PSM I

The Professional Scrum Master I certification, commonly known as PSM I, is Scrum.org's most common certification.
Those awarded with it are certified:

- a fundamental understanding of Scrum

- consistent use of its terminology

BASIC INFO

- Duration: 60 minutes

- Questions: 80; multiple-choice, multi-select, true/false

- Passing score: 85%

- Number of certification holders: 300,000+

ABOUT THE QUESTIONS

In PSM I, the question revolve primarily around the immediate and literal understanding of the Scrum framework as described in the Scrum Guide. It focusses particularly on the roles within a Scrum Team and the Scrum Events. It also checks one's familiarity with Scrum-related terminology like "time-box" and "empiricism".

Almost all questions in PSM I have clear answers based directly on the Scrum Guide. Only a few questions require abstract knowledge transfer.

Questions with multi-select options, i.e. those where many answers are correct, will inform you how many answers to select. They will for example state "(choose the best three answers)".
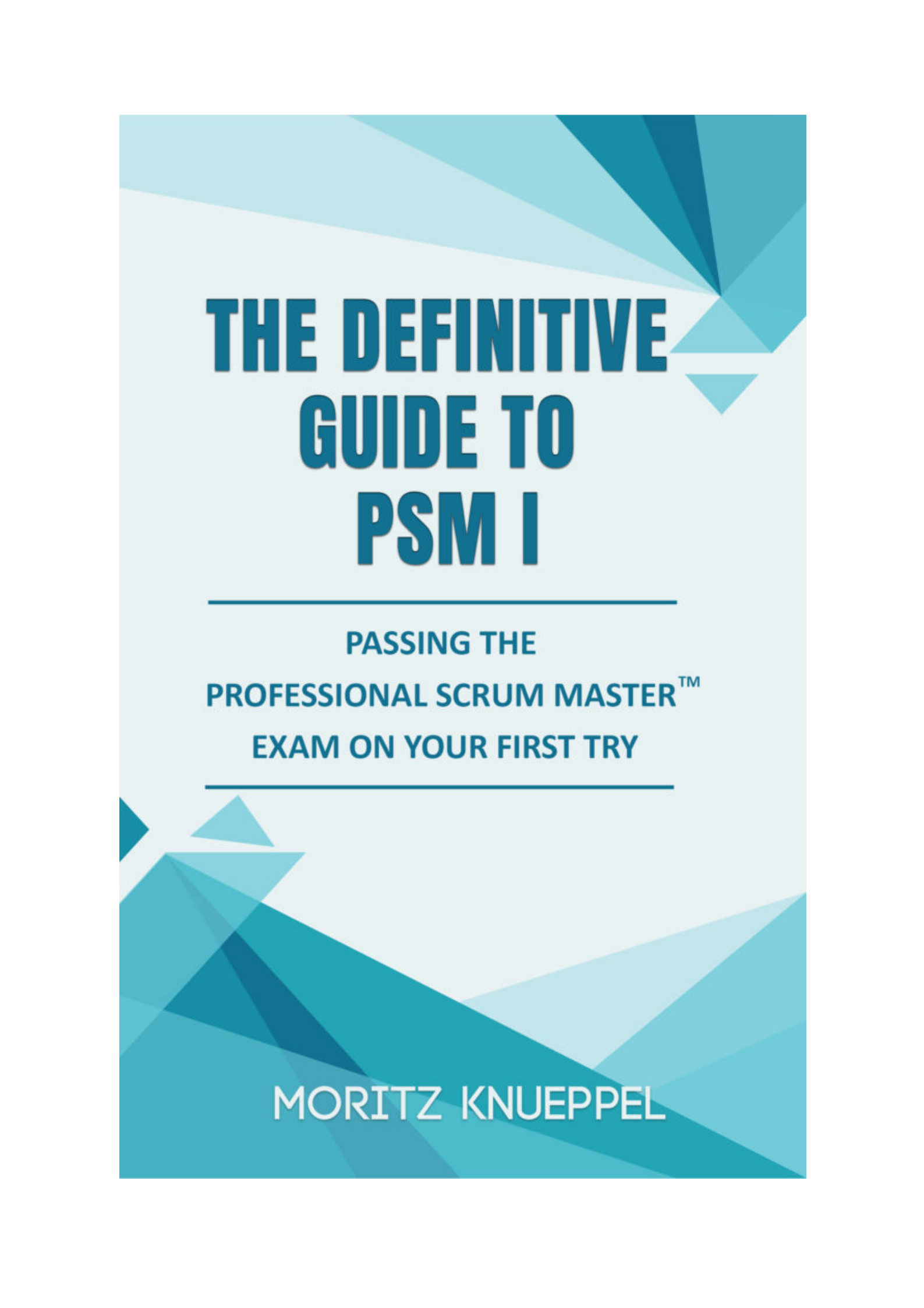
HOW TO PREPARE FOR PSM I

