Mock Exam

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

Document version: 2020.1-EN-rev6 Based on curriculum - version V5.1-EN; January 2, 2020





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: 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. 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 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.



| Que | estion | A-Question: Select one option. | 1 point |
|-------|----------------|--|----------|
| ID: C |)-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", "decis support", "web", "batch",). | ion |
| | (c) | A dozen or more different definitions. | |
| | | | |
| | estion | · | 1 point |
| ID: C |)-20-04- | 02 | |
| Whic | ch THRE | E of the following aspects are covered by the term "software architecture"? | |
| | (-) | 0 | |
| | (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 |)-17-13- | 01 | |
| Whic | ch FOUR | of the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropr | iate? |
| | (a) | Uniform usage of concepts reduces coupling between building blocks. | |
| | (b) | The definition of appropriate concepts ensures the pattern compliance of t architecture. | he |
| | (c) | Uniform exception handling is most easily achieved when architects agree developers upon a suitable concept prior to implementation. | 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. | |



| Quest | tion 4 | K-Question: | Select "Appropriate" or "Not appropriate" for each line. | 0 i t |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|
| ID: Q-1 | 7-13-0 |)2 | | 2 points |
| softwa | re arch | | d seven developers are working on the documentation o nods are appropriate in order to achieve a consistent and ch are not? | |
| Approp | riate | 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. | |
| Quest ID: Q-1 | 7-13-0 FOUR (| of the following tech | Choose the four best options. Iniques 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 | n. | |
| | (f) | Numbered list of se | quential steps. | |
| | (g) | Tabular description | of interfaces. | |
| | (h) | Class diagrams. | | |



| Ques | tion 6 | | P-Question: Choose the three best options. | 1 point | |
|---------|--|-------------|--|----------|--|
| ID: Q-1 | 17-13-0 | 4 | | | |
| Which | THREE | of the | following principles apply to testing? | | |
| | (a) | In gen | eral, exhaustive testing is not possible. | | |
| | (b) In components with many known previous errors, the chances for additional errors are high. | | | | |
| | (c) | Suffici | ient testing can show that a program is free of errors. | | |
| | (d) | Testin | g can only show the existence of errors. | | |
| | (e) | Functi | onal programming does not allow automated testing. | | |
| | tion 7 | | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 2 points | |
| ID: Q-1 | 17-13-0 | 5 | | | |
| | of the f are fals | | ng statements regarding the design principle 'information hiding' are tru | e and | |
| True | False | | | | |
| | | (a) | Adhering to the "information hiding principle" increases flexibility for modifications. | | |
| | | (b) | Information hiding involves deliberately hiding information from caller consumers of the building block. | s or | |
| | | (c) | Information hiding makes it harder to distinguish between interface as implementation. | nd | |
| | | (d) | Information hiding is a derivative of the approach of incremental refine along the control flow. | ement | |
| | | (e) | In object-oriented development, information hiding is primarily relevant class level. | ıt at | |
| | tion 8 | | P-Question: Choose the two best options. | 1 point | |
| ID: Q-2 | 20-04-0 | 3 | | | |
| What a | are the T | ™O m | ost important goals of software architecture? | | |
| | (a) | Improv | ve accuracy of patterns in structure and implementation. | | |
| | (b) | Achiev | ve quality requirements in a comprehensible way. | | |
| | (c) | Enable | e cost-effective integration and acceptance tests of the system. | | |
| | (d) | | e a basic understanding of structures and concepts for the developmenther stakeholders. | it team | |



| Question 9 | |) | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 2 points | | |
|------------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|
| ID: Q- | 20-04-1 | 12 | | | | |
| | | | osition of a software architect for a large business application in the b . Which of the following statements is true and which is false? | anking | | |
| True | False | | | | | |
| | | (a) | Your architecture should be structured in a way that allows changes corresponding business processes without requiring extensive restruction 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 of infrastructure for a product. | | | | | |
| | ☐ ☐ (d) Your software architecture should foresee changes in technology (i.e. new UI-frameworks, different deployment strategies, new peripheral devices) and only require local adaptation when it happens. | | | | | |
| Ques | stion 1 | 0 | P-Question: Choose the three most important responsibilities. | 2 points | | |
| ID: Q- | 20-04-0 |)6 | | | | |
| | are youi ements | | E most important responsibilities as a software architect with respect | to | | |
| | (a) | Help t tested | he business people to express quality requirements in a way that can I. | be | | |
| | (b) | Help t | o identify new business opportunities based on your technology know | -how. | | |
| | (c) | Reject business requirements that contain technical risks. | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |



