	Architects should make prerequisites for their decisions explicit.	
Qu	estion	16 <i>P-Question: Choose the three most appropriate answers.</i>	1 point
ID: (Q-20-04·	-19	
lden	tify the 1	THREE most appropriate examples for typical categories of software syste	ems.
	(a)	Batch system.	
	(b)	Interactive online system.	
	(c)	Linnés system.	
	(d)	Embedded real-time system.	
	(e)	Integration test system.	
	estion		1 point
ID: (Q-20-04·	-32	
		any approaches that lead to a software architecture. Which of the following toften found in practice?	g are the
	(a)	User-Interface Driven Design.	
	(b)	Domain Driven Design.	
	(c)	View-based Architecture Development.	
	(d)	Bottom-up Design.	
	(e)	Majority Voting.	



Que	estion	18 P-Question	P-Question: Choose the three most often used views. 1 point			
ID: C	Q-20-04-	38				
		ecture development n e THREE most often	nethods suggest a view-based approach. Which of the used?	e following		
	(a)	Physical database	view.			
	(b)	Context view.				
	(c)	Building Block/Con	nponent view.			
	(d)	Test-driven view.				
	(e)	Configuration view				
	(f)	Runtime view.				
	estion 2-20-04-	·	: Select "Contained" or "Avoided" for each line.	1 point		
in yo	ur black	box description and	our software architecture. Which information should be which information should be avoided?	e contained		
	tained	Avoided	latarfa a a			
		□ (a)	Interfaces.			
		□ (b)	Responsibility. Internal structure.			
		□ (c)				
Ц		□ (d)	Hints for the implementation.			
Que	estion	20 P-Question	: Choose the two most appropriate answers.	1 point		
	Q-20-04-					
	•	quisites have to be furiate answers.	Ifilled before developing a software architecture? Picl	k the TWO		
	(a)	The requirements	specification for the system is complete, detailed and	consistent.		
	(b)	The most importan	t qualities for the system are known.			
	(c)	Organizational con	straints are known.			
	(d)	The programming	anguage has been selected.			
	(e)	Hardware for the d	evelopment team is available.			



Question 21		P-Question: Choose the three most appropriate answers.	1 point	
ID: Q	-20-04-	18		
		s can influence the design of a software architecture? Pick the THREE most inswers.		
	(a)	Political.		
	(b)	Organizational.		
	□ (c) Technical.			
	(d)	Virtual.		
<u> </u>	stion	22 A-Question: Select one answer.	1 point	
	-20-04-2		Τ μοιπι	
\\/biok	of the	following qualities can most likely be improved by using a layered architecture		
VVIIICI	i oi tile	following qualities can most likely be improved by using a layered architecture	; :	
	(a)	Runtime efficiency (performance).		
	(b)	Flexibility in modifying or changing the system.		
	(c)	Flexibility at runtime (configurability).		
	(d)	Non-repudiability.		
	stion	•	1 point	
ID: Q	-20-04-3	53		
For w	hich kin	d of system can the Blackboard Architecture pattern be used?		
	(a)	Hard real-time systems.		
	(b)	Rule-based systems.		
	(c)	Linnés systems.		
	(d)	Safety critical systems.		



Que	estion	24 A-Q	uestion:	Select one answer.	1 point
ID: C	Q-20-04-2	20			
Whic	ch goals a	are you tryin	g to achi	eve with the dependency inversion principle?	
	(a)	Big building	g blocks	shall not depend on small building blocks.	
	(b)	Componen	ts shall b	be able to create dependent components more easily.	
	(c)	Building blo	ocks sha	Il only depend on each other via abstractions.	
<u></u>	ation '	25		Out of "Tight and Line" of "I are a second to a " for a second tight."	
Que	estion	23 K-G	uestion:	Select "Tight coupling" or "Loose coupling" for each line.	1 point
ID: C	Q-20-04-2	21			
Wha	t are cha	racteristics o	of tight (h	igh) or loose (low) coupling?	
Tight coup		Loose coupling			
			(a)	Building blocks directly call dependent building blocks, i.e. without detours via interfaces or abstractions.	
			(b)	Building blocks use common data types.	
			(c)	Building blocks use a common database.	
			(d)	When designing building blocks, you have consistently applied the dependency inversion principle.	
Que	estion	26 <i>P</i> -Q	uestion:	Choose the two best answers.	2 points
ID: C	Q-20-04-1	4			
word		could happe		principle "Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) are correct? (In ores of the source code or configuration do exist in multiple of	
	(a)	DRY reduc	es secur	ity.	
	(b)	Strict adhe	rence to	DRY could lead to higher coupling.	
	(c)		nents of	the system that contain redundant code can be improved	t
	(d)	•	•	leads to a reduction of attack vectors in IT security.	
П	(e)			patterns allows a consistent application of the DRY princi	nle



Question 27		27	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. 2 points				
ID: Q-	20-04-1	15					
			te aspects of your software architecture verbally and/or in writing. How ate? Decide for each of the following statements whether it is true or fa				
True	False						
		(a)	Verbal communication should supplement written documentation.				
		(b)	Feedback to architecture decisions should be done in writing to ensure traceability.				
		(c)	Written documentation should always precede oral communication.				
		(d)	Architects should pick one variant (oral or written) and stick to this ch during the whole development.	oice			
Ques	stion	28	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	2 points			
ID: Q-	20-04-3	37					
Which	of the	followin	g statements about notations for architectural views is true and which	is false?			
_							
True	False						
True □ Busine		(a)	Business Process Model & Notation (BPMN) should only be used by				
			Business Process Model & Notation (BPMN) should only be used by				
□ Busine	□ ess	(a)	Business Process Model & Notation (BPMN) should only be used by Analysts and not for architecture documentation. UML deployment models are the only way to document the mapping	of			



