

Agile Certification Exam Preparation

WCP

How to write and pass both the PMI®-Agile Certified Practitioner™ (PMI-ACP™) and the Project Management Association of Canada Certified Agile Project Manager™ (Cert.APM™) exams

As more and more companies adopt Agile project management techniques, there is a need to clearly identify project managers who are capable of applying these methodologies. Both the PMI® and the PMAC (Project Management Association of Canada) have developed Agile Certifications designed to provide Agile practitioners with the credentials companies are looking for.

This one day workshop provides:

- a review of both the PMI® and PMAC Agile certification procedures
- a review of topics covered within the exams
- sample exam questions
- important studying tips
- additional resources recommended to complete your exam preparation

Who should attend

This course is aimed at those who already have at least a basic understanding of agile principles and practices. Target audience members include project managers, Scrum Masters, senior team members, risk managers, PMO heads, and project auditors who are all interested in completing one of the two agile certifications mentioned above.

Materials

- Course workbook including copies of the presentation materials
- Copy of the best-selling book *Managing Agile Projects* by Kevin Aguanno
- Copy of the Agile Exam Study Guide including details on the requirements and certification procedures, an annotated list of recommended resources, and sample exam questions with detailed explanations for each answer.

Learning objectives

Upon completing this course, participants will be able to...

- Describe the two agile certifications along with their certification requirements and procedures
- List the major topic areas being assessed during the exam
- Describe the fundamentals of several agile methodologies including Scrum, Extreme Programming, and Feature-Driven Development.
- Estimate a team's starting velocity using several techniques
- Describe and build release plans, iteration plans, and day plans
- Explain tracking and control techniques such as kanban, burndown charts, parking lot reports, and velocity
- Identify areas where additional study may be required, and where to find the required study resources.

Prerequisites

Prior to this workshop, participants should already have formal training in agile methods. The recommended prerequisite is our 3-day Agile Project Management course or a 2-day Certified ScrumMaster course.

Note that both certification exams require a minimum of 21 hours of agile training before writing either exam – this 1-day certification exam preparation course would count towards 7 of those required 21 hours.

Course outline

- Introduction
- The PMI-ACP Certification
- The Cert.APM Certification
- The Agile Knowledge and Skills Development Framework and Self-Assessment Tool
- Project Approaches: Waterfall, Iterative, Incremental, and Agile
- An Overview of Scrum, XP, and FDD
- Agile Estimating & Planning Overview
- Agile Metrics and Tracking
- Reviewing a Sample Agile Exam
- Study Aids and Additional Resources

Topics Covered

- Requirements management using product/project/iteration (sprint) backlogs: what gets included, backlog building process, the 3-step prioritization process, backlog maintenance, and splitting the project (product) backlog to increase visibility and assist with issue escalation.
- Initial velocity forecasting techniques
- Choosing the right iteration length
- Building and maintaining release plans
- Building and maintaining iteration plans (incl. work breakdown structures)
- Burndown charts (project/product, iteration/sprint, and budget)
- Retrospectives and continuous improvement
- The importance of "Iteration Zero" (activities, relation to project funding and governance models)
- User stories vs. use cases
- Estimating practices (story points vs. ideal days, the planning game)
- Handling project closeout activities
- Managing accelerated design activities (separate design/build iterations)
- Contracting models (incl. fixed price)
- Change management / signoffs
- Budget forecasting
- Velocity tracking via statistical control charts
- Agile metrics and Earned Value
- Quality management and defect management
- Additional methods of status reporting

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