Mock Exam

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

Answer Sheet 2024.2-rev0-EN-20241218





Explanatory notes on the Mock Exam Certified Professional for Software Architecture – Foundation Level (CPSA-F®)

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-F® 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. 53.0 points can be achieved in this mock examination, you would need 31.8 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.
- · Should you mark more answers with a cross than you are supposed to, you will always get 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-E 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-Question:		Choose one answer.	1 point	
How m	any defini	tions of "software architecture" exist?		
[]	(a)	Exactly one for all kinds of systems.		
[]	al-time", "decision			
[X]	support", "web", "batch",). [X] (c) A dozen or more different definitions.			
Quest	tion 2			
ID: Q-2	0-04-02			
P-Que	estion:	From the following five answers select three that fit best.	1 point	
Which '	THREE of	the following aspects are covered by the term "software architectu	ıre"?	
[X]	(a)	Components		
[X]	(b)	Cross-cutting concepts		
[X]	(c)	(internal and external) Interfaces		
[]	(d)	Coding conventions		

[]

(e) Hardware sizing



ID: Q-17-13-01

P-Question:		From the following seven answers select four that fit best. 2 points					
Which FOUR of the following statements about (crosscutting) concepts are most appropriate?							
[] (a) Uniform usage of concepts reduces coupling between building blocks.							
[]	(b)	The definition of appropriate concepts ensures the pattern compliance of the architecture.					
[X]	(c)	Uniform exception handling can be achieved when architects agree with develope upon a suitable concept prior to implementation.					
[]	(d)	For each quality goal there should be an explicitly documented co	oncept.				
[X]	(e)	Concepts are a means to increase consistency.					
[X]	(f)	(f) A concept can define constraints for the implementation of many building block					
[X]	(g)	A concept might be implemented by a single building block.					

Question 4

ID: Q-17-13-02

K-Question: Assign all answers. 1 point	
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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: From the following eight answers select four that fit best.	2 points
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Which FOUR of the following techniques are best suited to illustrate the workflow or behavior of the system at runtime?

[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

[]

(e)

P-Question. From the following five answers select three that ht best.	P-Question:	From the following five answers select three that fit best.	1 point
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

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 chances for additional errors are high.
 [] (c) Sufficient testing can show that a program is free of errors.
 [X] (d) Testing shows the existence of errors rather than the absence of errors.

Functional programming does not allow automated testing.



ID: Q-17-03-05

K-Que	estion:	Assign all answers.			2 points	
Which	of the follo	wing stateme	nts regardin	g the information hiding principle are true	e and which are false?	
true		false				
[X]		[]	(a)	Adhering to the information hiding prir flexibility for modifications.	nciple increases	
[X]		[]	(b)	Information hiding involves deliberated from callers or consumers of the build	,	
[]		[X]	(c)	Information hiding makes it harder to	work bottom-up.	
[]		[X]	(d)	Information hiding is a derivative of th incremental refinement along the cont	• •	
•	tion 8					
P-Que	estion:	From the fol	lowing four	answers select two that fit best.	1 point	
What a [] [X] [] [X]	(a) (b) (c) (d)	Improve acc Achieve qua Enable cost-	euracy of par lity requirent effective int sic understa	tterns in structure and implementation. nents in a comprehensible way. tegration and acceptance tests of the sys		



ID: Q-20-04-12

K-Que	estion:	Assign all a	inswers.		1 point	
-		•		rchitect for a large, distributed business following statements is true and which	• •	
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.		
Quest	tion 10					
ID: Q-2	0-04-03					
P-Que	estion:	From the following five answers select three that fit best. 1 point				
	re your Thements?	HREE most im	portant respo	onsibilities as a software architect with	respect to	
[X]	(a)	Support the	business pe	eople to specify explicit and concrete qu	uality requirements.	
[X]	(b)	Help to ide	ntify new bus	siness opportunities based on your tech	nology know-how.	

Explanation: Concerning option (c): 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.

Capture all business requirements in a terminology that can be understood by your

Reject business requirements that contain technical risks.

Check requirements for technological feasibility.

[]

[]

[X]

(c)

(d)

(e)

development team.



