# Babok Chapter 1

## Purpose of the BABOK Guide

The purpose of the guide is to

* Help practitioners discuss and define the skill necessary to effectively perform business analysis work.
* Help BA employers understand the skills and knowledge they should expect from a skilled business analysis practitioner.

The six knowledge areas of the BABOK guide are

* Business Analysis Planning and Monitoring
* Elicitation and Collaboration
* Requirements life cycle management
* Strategy Analysis
* Requirements Analysis and Design Definition, and
* Solution Evaluation

## What is Business Analysis

Business analysis is the practice of enabling change in an enterprise by defining needs and recommending solutions that deliver value to stakeholders.

**Note**: Business analysis is performed on a variety of **initiatives** (not necessarily projects) within an enterprise.

Business analysis can be used to understand the current state, define the future state, and to determine the activities required to move from the current to the future state.

Business analysis can be performed from a diverse array of perspectives (i.e. a lens through which the BA practitioner views their work activities based on the current context). The following are some of a BA's perspectives:

* Agile
* Business intelligence
* Information technology
* Business architecture, and
* Business process management

## Who is a Business Analyst?

A business analyst is any person who performs business analysis tasks.

A business analyst is responsible for eliciting the actual needs of stakeholders in order to determine underlying issues and causes.

The activities that business analysts perform include (be prepared to answer this):

* understanding enterprise problems and goals
* analyzing needs and solutions
* devising strategies
* driving change, and
* facilitating stakeholder collaboration

Other common job titles for people who perform business analysis include (also know this):

* business architect
* business systems analyst
* data analyst
* enterprise analyst
* management consultant
* process analyst
* product manager
* product owner
* requirements engineer, and
* systems analyst

## Structure of the BABOK Guide

The core content of the BABOK Guide is composed of BA tasks organized into *knowledge areas* (know all the knowledge areas).

Note: knowledge areas are a collection of **logically (not sequentially) related tasks**. These tasks describe specific activities that accomplish the purpose of their knowledge area.