PSM I is a basic exam and one can pass it well without attending a dedicated PSM I training session, for example by preparing with my book, which contains all the necessary preparations for the exam.

Read the Scrum Guide a few times until you are comfortable with its terminology and the concepts it describes. One should place a special focus on the roles, artifacts, and events. Additionally, reviewing the Scrum Glossary is recommended.

Take the free Scrum Open assessment. The questions presented in it are part of the exam pool for the PSM I and representative of the questions overall in terms of formulation and style. A good rule of thumb is to practice it enough until you can pass it with a perfect score three times in a row, using less than 10 minutes each time.

Use the practice quiz provided below.

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO PSM I

PASSING THE PROFESSIONAL SCRUM MASTER™ EXAM ON YOUR FIRST TRY

MORITZ KNUEPPEL

PSM I PRACTICE QUIZ

OOPS!

You did not pass the quiz!
Try again!

Your score is 78%

The Product Owner and Scrum Master may not be part of the Development Team.

- ⚪ TRUE
- ⚪ FALSE ✅

During the Sprint, the Development Team realizes it cannot deliver all items in the Sprint Backlog. Who is responsible for readjusting the scope of the Sprint Backlog?

- ⚪ The Product Owner

○ The Development Team

○ The Development Team and the Product Owner ✅

○ The Scrum Team

○ The Scrum Master

Which of the following topics should be addressed in the Sprint Retrospective?

○ Needed skills or knowledge.

○ The definition of "Done".

○ The way the team members interact.

○ The process that the Scrum Team does the Scrum events.

○ All provided answers are correct. ✅

The Product Owner is responsible for the definition of "Done".

○ TRUE ❌

○ FALSE ✅

Who is responsible for updating the Sprint Backlog?

○ The Scrum Master

○ The Scrum Team

○ The Product Owner

◉ The Development Team ✓

Which of the following is the correct time-box for the Sprint Planning of a two week Sprint?

○ 3 hours

◉ 8 hours ✓

○ 6 hours

○ 4 hours

Which of the following is not time-boxed according to the Scrum Guide?

○ Daily Scrum

○ Sprint Review

◉ Product Backlog refinement ✓

○ Sprint Retrospective

○ Sprint Planning

When multiple Scrum teams are working on the same product, they are responsible for delivering one integrated, "Done" Increment.

- ○ TRUE ✓
- ○ FALSE

The Scrum Team gathers stakeholder feedback exclusively during the Sprint Review.

- ○ TRUE
- ○ FALSE ✓

What event triggers the beginning of a new Sprint?

- ○ The conclusion of the Sprint Planning.
- ○ The beginning of a new work week.
- ○ The Sprint kick-off meeting held by the Product Owner
- ○ The expiration of the time-box of the previous Sprint. ✓

When multiple Scrum Teams work on the same product, each team should have a separate Product Owner.

- ○ TRUE

○ FALSE ✅

Which of the following descibes the optimal length of a Sprint?

○ One week

○ Short enough to minimize risk, long enough to deliver at least one piece of improved outcome. ✅

○ Two weeks

○ One month

How much work is necessary to turn a Sprint Backlog item to done.

○ All the work that has been defined during Sprint Planning.