P-Question:		From the following five answers select three that fit best. 1 point						
	•			ping a legacy system up and running ac e THREE most important action items o				
[]	(a) Negotiating the maintenance budget for your team							
[X]	(b)	Assuring up	Assuring up-to-date documentation of the deployed system					
[X] (c) Analyzing the impact of new requirements on the current system								
[]	(d)	Encouragin	g the team n	nembers to learn new programming lan	guages			
[X] (e) Suggesting technology updates in addition to the business require management					uirements to your			
Ques	tion 12							
ID: Q-2	1-05-01							
K-Que	estion:	Assign all a	nswers.		2 points			
Which	of the foll	owing stateme	ents regardir	ng architecture decisions are true, which	are false?			
true		false						
[]		[X]	(a)	Architecture decisions never need to because they are already known to the				
[X]		[]	(b)	An architecture decision record help decision's context understood.	s to make the			
[]		[X]	(c)	Once a decision has been made on a fundamental framework (e.g. persist decision must not be changed.				
[X]		[]	(d)	Quality requirements help significant decisions.	tly with architecture			



ID: Q-20-04-09

K-Question:	Assign all a	inswers.	2 points				
Decide for each of the following statements whether it is true or false.							
true	false						
[X]	[]	(a)	Each iteration of an agile development approach could have an impact on the fundamental architecture decisions.				
[]	[X]	(b)	The total effort spent on architectural work is much higher in iterative projects compared to waterfall projects.				
[]	[X]	(c)	Agile projects do not need architecture documents since the development team uses daily standup-meetings to communicate decisions.				
[]	[X]	(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.				
Question 14							
ID: Q-20-04-10							
K-Question:	Assign all a	answers.	2 points				
Which of the foll false.	owing stateme	ents regardir	ng project goals and architectural goals is true and which is				
true	false						
[X]	[]	(a)	Project Goals can include functional requirements as well as quality requirements.				
[X]	[]	(b)	Architectural goals are derived from the quality requirements for the system or product.				

Explanation:

[]

[]

[X]

[X]

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

(c)

(d)

Business stakeholders should concentrate on business

To avoid conflicts, business goals and architectural goals

goals and not interfere with architectural goals.

should be non-overlapping sets.



1 point

Question 15

ID: Q-20-04-11

ID: Q-20-04-19

P-Question:

estion:	From the following five answers select two that fit best.	1 point			
What does the rule "explicit, not implicit" mean for architecture work? Choose the TWO bes answers.					
(a)	Architects should avoid recursive structures and replace them b	y explicit loops.			
(b)	Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions ex	cplicit.			
(c)	Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanations (i.e. comments for each building block.				
(d)	Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least verbal just development effort estimates from their team.	tifications for			
(e)	Architects should make prerequisites for their decisions explicit.				
	oes the rues. (a) (b) (c) (d)	oes the rule "explicit, not implicit" mean for architecture work? Choose the Tes. (a) Architects should avoid recursive structures and replace them b (b) Architects should make the assumptions leading to decisions ex (c) Architects should explicitly insist on natural language explanation for each building block. (d) Architects should explicitly insist on written or at least verbal just development effort estimates from their team. (e) Architects should make prerequisites for their decisions explicit.			

Identify the THREE most appropriate examples for typical categories of software systems.

From the following five answers select **three** that fit best.

[X]	(a)	Batch system
[X]	(b)	Interactive online system
[]	(c)	Linnés system.
[X]	(d)	Embedded real-time system
[]	(e)	Integration test system.



P-Que	estion:	From the following five answers select three that fit best.	1 point
	-	approaches that lead to a software architecture. Which of the follow d in practice?	ving are the THREE
[]	(a)	User interface driven design	
[X]	(b)	Domain driven design	
[X]	(c)	View based architecture development	
[X]	(d)	Bottom-up design	
[]	(e)	Majority voting	
Ques	tion 18		
ID: Q-2	0-04-38		
P-Que	estion:	From the following six answers select three that fit best.	1 point
		ture development methods suggest a view-based approach. Which often used?	three of the following
[]	(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

P-Que	P-Question: From the following four answers select two that fit best.		1 point
		ting a building block of your software architecture, which two piece escription contain?	s of information should
[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	20-04-17		
P-Que	estion:	From the following five answers select two that fit best.	1 point
	prerequis oriate ans	ites have to be fulfilled before developing a software architecture? wers.	Pick the TWO most
[]	(a)	The requirements specification for the system is complete, deta	ailed and consistent.
[X]	(b)	The most important qualities for the system are known.	
[X]	(c)	Organizational constraints are known.	
[]	(d)	The programming language has been selected.	
[]	(e)	Hardware for the development team is available.	