Qu	estion	29 P-Question: Choose the two best answers. 1 point
ID: (Q-20-04-	13
Whi	ch archit	ectural views do have practical application for developing software architectures?
	(a)	Pattern View.
	(b)	Observer View.
	(c)	Building-Block (or Component) View.
	(d)	Deployment View.
Qu	estion	30 P-Question: Choose the two most appropriate answers. 1 poin
ID: (Q-20-04-	23
		context view are a business context and a technical context. Pick the TWO most nswers that apply to the technical context.
	(a)	The technical context contains the physical channels between your system and its environment.
	(b)	The technical context contains all the infrastructure on which the components of your system are deployed.
	(c)	The technical context should include hardware pricing or pricing of cloud services used as infrastructure for your architecture.
	(d)	The technical context contains information about the chosen programming language as well as all frameworks used to implement your software architecture.
	(e)	The technical context might contain different elements than the business context.

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Most recent version: https://github.com/isaqb-org/examination-foundation



Ques	stion 3	31	P-Question: Choose the two best reasons.	1 point			
ID: Q-	20-04-2	4					
			documentation could contain descriptions of cross-cutting concerns. P hy documentation of cross-cutting concerns is useful.	ick the			
	(a)		oss-cutting concepts should focus on the domain and be free of technical ormation.				
	(b)	-	Aspects or concepts that are used in multiple parts of your software architecture should be described in a non-redundant way.				
	(c)	Cross-cutting concepts can be reused in more products within the same organization.					
	(d)	Cross-cutting concepts should be implemented by specialists. Therefore, separate documentation is useful.					
Ques	stion 3	32	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line.	1 point			
ID: Q-	20-04-2	:5					
	are guid is false.		for good interface design? Check which of the following statements is tr	ue and			
True	False						
		(a)	Use of interfaces should be easy to learn.				
		(b)	The client code should be easy to understand.				
		(c)	An interface should be defined by the provider of the appropriate servi	ce.			
		(d)	Interfaces specifications should contain functional and non-functional aspects.				



Question 33		K-Question: 3	K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. 1 point				
ID: Q	-20-04-2	26					
devel		Chec		nitecture is the sum of all the decisions you have taken du ollowing statements about architectural/design decision is			
True	False						
		(a)		decisions can implicitly be contained in the structure of the k/component view.	ne		
		(b)	Software arcl	hitects should justify all design decision in writing.			
		(c)	Architectural	decisions can have interdependencies between each other	ner.		
	□ (d) Tradeoffs between conflicting quality requirements should be explicit decisions.						
	stion		K-Question:	Select "Good reason" or "No good reason" for each line.	1 point		
ID: Q	-20-04-3	31					
			ng statements i which is no god	s a good reason for maintaining (adequate) architecture od reason?			
		No go					
			(a)	To enable onboarding of new developers.			
			(b)	To conform to legal constraints.			
			(c)	To support the work of distributed teams.			
			(d)	To assist in future enhancements of the product.			
	stion -20-04-3		K-Question:	Select "Conflicting" or "Not conflicting" for each line.	1 point		
Which	n of the	followi	ng pairs of qual	lities are usually in conflict to each other, and which are r	ot?		
Confli	icting	Not c	onflicting				
			(a)	Understandability – Readability.			
			(b)	Usability – Security.			
			(c)	Runtime configurability – Robustness.			
			(d)	Security – Legal Compliance.			



	estion 3 Q-20-04-2	·					
requ	•	ovides generic quality characteristics for software systems. How can quality concerning these characteristics be made more concrete? Pick the TWO best					
	(a)	By developing UI prototypes.					
	(b)						
	(c) By discussing or writing scenarios.						
	(d)	By creating automatic tests.					
	(e)	By creating a quality tree.					
Que	estion	37 A-Question: Select one answer. 1 point					
ID: C	Q-20-04-2	28					
		following things does not help in qualitative analysis of your software architecture? wrong answer.					
	(a)	Metrics.					
	(b)	Architecture models.					
	(c)	Quality scenarios.					
	(d)	Project status reports.					
	(e)	Log files.					
Que	estion :	38 P-Question: Choose the two most appropriate indicators. 2 points					
ID: C	Q-20-04-2						
		alyze your architecture quantitatively. Which are the TWO most appropriate indicators ral problem areas?					
	(a)	High coupling of components.					
	(b)	Inappropriate names of public methods.					
	(c)	Missing comments.					
	(d)	Error clusters.					
	(e)	Number of test cases per component.					



Que	stion 3	39 P-Question: Choose two answers. 1 point
ID: Q	-20-04-3	6
		ollowing alternative cannot be measured in your software architecture? Pick the TWC are least likely.
	(a)	Size of building blocks (e.g. LOC).
	(b)	Change rate of the source code of components.
	(c)	Cohesion of the architectural components.
	(d)	Security level of a component.
	(e)	Number of the developers that know a specific component.