



# **SQA PDA (Level 8) in Software Development: Cognitive Test Guide**

## **Overview**

The Cognitive Tests are designed to demonstrate a candidate's understanding of key concepts involved in Software Development. These must be passed to achieve the Professional Development Award.

## **Test Structure and Requirements**

CodeClan currently uses an online learning tool, called Quia, for tests. The tests are completed online on the Quia website.

Students receive an email from Quia prior to the tests. This contains login details (a username and password) that will allow students to access the tests on the Quia website. It will not allow access until the set date and time that the examiner releases the tests to students.

There are four tests in total:

- 2 x Analysis and Design unit
  - Analysis and Design Part 1
  - Analysis and Design Part 2
- 2 x Implementation and Testing unit
  - Implementation and Testing Part 1
  - Implementation and Testing Part 2

**Each test** has a time limit of **45 minutes**. The Quia system automatically times each test.

The **pass mark** for each test is **60%**, it is not graded beyond this and is a pass/fail criteria.

There are different types of questions in the online assessments:

- Multiple Choice - These have a question and a number of possible answers. There is only one correct answer. These questions are generally worth one mark.
- Multiple Correct - These have a question and a number of possible answers. There is more than one correct answer. You will gain one mark for each correct answer.
- Matching - These questions have two jumbled lists, usually a list of terms and a list of definitions. Match the item with the correct definition.
- Short Answer - These have a question and a text box. Type your answer into the text box.
- Short Answer with code - These questions have an image showing some programming code in Ruby. There is a text box for you to type your answer.

## **Revision Materials**

All the resources needed for the tests are in the online PDA repo, labelled "Cognitive test revision notes".

This can be accessed at the CodeClan PDA Repo on Github (<https://github.com/codeclan/pda>) and through the following steps: PDA > Cognitive Test Revision Notes.

The revision materials can also be accessed via the following link: <https://github.com/codeclan/pda/tree/master/Cognitive%20Test%20Revision%20Notes>

If you are unable to see or access the revision materials, please speak with your instructors or the SQA Co-ordinator.

### **Examination Conditions**

Examination conditions require the students to work individually, in silence. All test materials are accessible online and the examiner can see once students have completed their submissions.

Examination conditions require that no revision materials are taken into the examination room. Communication between students is not allowed once the test has begun.

Further details about examination conditions will be provided by the invigilator both before the test date and on the test date. Not complying with the outlined examination conditions is considered under malpractice and misconduct.

Further details about malpractice and misconduct can be found in the SQA and CodeClan policies and procedures in the PDA Repo, through the following steps: PDA > Policies and Procedures.

The policies and procedures can also be accessed via the following link: <https://github.com/codeclan/pda/tree/master/Policies%20and%20Procedures>

### **Opportunity to Resit**

There will be an opportunity to resit an assessment if you do not achieve the 60% pass grade.

You will only need to resit the particular test that you did not achieve the pass mark in.

Students are able to complete one resit for each test.

There are allowances for "exceptional circumstances" and one extra resit may be performed in these circumstances. For example, these allowances may include bereavement, medical, additional support needs, etc. This is at the discretion of CodeClan and the SQA. Please discuss this with the instructors or SQA Co-ordinator where necessary.

### **Additional Support Needs and Reasonable Adjustments**

If you have disclosed an additional support need on the 'Additional Support Needs Questionnaire' when joining CodeClan, you will be contacted by a member of CodeClan (in the majority of cases the SQA Co-ordinator or an instructor) to discuss any reasonable adjustments you may require in regards to PDA assessments.

If you have not disclosed an additional support need but believe that you may require support and reasonable adjustments with the Cognitive Tests, contact an instructor or the SQA Co-ordinator to discuss this.