

Week 1 Quiz: The Agile Team

LATEST SUBMISSION GRADE

60%

1. How might a Scrum Master's responsibilities change once a team has some experience with agile methodologies?

1 / 1 point

- ☒ As the Scrum Master coaches the team to adopt agile practices, he or she will likely have less work to do once the team begins to self-organize.
- ☐ The Scrum Master should consistently enforce rules, policing the team.
- ☐ Over time, Scrum Masters spend more time organizing the team.
- ☐ The Scrum Master's responsibilities don't change over time.

✓ **Correct**

Scrum Masters may initially invest a great deal of time coaching their teams, but if things are going well the team will begin to self-organize over time.

2. At a stand up meeting, a problem with the website shopping cart functionality is raised by two developers on the team. How should the meeting proceed?

1 / 1 point

- ☒ The two developers should follow up on the problem immediately after the meeting.
- ☐ The problem should be slated for the next sprint.
- ☐ The team should estimate how long it will take to discuss the issue and proceed with the discussion as long as it is less than one hour.
- ☐ Everyone on the team should discuss the problem until it is resolved.

✓ **Correct**

Stand up meetings should last about 10-15 minutes, so the two developers should discuss the problem after the meeting.

3. Under what circumstances is a burndown chart most likely to be helpful for an agile team?

0 / 1 point

- ☐ Completion time for stories in the backlog is relatively predictable.

- ☐ The chart creates anxiety that will keep team members on edge and working hard.
- ☒ The team is building something new and unlike anything else they've built before.
- ☐ There is a great deal of uncertainty about how long items in the backlog will take.

! Incorrect

When a team is approaching a set of tasks that are new, unfamiliar, and uncertain, it will probably be more difficult to determine how long stories/dev items will take. If the estimates are very rough and the burndown chart causes anxiety or interferes with work, it may not be an effective tool for the team. Looking at velocity (after the fact) may be a better way to work on continuous improvement and planning via estimates. Review the practice in the "XP Fundamentals: Learning and Deciding Processes" video.

4. As the new manager of a software development team, how could you best apply XP practices? 0 / 1 point

- ☐ Earn the team points with company leadership by agreeing to add any features requested, no matter when the request occurs.
- ☐ Introduce XP principles to the team and support them if they want to adopt some of the practices.
- ☒ Because you've successfully used XP in previous jobs, announce that you'll guide the team through the next project using an XP practices.
- ☐ Be forward thinking and encourage the team to write code that will anticipate future problems.

! Incorrect

While introducing teams to XP practices may be helpful, it is important that teams have the autonomy to choose the practices that will work best. Managers might introduce the team to XP (perhaps with a terrific online course!), but teams that have practices forced on them are less likely to be effective. Review management approaches in the "XP Fundamentals: Building and Managing" video.

5. A team is using a kanban board and notices that many items are stacking up in a certain stage of the development process. How should they initially react in order 1 / 1 point

to best manage flow?

- ☐ Move items from design to delivery more slowly in order to spread out any potential problems.
- ☐ Increase the number of feedback loops.
- ☒ Make sure there are explicit work in progress (WIP) limits at each column/stage of the development process and then experiment with tuning those across iterations.

☐ Calculate the burn up rate.



Correct

Explicit WIP limits are a critical facet of putting kanban into practice and making it work for your team. Be sure also to represent the stages of your process as they really are to facilitate clear visualization of how things are working and useful discussions about how you might improve that.