| | tion 1 | | P-Question: Choose the three most important action items. | 1 point |
|---------|----------|---------|---|----------|
| ID: Q-2 | 20-04-0 | 7 | | |
| | ng requi | | as an architect for keeping a legacy system up and running according to sof your business. What are the THREE most important action items of | |
| | (a) | Negoti | iating the maintenance budget for your team. | |
| | (b) | Assuri | ng up-to-date documentation of the deployed system. | |
| | (c) | Analyz | zing the impact of new requirements on the current system. | |
| | (d) | Encou | raging the team members to learn new programming languages. | |
| | (e) | | sting technology updates in addition to the business requirements to ygement. | our/ |
| | tion 1 | | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 2 points |
| You ar | | sponsil | ble architect for one product in a product family. The product family ha y architect. Select which of the following statements is true or false. | ıs 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 const | |
| | | (d) | You can negotiate deviations from quality requirements that have been defined for the overall suite with the suite architect. | en |



| Ques | tion 1 | 3 | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 1 point |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|---|--------------|
| ID: Q-2 | 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 features. | nent of |
| | | (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) | | (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. | |
| Oues | ation 1 | 4 | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 2 points |
| Question 14 ID: Q-20-04-10 | | | N Question. Select True of Tailor for easitime. | <u> </u> |
| and w | hich is f | | following statements regarding project goals and architectural goals is | s 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 no overlapping sets. | on- |



| Que | estion | 15 <i>P-Question: Choose the two best-fitting answers.</i> | 1 point |
|-------|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| ID: C | Q-20-04· | -11 | <u> </u> |
| | it does t wers. | he rule "explicit, not implicit" mean for architecture work? Choose the TWO | best-fitting |
| | (a) | Architects should avoid recursive structures and replace them by explicit | loops. |
| | (b) | Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions explicit. | |
| | (c) | Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanations (i.e. of for each building block. | omments) |
| | (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. | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | estion | <u> </u> | 1 point |
| ID: C |)-20-04· | -19 | |
| Iden | tify the ⁻ | THREE most appropriate examples for typical categories of software system | ns. |
| | (a) | Batch system. | |
| | (b) | Interactive online system. | |
| | (c) | Linnés system. | |
| | (d) | Embedded real-time system. | |
| | (e) | Integration test system. | |
| | | | |
| | estion | | t |
| ID: C | Q-20-04· | -32 | |
| | | any approaches that lead to a software architecture. Which of the following toften found in practice? | are the |
| | (a) | User-Interface Driven Design. | |
| | (b) | Domain Driven Design. | |
| | (c) | View-based Architecture Development. | |
| | (d) | Bottom-up Design. | |
| | (e) | Majority Voting. | |



| Que | uestion 18 P-Question: Choose the three most often used views. 1 point | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|-------------------|--|
| ID: Q | -20-04- | 38 | | | |
| - | | cture development m THREE most often u | ethods suggest a view-based approach. Which of t sed? | he following | |
| | (a) | Physical database view. | | | |
| | (b) | Context view. | | | |
| | (c) | Building Block/Com | ponent view. | | |
| | (d) | Test-driven view. | | | |
| | (e) | Configuration view. | | | |
| | (f) | Runtime view. | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Que | stion 1 | 19 K-Question: | Select "Contained" or "Avoided" for each line. | 1 point | |
| ID: Q | -20-04- | 22 | | | |
| | | | ur software architecture. Which information should which information should be avoided? | be contained | |
| Cont | ained | Avoided | | | |
| | | □ (a) | Interfaces. | | |
| | | □ (b) | Responsibility. | | |
| | | □ (c) | Internal structure. | | |
| | | □ (d) | Hints for the implementation. | | |
| | | | | | |
| | stion 2 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Choose the two most appropriate answers. | 1 point | |
| ID: Q | -20-04- | 17 | | | |
| | | uisites have to be ful riate answers. | filled before developing a software architecture? P | ck the TWO | |
| | (a) | The requirements s | pecification for the system is complete, detailed ar | nd consistent. | |
| | (b) | The most important | qualities for the system are known. | | |
| | (c) | Organizational cons | straints are known. | | |
| | (d) | The programming la | anguage has been selected. | | |
| | (e) Hardware for the development team is available. | | | | |