○ All the work needed to deliver a "Done" Increment. ✅

○ At least requirement gathering, design, implementation, and testing.

What part does the Product Owner play in the creation of the Sprint Goal?

○ The creation of the Sprint Goal is left to the Development Team, as they are self-organizing. The Product Owner plays no role in this process.

○ The Product Owner defines the Sprint Goal.

○ The Product Owner provides the business objective for the Sprint and an ordered Product backlog. The Product Owner and the Development Team collaborate to form the Sprint Goal. ✅

○ The Product Owner creates the Sprint Goal in collaboration with the stakeholders.

Which of the following describes a valid service from the Scrum Master to the Product Owner? (Choose the best answer.)

○ Act as the middleman between the Product Owner and the Development Team, as requested or required.

○ Helping the Product Owner find better techniques for Product Backlog management. ✅

○ Act as a proxy when the Product Owner is not available to the team.

Which of the following describes the activities of a Product Owner during Sprint 0?

○ Making sure enough for the upcoming three Sprints exists.

○ Drafting the timeline for the project.

○ In Scrum, there is no Sprint 0. ✅

○ Creating User Stories based on the requirements.

Which of the following is the event most appropriate to inspect and possibly adapt the definition of "Done"?

- ○ Between two Sprints
- ○ Daily Scrum
- ○ Sprint Planning
- ○ Sprint Retrospective ✓

What is the role of management towards the Scrum Team?

- ○ Decide how to divide the Development Team when it exceeds the Scrum limit.
- ○ Give them the environment and support they need and trust them to get the job done. ✓
- ○ Assign tasks to individual members when urgent requests are received.
- ○ Track individual performance in order to maintain a high performance team structure.

A new Product Owner is hired to work on an existing product that has ongoing for five Sprints. They are unsure about all of the responsibilities of a Product Owner. Which of these Product Owner activities are defined in Scrum?

- ○ Describing features as Use Cases.

○ Ensuring work is completed within scope and time.

○ Writing User Stories.

⦿ Interacting with stakeholders and ensuring that the most valuable functionality is is always produced first. ✅

Product Backlog items may include test descriptions, which must be fulfilled for an item to be "Done".

○ TRUE ✅

⦿ FALSE ❌

What does the vertical axis of a burn-down chart represent?

⦿ The amount of remaining work ✅

○ The capacity of the team

○ The technical debt

○ The progress

Which of the following statements best describes iterative development?

○ It refers to developing project deliverables using automated processes.

○ It refers to developing the final project deliverables in one product development cycle.

○ It refers to using more than one product development cycle to develop the final project deliverables through the learning from the previous development cycles. ✓

○ It refers to developing project outputs through detailed upfront planning with emphasis on fixing scope, quality and other project aspects.

Only the Scrum Team may attend the Sprint Planning.

○ FALSE ✓

○ TRUE ✗

What type of process control is at the basis of Scrum?

○ Agile

○ Traditional

○ Rational

○ Empirical ✓

Which statement is correct about five Scrum Teams working on one product?

○ The product has one Product Backlog and one Product Owner. ✓

○ There should be five Product Backlogs and five Product Owners.

○ There should be five Product Backlogs and one Product Owner to manage them.

○ There should be five Product Owners, one for each Scrum Team.

Which of the following is the least appropriate behavior of a Scrum Master?

○ Monitor the quality of communication between Product Owner and Development Team and take actions if necessary. ✗

○ Act as a communication-proxy between Product Owner and Development Team. ✓

○ Team and coach the Development Team and the Product Owner about effective communication.

○ Suggest effective communication tools and techniques to the Product Owner

The self-organization of the Development Team includes the possibility to remove Scrum Events from their Sprints.

○ FALSE ✓

○ TRUE

Which two statements are correct during the Sprint?

☑ The scope may be clarified as more is learned. ✅

☐ The Sprint Goal emerges throughout the Sprint.

☑ The scope may be re-negotiated as more is learned. ✅

☐ The Development Team focuses on finishing all Sprint Backlog items.

What it the appropriate action for a Development Team to take if it realizes it has selected too much during the Sprint?

