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How to Pass the SAP® ABAP Certification Exam

- ▶ Essential guide on how to pass the ABAP Associate Certification exam
- ▶ Expert ABAP certification tips
- ▶ Overview of certification exam topics
- ▶ Short and full-length practice exams with answer guides

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2 Anatomy of a certification question

Enough preamble—let's get right into it. What are the ABAP certification questions really like? How many different formats are there?

2.1 Question formats

Here's an example question, which we have taken from the world of pub trivia. The format is identical to that of SAP certification questions.

1. What does 'Para' stand for in the word 'Paralympics'?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) Parachute
- b) Parabola
- c) Parallel
- d) Paralytic

No surprises here. A straightforward interrogative question followed by four possible answers, of which exactly one (1) is correct.

If only one answer is correct, *four* possible answers will be listed, marked with the letters a to d.

Here's the next, slightly more complex, question format:

2. In which two countries is divorce still illegal?

Note: There are 2 correct answers to this question.

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Vatican City
- c) Iran
- d) The Philippines
- e) Ireland

In this case, you must select 2 correct answers. Note that if you do not select exactly two correct answers, you will get zero points for the question. There are no half marks!

Questions with two correct answers may be presented with either *four* or *five* possible answers.

Finally, you may also encounter questions with three (3) correct answers, as shown below.

3. Which of the following famous people died on 22 November 1963?

Note: There are 3 correct answers to this question.

- a) C. S. Lewis
- b) Eleanor Roosevelt
- c) Aldous Huxley
- d) Ernest Hemingway
- e) John F. Kennedy

Again, you must select exactly 3 correct answers to have the question marked correct.

And that's it—there are **no other** question formats in the ABAP Associate exam. In particular, you will *not* encounter:

1. Programming exercises
2. Essay / short-answer questions
3. True / False questions
4. 'All of the above/None of the above' answer options

So be warned: if you purchase a study book, or 'dumps' from the Internet, you should be skeptical of any question sets that contain the above formats. They are either fake or old (or both).

2.2 Question content

Although some SAP ABAP questions may seem very detailed (even a little pedantic), they typically do not require you to rote-learn a list of facts. In particular, you are not expected to know transaction codes, menu paths, or program names.

According to the SAP question-writing guidelines, certification questions should test *practical* knowledge and not be easily guessable by a novice.

2.3 A word about language

Because questions in the ABAP certification exam may have been composed in a foreign language (mostly

German, we assume), they sometimes sound a little odd after being translated into English.

For example, we once encountered an ABAP question that mentioned ‘booking a value to the database’. This expression only makes sense when you realize that ‘booking’ is a clumsy translation of the word ‘buchen’—which means ‘to post’ in German.

Also, as German tends to be a wordy language, some of the questions may appear very long-winded, with lots of commas and punctuated asides (a bit like this sentence).

The ‘divorce’ question above, for example, might have been phrased like this:

2. What are the names of the two nations where there are no legal means of terminating a marriage?

Note: There are 2 correct answers to this question.

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Vatican City
- c) Iran
- d) The Philippines
- e) Ireland

There’s really not much you can do about this, except keep an open mind and try not to get too hung up on the wording. Additionally, it helps to recall some of the technical German you have probably learned as an ABAP programmer!

We can only hope that the recent move to ‘crowdsource’ certification questions will lead to improved question quality.

2.4 The answers

The answers to the sample trivia questions above are:

1. **C.** In modern usage, Paralympics is short for 'Parallel Olympics'.
2. **B** and **D.** Divorce is outlawed in Vatican City and The Philippines.
3. **A, C,** and **E.** Two famous writers died on the same day that JFK was assassinated: C. S. Lewis (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*) and Aldous Huxley (*Brave New World*). Not a great day in history.

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