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).



ID: Q-20-04-18

P-Que	estion:	From the following four answers select three that fit best.	1 point
Which answe		n influence the design of a software architecture? Pick the THREE	most appropriate
[X]	(a)	Political.	
[X]	(b)	Organizational.	
[X]	(c)	Technical.	
[]	(d)	Virtual.	
Ques	tion 22		
ID: Q-2	0-04-18		
A-Que	estion:	Choose one answer.	1 Point
Which	of the foll	owing qualities can most likely be improved by using a layered arch	nitecture?
[]	(a)	Runtime efficiency (performance).	
[X]	(b)	Flexibility in modifying or changing the system.	
[]	(c)	Flexibility at runtime (configurability).	

[]

(d)

Non-repudiability.



ID: Q-20-04-33

P-Ques	stion:	1 point	
Which ty	pe of pro	blems provide a good fit for the Pipes & Filter Pattern?	
[]	(a)	Management of global application state	
[X]	(b)	IT systems which process data streams	
[X]	(c)	Decoupling multiple steps of an execution	
	(d)	Temporal decoupling of an application	

Question 24

A-Question:	Choose one answer.	1 Point
Which goals are	you trying to achieve with the dependency invers	ion 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.



	estion:	Assign all an	SWCIS.		2 points
What a	re charact	eristics of tight	(high) or lo	oose (low) coupling?	
tight	coupling	loose couplir	ng		
[X]		[]	(a)	Building blocks directly call depend without using indirect calls via inter	
[X]		[]	(b)	Building blocks use shared complex	data structures.
[X]		[]	(c)	Building blocks use a shared table (operations) within a relational datal	
[]		[X]	(d)	When designing building blocks, you applied the dependency inversion p	•
Ques	tion 26				
•	tion 26 0-04-14				
ID: Q-2		From the foll	owing five	answers select two that fit best.	1 point
P-Que	estion: two staten	nents about the	e principle '	answers select two that fit best. 'Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In repeat yourself in multiple cop	n other words: What
P-Que	estion: two staten	nents about the	e principle ' rce code o	'Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In	n other words: What
P-Que Which	estion: two staten	nents about the parts of the sou DRY reduces	e principle ' rce code o security.	'Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In	n other words: What
P-Que Which could h	estion: two staten nappen, if p	nents about the parts of the sou DRY reduces Strict adhere	e principle ' rce code o security. nce to DRY	'Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In reconfiguration do exist in multiple cop ' could lead to higher coupling. system that contain redundant code co	n other words: What ies in the system?
P-Que Which could h	estion: two staten happen, if p	DRY reduces Strict adhere The compone	e principle ' rce code o security. nce to DRY ents of the y of each o	'Don't repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In repeat yourself" (DRY) fit best? In reconfiguration do exist in multiple cop ' could lead to higher coupling. system that contain redundant code co	n other words: What ies in the system? an be improved



ID: Q-20-04-15

K-Question:	Assigr	n all answers				2	2 points	
.,			6.	 	1,, .	 	1 .1	

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

K-Question:	Assign all answers.	2 points
Which of the follo	wing statements about notations for architectura	I 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]	[]	(d)	As long as the notation is explained (e.g. by a legend), any notation can be sufficient to describe building block structures and collaboration.



1 point

Question 29

ID: Q-20-04-13

P-Ouestion:

P-Que	estion:	From the following four answers select two that fit best.	1 point
Which a	architectu	ural views have the most practical application for developing softwa	are architectures? 1
[]	(a)	Pattern View.	
[]	(b)	Observer View.	
[X]	(c)	Building-Block View (Component View).	
[X]	(d)	Deployment View.	
Quest	ion 30		
ID: Q-2	0-04-23		

The context view might contain a business context and a technical context, or both. Pick the two most appropriate answers that apply to the technical context.