○ Continue working and update the Product Owner at the Sprint Review.

◉ Work with the Product Owner to renegotiate the scope as soon as possible. ✅

○ Temporarily add new members to the team.

○ Temporarily adjust the definition of "Done", allowing all items to be finished.

What is the Scrum Master's responsibility during a Sprint Retrospective?

○ Selecting the most important action items.

○ Recording the meeting minutes.

◉ Participating as a member of the Scrum Team and facilitating as requested or needed. ✅

○ Ensuring conflict is avoided.

What is the purpose of the Sprint Review?

◉ It is an opportunity for the Scrum Team and key stakeholders inspect the Increment produced in the Sprint and adapt the Product Backlog accordingly. ✅

○ It is an activity for the Development Team to demonstrate their work to the Product Owner.

○ It provides an opportunity for the Development Team to find ways to incrementally improve their velocity.

Which event does a Sprint begin with?

○ Retrospective

○ Daily Scrum

◉ Sprint Planning ✅

○ Release Planning

The Product Owner is using burn-up charts instead of burn-down charts. What would be your response as the Scrum Master?

○ Burn-up charts are used in traditional methods, and should be replaced by burn-down charts. ❌

○ There's nothing wrong with it. ✅

The purpose of the Daily Scrum is for the Development Team to provide an update to the Product Owner.

○ FALSE ✅

○ TRUE

Who is responsible for estimating the Product Backlog items?

○ The Scrum Master.

○ The Development Team. ✅

○ The Product Owner. ❌

○ The Technical Architect.

The Sprint Planning provides multiple outputs. Which of the following in an output that provides the Development Team with a direction for the Sprint?

○ The Sprint Burndown chart

○ The Sprint Goal ✓

○ The Sprint Backlog

○ The task list

When multiple Scrum Teams work on the same product, they pull work from the same Product Backlog.

○ FALSE

○ TRUE ✓

What is the maximum amount of time permitted between the end of a Sprint and the beginning of the next one?

○ All provided answers are correct.

○ Enough time for the last Increment to finish testing.

○ Enough time for the Product Owner to prepare the Product Backlog for Sprint Planning.

○ None. A new Sprint starts immediately following the conclusion of the previous Sprint. ✓

○ Maximum of 1 day for Sprints that are time-boxed to 2 weeks.

Which of the following statements does NOT describe an advantage provided by using Scrum?

○ It leads to greater levels of motivation among employees. ❌

○ It minimizes non-essential work and leads to higher efficiency levels.

○ It ensures that all the benefits are delivered at the end of the project. ✅

○ It makes projects adaptable and open to incorporating change.

What happens to "Done" Product Backlog items when a Sprint is cancelled?

○ They should be moved to the next Sprint Backlog.

○ They should be moved back to the Product Backlog, and would be taken care of in the future Sprints ❌

○ They will be reviewed, and if they are potentially releasable, the Product Owner typically accepts them. ✅

Scrum suggests that the Product Backlog refinement should not take more than 10% of the Product Owner's time.

○ FALSE ✅

○ TRUE

Who is responsible for the proper understanding of Product Backlog items?

○ The Product Owner. ✅

○ The Development Team.

○ The Scrum Master.

○ The Business Analyst.

What is the responsibility of the Development Team during Sprint 1?

○ Define the architecture of the project.

○ Create a roadmap for the upcoming Sprints.

○ Deliver a potentially shippable Increment. ✅

Stakeholders should by default be invited to the Sprint Retrospective.

○ FALSE ✅

○ TRUE

Who's responsible for Gantt Charts in Scrum?

○ The Scrum Master

○ No one ✅

○ The project manager

○ The Development Team

Which of the following is not a role recognized by Scrum?

○ Development Team

○ Scrum Master

○ Project manager ✅

○ Product Owner

When a project is riskier, Sprints should be longer.

○ TRUE ❌

○ FALSE ✅

How do changes in the end users' environments affect the Product Backlog?

○ They lead to the Product Backlog becoming obsolete and being replaced by a new one.