| Que | estion | 21 P-Question: Choose the three most appropriate answers. | 1 point |
|-------|-----------|---|---------|
| ID: Q | -20-04 | -18 | |
| | | rs can influence the design of a software architecture? Pick the THREE most answers. | |
| | (a) | Political. | |
| | (b) | Organizational. | |
| | (c) | Technical. | |
| | (d) | Virtual. | |
| | | | |
| Que | estion | A-Question: Select one answer. | 1 point |
| ID: Q | -20-04 | -28 | |
| Whic | ch of the | e following qualities can most likely be improved by using a layered architectu | ıre? |
| | (a) | Runtime efficiency (performance). | |
| | (b) | Flexibility in modifying or changing the system. | |
| | (c) | Flexibility at runtime (configurability). | |
| | (d) | Non-repudiability. | |
| | | | |
| Que | estion | 23 A-Question: Select one answer. | 1 point |
| ID: Q | -20-04 | -33 | |
| For v | vhich ki | nd 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: Q | -20-04- | 20 | | | |
| Whic | h goals | are you tryin | g to achi | eve with the dependency inversion principle? | |
| | (a) | Big buildin | g blocks | shall not depend on small building blocks. | |
| | (b) | Componer | its shall b | oe able to create dependent components more easily. | |
| | (c) | Building bl | ocks sha | ll only depend on each other via abstractions. | |
| Que | estion | 25 к-Q | uestion: | Select "Tight coupling" or "Loose coupling" for each line. | 1 point |
| ID: Q | -20-04- | 21 | | | |
| Wha | t are cha | aracteristics | of tight (ł | nigh) 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. | ı |
| | | | | | |
| Que | estion | 26 P-Q | uestion: | Choose the two best answers. | 2 points |
| ID: Q | -20-04- | 14 | | | |
| word | | could happe | | principle "Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) are correct? (In ot s of the source code or configuration do exist in multiple | |
| | (a) | DRY reduc | es securi | ty. | |
| | (b) | Strict adhe | rence to | DRY could lead to higher coupling. | |
| | (c) | The compo | | the system that contain redundant code can be improve ch other. | d |
| | (d) | • | - | eads to a reduction of attack vectors in IT security. | |
| | (e) | Applying th | ne Layer ı | patterns allows a consistent application of the DRY princi | iple. |



| • | tion 2 | | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 2 points |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|--|----------|
| ID: Q-2 | 20-04- 1 | 5 | | |
| | | | te aspects of your software architecture verbally and/or in writing. Howate? Decide for each of the following statements whether it is true or f | |
| True | False | | | |
| | | (a) | Verbal communication should supplement written documentation. | |
| | | (b) | Feedback to architecture decisions should be done in writing to ensutraceability. | re |
| | | (c) | Written documentation should always precede oral communication. | |
| | | (d) | Architects should pick one variant (oral or written) and stick to this choice during the whole development. | |
| | | | | |
| | stion 2 | | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 2 points |
| ID: Q- | 20-04-3 | 37 | | |
| Which false? | | followir | ng statements about notations for architectural views is true and which | n is |
| True | False | | | |
| | | (a) | Business Process Model & Notation (BPMN) should only be used by Analysts and not for architecture documentation. | Business |
| | | (b) | UML deployment models are the only way to document the mapping software components to infrastructure. | of |
| | | (c) | UML Package Diagrams can be used to capture the building-block vio software architectures. | ew of |
| | | (d) | As long as the notation is explained (e.g. by a legend), any notation c sufficient to describe building block structures and collaboration. | an be |