From the following five answers select **two** that fit best.

[X] The technical context contains the physical channels between your system and its (a) environment. [] The technical context contains all the infrastructure on which the components of your (b) system are deployed. [] The technical context should include hardware pricing or pricing of cloud services (c) 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. [X] (e) The technical context might contain different elements than the business context.



ID: Q-20-04-24

P-Que	estion:	From the following four answers select two that fit best.	1 point
		cture documentation could contain descriptions of cross-cutting coy documentation of cross-cutting concerns is useful.	oncerns. Pick the TWO
[]	(a)	Cross-cutting concepts should focus on the domain and be free information.	of technical
[X]	(b)	Aspects or concepts that are used in multiple parts of your softwashould be described in a non-redundant way.	vare architecture
[X]	(c)	Cross-cutting concepts can be reused in more products within the	ne same organization.
[]	(d)	Cross-cutting concepts should be implemented by specialists. T documentation is useful.	herefore, separate

Question 32

ID: Q-20-04-25

K-Question:	Assign all answers.	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)	It should be possible to write client code for the interface, that is reasonably easy to understand.
[]	[X]	(c)	An interface should provide access to a comprehensive set of implementation details.
[X]	[]	(d)	Interface specifications should include functional aspects and required quality attributes.
[]	[X]	(e)	Local and remote calls to an interface should behave identically in all aspects.

Explanation

Regarding option (e), "identical behavior in all aspects": It's technically not feasible to have *identical* behavior, at least concerning latency, and response time.

A more detailed explanation can be found in the (rather famous) Fallacies_of_distributed_computing



ID: Q-20-04-26

K-Question:	Assign all answers.	2 points

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 decisions are true and which are 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:	Assign all answers.	2 points

Which of the following statements are typical reasons for introducing an 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 regulatory or legal constraints.
[]	[X]	(f)	To ensure that developers have enough work to do.

Explanation

Read carefully: The question is about the typical reasons for an **introduction** of an architecture documentation.



K-Que	estion:	Assign all ans	wers.		2 points
Which (of the foll	lowing pairs of qu	ialities are	e usually in conflict to each other, and w	hich are not?
confli	ct	no conflict			
[]		[X]	(a)	Understandability – Readability.	
[X]		[]	(b)	Usability - Security.	
[X]		[]	(c)	Runtime configurability - Robustnes	S.
[]		[X]	(d)	Security - Functional correctness.	
Quest	tion 36				
	tion 36 0-04-27				
D: Q-2		From the follo	wing five	answers select two that fit best.	1 point
D: Q-2 P-Que	0-04-27 estion: 010 provi	des generic qualit	ty charact	answers select two that fit best. teristics for software systems. How can more concrete? Pick the two best altern	quality requirements
D: Q-2 P-Que	0-04-27 estion: 010 provi	des generic qualit	ty charact	teristics for software systems. How can more concrete? Pick the two best altern	quality requirements
P-Que	0-04-27 estion: 010 provining thes	des generic qualit e characteristics l	ty charact be made UI protot	teristics for software systems. How can more concrete? Pick the two best alternates	quality requirements
P-Que	0-04-27 estion: 010 provining thes (a)	des generic qualit e characteristics By developing	ty charact be made UI protot plicit inte	teristics for software systems. How can more concrete? Pick the two best altern types. rfaces.	quality requirements
P-Que SO 250 concer	o-04-27 estion: 010 provining thes (a) (b)	des generic qualit e characteristics By developing By defining ex	ty charact be made UI protot plicit inte	teristics for software systems. How can more concrete? Pick the two best alternates. Types. If aces. If scenarios.	quality requirements



ID: Q-20-04-28

P-Question:	From the following six answers select four that fit best.	2 points
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Which four of the following are best suited to support the analysis of the achievement of the quality requirements (*qualitative analysis*) of your software architecture? Pick the four best alternatives.

- [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:	From the following five answers select two that fit best.	1 point
		·

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-Question:	From the following five answers select three that fit best.	1 point

You try to quantitatively analyze your architecture. Which three of the following properties can you measure reliably in your software architecture? Pick the three best fitting answers.

- [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.