○ They usually have no effect. If the changes are extreme, the project should be cancelled and a new one started with a new Product Backlog.

○ It evolves to reflect the changes. ✓

Which of the following statements are correct about the Sprint Retrospective? (Choose two answers.)

☐ It's the only time improvement are planned for the project.

☑ It's at most three hours long for a one-month Sprint, for shorter Sprints this is usually less. ✓

☐ It takes place before the Sprint Review.

☐ It provides an opportunity for inspection and adaptation. ✓

☐ The Product Owner doesn't have to be at the meeting. ✗

A self-organizing Development Team is free to not hold Daily Scrums.

○ TRUE

○ FALSE ✓

A Product Owner may transfer some of their accountabiliy to members of the Development Team.

○ TRUE

○ FALSE ✓

Which of the following two statements are accurate about technical debt? (Choose two answers.)

☐ **Having technical debt introduces additional risk to the product.** ✓

☐ **The Development Team should never start working on a new item unless they remove all existing technical debt.**

☐ **It creates false assumptions about the current state of the system, lowering transparency.** ✓

During the Sprint Planning, the Scrum Team discovers that the Product Backlog is not properly refined. What is the time-box for the Sprint Planning is such a case?

○ As much as needed

○ 12 hours

○ **8 hours** ✓

○ 4 hours

○ 6 hours

Which of the following artifacts contains a plan for realizing the Sprint Goal?

- ○ Gantt Chart
- ○ Product Backlog
- ○ Product Vision
- ○ Sprint Backlog ✅
- ○ None of the provided answers is correct.

Who assigns tasks to individual members of the Development Team?

- ○ The members of the Development Team themselves. ✅
- ○ The Product Owner.
- ○ The project manager.
- ○ The Scrum Master.

Which of the following statements are correct about un-"Done" items in the Sprint Backlog in the end of the Sprint? (Choose two answers.)

- ☐ It will be moved back to the Product Backlog ✅
- ☐ It won't be demonstrated at the Sprint Review meeting ✅
- ☐ The Sprint will be extended until the item is done
- ☐ It has to be completed in the next Sprint

☐ It will be demonstrated to the stakeholders but pointed out that it's not complete yet

How are architecture and infrastructure handled in Scrum?

○ They are dovered in Sprint 0.

○ They are added to the Product Backlog and implemented along with functional development. ✅

○ They are discussed and planned during Sprint spikes.

Which of the following statements is true regarding the duration of a Sprint?

○ Short enough to keep the business risk acceptable to the Product Owner.

○ All of these answers are correct. ✅

○ Short enough to be able to synchronize the development work with other business events.

○ No more than one month. ❌

Burn-down charts are a mandatory practice for Scrum Teams.

○ TRUE

○ FALSE ✅

A new Sprint starts immediately after the previous Sprint.

○ FALSE

○ TRUE ✅

Which of the following is the correct time-box for the Sprint Review?

○ At least two hours.

○ As long as it takes.

○ 4 hours for a one month Sprint. ✅

○ 2 hours for a one month Sprint.

Which of the following statement is NOT correct about Scrum?

○ It deals only with static requirements. ✅

○ It is difficult to master.

○ It is a framework used to address complex products.

○ It is based on empiricism.

A Scrum Master observes problems in the collaboration of the Product Owner with the Development Team. What action is appropriate?

○ Coach the Product Owner. ✓

○ Nominate a proxy Product Owner.

○ Act as the go-between between Product Owner and Development Team.

What activities are performed by the Product Owner during Sprint 0?

○ There is no such thing as Sprint zero. ✓

○ Prepare the Product Backlog for the whole project.

○ Prepare the Product Backlog for the next few Sprints.

○ Communicate with the customer and understand the requirements.

Agility is the ability for organizations to respond to change rapidly.

○ TRUE ✓

○ FALSE

Which of the following statements is true about transparency?

○ Significant aspects of the process must be visible to those responsible for the outcome. ✓

○ The whole process must be visible to stakeholders.

○ **The whole process must be visible to everyone.** ❌

○ The process must be visible, and understood by stakeholders.