| | stion 2 20-04-1 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| · | | ectural views do have practical application for developing software architectures? |
| VVIIICI | i ai cilite | 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. |
| | | |
| <u> </u> | : C | |
| | stion 3 20-04-2 | |
| | | ontext 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. |



| Ques | tion 3 | 1 | P-Question: Choose the two best reasons. | 1 point | | |
|---------|----------------------|---|---|----------|--|--|
| ID: Q-: | 20-04-2 | 24 | | | | |
| | | | re documentation could contain descriptions of cross-cutting concerns ns why documentation of cross-cutting concerns is useful. | s. Pick | | |
| | (a) | | Cross-cutting concepts should focus on the domain and be free of technical information. | | | |
| | (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, separa documentation is useful. | | | | |
| 0 | | 10 | | | | |
| | tion 3 20-04-2 | | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | 1 point | | |
| What a | are guid is false | elines | for good interface design? Check which of the following statements is | true 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 ser | vice. | | |
| | | (d) | Interfaces specifications should contain functional and non-function aspects. | al | | |



| Question 33 | | | K-Question: Select "True" or "False" for each line. | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------|--|---|----------|--|--|--|
| ID: Q-20-04-26 | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | |
| | | (a) | Architectural decisions can implicitly be contained in the structure of the building block/component view. | | | | | |
| | | (b) | Software architects should justify all design decision in writing. | | | | | |
| | | (c) | Architectural decisions can have interdependencies between each other. | | | | | |
| | | (d) | Tradeoffs between conflicting quality requirements should be explicit decisions. | | | | | |
| | Question 34 K-Question: Select "Good reason" or "No good reason" for each line. 1 point | | | | | | | |
| ID: Q- | 20-04-3 | 31 | | | | | | |
| | | | ng statements which is no go | is a good reason for maintaining (adequate) architecture od reason? |) | | | |
| - | | No go reaso | | | | | | |
| | | | (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. | | | | |
| Question 35 ID: Q-20-04-30 | | | K-Question: S | Select "Conflicting" or "Not conflicting" for each line. | 1 point | | | |
| ID: Q- | 20-04-3 | 30 | | | | | | |
| Which | of the | followi | ng pairs of qua | alities are usually in conflict to each other, and which are | not? | | | |
| Confli | cting | Not c | onflicting | | | | | |
| | | | (a) | Understandability – Readability. | | | | |
| | | | (b) | Usability – Security. | | | | |
| | | | (c) | Runtime configurability – Robustness. | | | | |
| | | | (d) | Security – Legal Compliance. | | | | |



| Question 36 P-Question: Choose the two best alternatives. 1 point | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
| ID: Q-20-04-27 | | | | | | | |
| requ | • | rovides generic quality characteristics for software systems. How can quality s concerning these characteristics be made more concrete? Pick the TWO best | : | | | | |
| | (a) | By developing UI prototypes. | | | | | |
| | (b) | By defining explicit interfaces. | | | | | |
| | (c) | By discussing or writing scenarios. | | | | | |
| | (d) | By creating automatic tests. | | | | | |
| | (e) | By creating a quality tree. | | | | | |
| Oue | estion | A-Question: Select one answer. | 1 point | | | | |
| | -20-04- | | Тропп | | | | |
| | | following things does not help in qualitative analysis of your software architecture models. | ture? | | | | |
| | (c) | Quality scenarios. | | | | | |
| | (d) | Project status reports. | | | | | |
| | (e) | Log files. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | estion (-20-04- | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 2 points | | | | |
| ib. Q | ?-2U-U 4 - | 29 | | | | | |
| | • | alyze your architecture quantitatively. Which are the TWO most appropriate indural problem areas? | icators | | | | |
| | (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 | 39 P-Question: Pick two answers. | 1 point |
|--------------|---------|---|-----------------|
| ID: Q | -20-04- | 36 | |
| Whic answ | | following alternatives are harder to measure in your software architecture? F | Pick TWO |
| | (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 contributed to a specific component. | |