QA Role in Agile

On traditional **Waterfall** projects the QA role is only involved at the very end of the project – once all coding is complete. On these projects, the QA role would typically be given a requirements document and the completed code and would be expected to write and execute test cases which verify that the application does exactly what the requirements document says.

However, the QA role in Scrum is **not** just about executing test cases and reporting bugs.

It's important to remove boundaries between developers and testers and promote a collaborative working environment. With testers and developers in sync, you'll be able to produce higher quality work in less time.

But what exactly is the role of QA in Agile?

What can a tester do to help initiate a cooperative working relationship with the development team?

Here are 9 things software testers should do when working with an agile scrum team:

Agile Testing:
The Role of QA in Agile

1.

Attend sprint-planning sessions

A member of QA should always attend planning sessions. This ensures QA is in sync with the development team from the start, and allows QA to identify possible problem areas and risks early on.
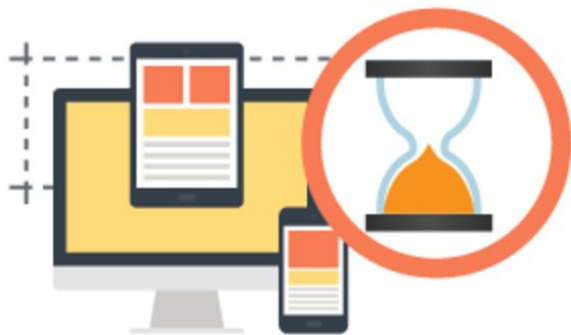
2.

Attend daily stand ups

A member of QA should attend daily stand ups. This promotes a collaborative team environment, making QA feel involved and a part of the team.

3.

Don't save all the testing for the end

Testing should happen throughout the entire duration of the sprint, the workload for QA should be spread out and this allows for issues to be found earlier instead of only at the end.

4.

Story demonstrations

Schedule a quick face-to-face handoff demonstration for each feature with the developer. This allows QA to see exactly how the new feature works and is a good time for them to ask the developer any questions.

5.

Attend sprint retrospectives

No matter how good a team is there's always room for improvement. Sprint retrospectives are the opportunity to define weaknesses and determine solutions for them.

6.

Document test cases

Just because you're an agile team doesn't mean you should skip documentation. Documentation is important, especially for QA. Keep your documentation lean – changes are bound to happen, but even minimal documentation can add a lot of value to you and your team.

7. Collaborate With Customers And Developers

8. Work closely with the Product Owner to help them develop detailed acceptance criteria for their user stories

9. QA must perform full functionality testing of the new features being added during this sprint as well as perform full regression testing for all the previously implemented functionality (any automation that can be applied to these tests would greatly reduce the pressure the QAs feel).

Mostly used test types in our team

1. Functional Test
2. Compatibility Test
3. Smoke Test
4. Regression Test