When multiple teams work on the same product, who is responsible for the integration of work into one Increment?

○ The Scrum Master

○ The Product Owner

○ The Integration Engineers.

○ The Development Teams. ✅

What activities are performed by the Product Owner in-between Sprints?

○ Participate as a team member at the Sprint Retrospective.

○ Updating stakeholders on project progress.

○ There is no time between Sprints. ✅

○ Product Backlog refinement.

What does the trendline in a release burndown chart indicate?

○ The evolution of the return of investment on the project.

○ When the remaining work for the release is projected to be completed if there are no significant changes. ✓

○ When all the work in the Product Backlog will likely be finished, allowing the Scrum Team to move to the next Sprint Backlog.

The Product Owner doesn't spend enough time on the project. Which of the following options is the best thing for the Scrum Master to do about this?

○ Inform the Product Owner's functional manager

○ Coach the Product Owner why it's important for them to spend enough time on the project ✓

○ Nominate a proxy Product Owner

○ Send the Product Owner to a training

An increase in velocity is equal to an increase in value delivered.

○ TRUE ✗

○ FALSE ✓

What is the appropriate action for a Development Team to take, if it does not understand a functional requirement?

○ Postpone the item to a later Sprint.

○ Request a specialist to be added to the Development Team.

○ Complete as much as possible and add the remaining work as a new Product Backlog item.

○ Work with the Product Owner to clarify the item and take decisions together. ✅

A Product Owner is concerned about the quality level provided by the Development Team's definition of "Done". What is the best approach for the Product Owner to take?

○ Adjust the definition of "Done" at the end of the Sprint

○ Ask the company QA department to investigate the issue

○ Adjust the definition of "Done" immediately.

○ Point it out in the next Sprint Retrospective and work with the Development Team towards a shared understanding of quality. ✅

Which of the following is the most appropriate statement about what cross-functionality in a Development Team means?

○ Deliver a potentially shippable, "Done" product Increment. ✅

○ Delivering the project on-budget, in-scope and within the prescribed time.

○ Deliver a testable pre-Increment that can be handed over to

the QA/Testing department.

During the Sprint Planning, the Development Team commits to delivering the Product Backlog items in the Sprint Backlog.

○ FALSE ✓

○ TRUE ✗

Which role in Scrum acts as a facilitator and coach?

○ Product Owner

○ Team Leader

○ Scrum Master ✓

○ Scrum Team

Which of the following statements are NOT correct about time-boxing. (Choose two answers.)

☐ The Sprint Retrospective is time-boxed to 4 hours for a one month Sprint; Daily Scrum is time-boxed to 15 minutes; a Sprint is time-boxed to 1 to 6 weeks. ✓

☐ The Sprint Review is time-boxed to 6 hours for a one month Sprint; the Sprint Retrospective is time-boxed to 8 hours for a one month Sprint; the Sprint Planning is time-boxed to 8 hours for a one week Sprint. ✓

☐ A Sprint is time-boxed to a maximum of one month; Sprint Planning is time-boxed to 8 hours for a one month Sprint; the Daily Scrum is time-boxed to 15 minutes.

☐ The Daily Scrum is time-boxed to 15 minutes; the Sprint Review is time-boxed to 4 hours for a one month Sprint; a Sprint is time-boxed to one month.

Which of the following is not a responsibility of members of the Development Team?

○ Inspecting and adapting their own processes

○ Self-organizing their work

○ Breaking down the epics in the Product Backlog into stories ✅

○ Volunteering for tasks ❌

Which of the following statements is most appropriate regarding how often membership in the Development Team should change?

○ Whenever needed.

○ Frequently, as it facilitates knowledge transfer.

○ Whenever needed, taking into account a temporary decrease in productivity. ✅

○ Never. ❌

Which of the following are common outcomes of Daily Scrums?
(Choose two answers.)

☑ **Impediments have been identified for the Scrum Master to address.** ✅

☑ **The members of the Development Team are committed on the next steps towards the Sprint Goal.** ✅

☐ **The Product Owner is updated about the progress.**