

Examination Rules and Examples

Certified Professional for Software Architecture

Foundation Level

International Software Architecture Qualification Board e.V.



Version: 2020.1-EN
Date: 2020-09-08
Distribution: public
Status: released

© (Copyright), International Software Architecture Qualification Board e.V. (iSAQB® e.V.) 2020

We stress that, as a matter of principle, this examination rules are protected by copyright. The International Software Architecture Qualification Board e.V. (iSAQB® e.V.) has exclusive entitlement to these copyrights.

The abbreviation "e.V." is part of the iSAQB's official name and stands for "eingetragener Verein" (registered association), which describes its status as a legal entity according to German law. For the purpose of simplicity, iSAQB e.V. shall hereafter be referred to as iSAQB without the use of said abbreviation.

Examination Rules:

The examination consists of about 40 multiple choice questions. There is a maximum of 75 minutes for native speakers and 90 minutes for non-native speakers to answer them (earlier submission possible).

Their value ranges from 1-2 points, depending on the level of difficulty; the total points possible for each question are shown in the question header. The general principle is: correct answers result in additional points, incorrect answers in subtracted points, but only related to the respective question. There are no negative points to other questions or the overall result. The assessment is detailed below under "Types of Questions".

To successfully pass the exam, the participant must achieve a minimum of 60% of the total score.

No aids, tools or resources (like training material, books, telephones etc.) are allowed during the exam. In case the participant uses notepads or additional sheets of paper besides the official exam paper, he/she must leave them in the room at the end of the examination.

The participant is not allowed to leave the room during the examination.

Notification of Examination Outcome and Re-examination:

The participants will be notified of the outcome of the examination by the certifying body in written form. The certificate will be shipped by the certifying body to the participants' home address.

The examination fee must to be paid in full for the certificate to be sent.

Types of Questions:

1. Single-Choice Questions (A – „Single Correct Answer“ - Fragen):

Select one answer from a list of possible answers. Only one answer is correct, which must be ticked. Depending on the formulation of the question this can be the only right or the only wrong answer. There is only one correct choice per question.

The participant receives the corresponding points for selecting the correct answer. No selection, more than one selected answer or incorrect answers result in 0 points for that question. The point value of the answers range between 1-2, depending on the difficulty level.

Example of an A Question:

Which American president was assassinated in 1963?

2 points

A Question: Choose one answer.

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) Harry S. Truman
- c) John F. Kennedy

The participant selected the correct answer. He/She receives 2 points.

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) Harry S. Truman
- c) John F. Kennedy

The participant did not choose any answer and therefore does not receive any points.

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) Harry S. Truman
- c) John F. Kennedy

The participant selected an incorrect answer. The score is 0 for this question.

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) Harry S. Truman
- c) John F. Kennedy

The participant receives 0 points. He/she marked too many answers for an s-type question.

2. Pick Multiple Questions (P – „Pick-from-many“ - Questions):

Select the requested number of correct answers from a list of possible answers. P questions are partly about estimations. As an experienced architect, however, you should be able to find the answers with the highest probability. Tick the maximum number of answers required in the introductory text, e. g., four, if it says: "Select the **four** most important topics, which ...". For each correct answer, you will receive 1/n of the total points, e. g., $\frac{3}{4}$ of the points in case of three correctly placed crosses.

For each incorrect cross, 1/n of the points is subtracted. If this results in a negative overall score for this question, it is scored with 0 points. The question is also evaluated with 0 points if you have ticked more than the required number. The score is 1-2 points depending on the difficulty level.

Example of a P Question:

Who are the two most important presidents?

2 points

P Question: Choose from the four following answers the two that are most appropriate.

- a) George Washington
- b) Martin van Buren
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant receives 2 points for answering the question correctly.

- a) George Washington
- b) Martin van Buren
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant did not choose any answer and therefore does not receive any points.

- a) George Washington
- b) Martin van Buren
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant receives 0 points since the chosen answer is incorrect.

- a) George Washington
- b) Martin van Buren
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant does not receive any points, since one answer is correct and one answer is incorrect.

- a) George Washington
- b) Martin van Buren
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Calvin Coolidge

The participant receives 0 points, since more than the required answers were chosen.

3. Allocation Questions (K – „Choose Category“ - Questions):

Allocate **for each** answer the correct choice from two alternatives, e. g., "right" or "wrong", "applicable" or "not applicable".

Points are awarded for each correct allocation, e. g., 1/3 of the points for each correct answer with three possible answers. An incorrect allocation results in a subtraction of the according points. If the total for a question results in a negative figure the question will be evaluated with 0 points. Depending on the difficulty level, the score is 1-2 points.

Example for a K Question:

Which American presidents were assassinated?

1 point

K Question: Allocate all answers.

assassinated not assassinated

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) Abraham Lincoln |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) George Washington |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) John F. Kennedy |

The participant receives 1 point for answering all 3 questions correctly.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) Abraham Lincoln |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b) George Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) John F. Kennedy |

The participant did not choose any answer and therefore does not receive any points.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a) Abraham Lincoln |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) George Washington |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) John F. Kennedy |

The participant receives 1/3 points. He/She chose two answers correctly (2/3 points) and one incorrectly (1/3 points are subtracted).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a) Abraham Lincoln |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b) George Washington |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) John F. Kennedy |

The participant receives 0 points. He/She chose two answers incorrectly (2/3 points) and one correctly (1/3 point).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) Abraham Lincoln |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b) George Washington |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) John F. Kennedy |

The participant receives 2/3 points. He/She chose two answers correctly but did not choose any answer for the second alternative.

Privacy and Confidentiality Agreement

The present examination material provided to me must be treated as strictly confidential. I hereby assure iSAQB e. V. that I undertake to treat any information on the content of the material made available to me for the examination as confidential and to use it only in the actual context of the examination. I shall not pass on this information to any third parties not authorised by iSAQB e. V., nor shall I make it available to such third parties in any other shape or form, but take all appropriate steps in order to prevent such third parties from accessing the information. This non-disclosure undertaking shall remain in force for as long as this examination material is valid. This non-disclosure undertaking shall not apply if the information in question becomes public knowledge without any fault of my own or in any other unlawful manner.

I am aware that iSAQB e. V. may hold me liable for damages in the event of my non-compliance. iSAQB e. V. estimates any potential damages to amount to a minimum of EUR 10,000.

I agree to my personal data being passed on to iSAQB e. V. for the purpose of processing my certification.

First name and last name

Company

Division

Position

Street

Post code & city/town

Telephone

E-mail (please print clearly – the certifier will inform you of your examination results via e-mail)

I agree to receiving e-mails from iSAQB e. V. to keep up to date with new certification schemes, events and other items pertaining to certification.

No, I prefer not to receive these e-mails.

I am aware that I can withdraw this consent with future effect. I can do so by sending an e-mail to info@isaqb.org as well as by writing to iSAQB e. V., Donnersbergweg 4, 67059 Ludwigshafen, Germany.

Place, date

Signature

Questions - Example Sheet A

1. Which American president was assassinated in 1963?

2 points

A Question: Please select one answer.

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) Harry S. Truman
- c) John F. Kennedy

2. Who are the two most famous American presidents?

2 points

P Question: Please select from the four answers, the two that are most appropriate.

- a) George Washington
- b) Martin van Buren
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Calvin Coolidge

3. Which American presidents were assassinated?

1 point

K Question: Allocate all answerd.

assassinated not assassinated

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) Abraham Lincoln |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) George Washington |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) John F. Kennedy |