

# Scaled-Agile

## Exam Questions SSM

SSM (6.0) - SAFe® Scrum Master



### NEW QUESTION 1

According to SAFe, what is one output of a successful Iteration Retrospective?

- A. Updated ART metrics
- B. Iteration Goals
- C. Improvement Stories
- D. Updated dependencies between Stories

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

According to SAFe, one output of a successful Iteration Retrospective is the creation of a few improvement Stories that enter the Team Backlog for the next iteration. These stories reflect the team's agreement on what they can do better in terms of their process, practices, and performance. The improvement stories are visible and prioritized along with the other stories in the backlog. They help the team implement the concept of relentless improvement, which is one of the core values of SAFe.

References: Iteration Retrospective - Scaled Agile Framework, Exam Study Guide: SSM (6.0) - SAFe® Scrum Master

### NEW QUESTION 2

What is one element of the CALMR approach to DevOps?

- A. Maximize work in process
- B. Relentlessly reduce risk
- C. Lean flow accelerates delivery
- D. Activate the knowledge worker

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

Lean flow is one of the elements of the CALMR approach to DevOps in SAFe. It means applying lean principles and practices to optimize the flow of value from idea to production. Lean flow accelerates delivery by eliminating waste, reducing batch sizes, implementing pull systems, limiting work in process, managing queues, reducing handoffs, and applying cadence and synchronization. Lean flow enables faster feedback, shorter lead times, higher quality, and lower costs. (Must be taken from SAFe 6 Scrum Master resources) References:

- ? CALMR - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? The CALMR Approach to DevOps [Complete Guide] - KnowledgeHut
- ? SAFe Scrum Master Course Outline

### NEW QUESTION 3

What is one way a Scrum Master/Team Coach can help improve ART performance?

- A. Prioritize the ART backlog for PI Planning
- B. Run an Agile Team charter workshop
- C. Communicate the PI Planning agenda
- D. Facilitate cross-team collaboration

**Answer: D**

#### Explanation:

According to the SAFe 6 Scrum Master documentation, one of the ways a Scrum Master/Team Coach can help improve ART performance is to facilitate cross-team collaboration. Cross-team collaboration is the ability of Agile teams to work together effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the customers and stakeholders. It involves sharing information, resolving dependencies, aligning on goals, and providing feedback. Cross-team collaboration is essential for achieving the ART vision and objectives, as well as for delivering integrated and high-quality solutions.

The Scrum Master/Team Coach plays a key role in facilitating cross-team collaboration by 1:

- ? Participating in the Scrum of Scrums (SoS) and ART Sync meetings, where they communicate the team's progress, impediments, and dependencies, and coordinate with other teams and the Release Train Engineer (RTE)
- ? Helping the team prepare for and participate in the PI Planning event, where they collaborate with other teams to define and commit to the PI objectives and identify risks and dependencies
- ? Supporting the team in the System Demo, where they demonstrate the team's work to other teams and stakeholders, and receive feedback and validation
- ? Assisting the team in the Inspect and Adapt (I&A) event, where they review the ART performance, identify improvement opportunities, and create action plans
- ? Encouraging the team to adopt Communities of Practice (CoPs), where they share knowledge, best practices, and learnings with other teams and experts
- ? Promoting a culture of trust, respect, and cooperation among the team and other teams

(Must be taken from SAFe 6 Scrum Master resources)

References:

- ? Scrum Master/Team Coach
- ? Team Sync
- ? PI Planning
- ? System Demo
- ? Inspect and Adapt
- ? [Communities of Practice]

### NEW QUESTION 4

What is one benefit of having an IP Iteration every PI?

- A. It creates an estimating buffer for meeting PI objectives
- B. It creates a timeboxed opportunity for team growth
- C. It creates a chance for teams to manage quality
- D. It creates a guardrail for teams working too hard

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

One benefit of having an IP Iteration every PI is that it creates an estimating buffer for meeting PI objectives. PI objectives are a set of SMART goals that align the teams and stakeholders to a common vision and mission for the upcoming Program Increment (PI). They are derived from the business context, priorities, and dependencies, and are agreed upon and committed by the teams during PI Planning<sup>1</sup> However, since PI objectives are based on estimates and assumptions, there is always a degree of uncertainty and variability in the delivery process. To account for this, SAFe recommends that teams reserve 10% of their capacity for each PI as an estimating buffer. This buffer is used during the IP Iteration, which is a unique, dedicated iteration that occurs every PI and provides dedicated time for innovation, continuing education, PI Planning, and Inspect and Adapt events<sup>2</sup> By having an IP Iteration as an estimating buffer, the teams can improve the predictability and flow of value delivery, as well as reduce the stress and pressure of meeting the PI objectives<sup>3</sup> (Must be taken from SAFe 6 Scrum Master resources)

References:

- ? PI Objectives - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? Innovation and Planning Iteration - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? SAFe Scrum Master Course Outline

**NEW QUESTION 5**

Three members of Team C created a new workflow to speed up the testing process. They spent an entire Iteration designing the process but discovered, just before implementation, that the system could not support the workflow. The rest of the team was excited to hear what was learned from the failed experiment. Which of the following characteristics of a high-performing Agile Team is Team C demonstrating?

- A. Accountability to each other and the organization for reliably completing quality work
- B. Mutual trust that allows for both healthy conflict and reliance on others
- C. A safe environment for taking risks without fear of embarrassment or criticism
- D. Enjoying the work and working together

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

A safe environment for taking risks without fear of embarrassment or criticism is one of the characteristics of a high-performing Agile Team. A high-performing Agile Team is a cross-functional group of people that have everything, and everyone, necessary to produce a working, tested increment of product<sup>1</sup> They are empowered, collaborative, aligned, and committed to delivering value to the customers and the organization<sup>2</sup> One of the factors that enable a high-performing Agile Team is a safe environment where team members can experiment, learn, and grow without fear of failure, blame, or judgment<sup>3</sup> A safe environment fosters a culture of innovation, creativity, and continuous improvement, as well as a sense of psychological safety, trust, and belonging among team members<sup>4</sup> Team C is demonstrating this characteristic by creating a new workflow to speed up the testing process, even though it did not work out as expected. The rest of the team was excited to hear what was learned from the failed experiment, rather than being disappointed or critical. This shows that the team values learning over perfection, and supports each other in taking risks and trying new things. (Must be taken from SAFe 6 Scrum Master resources) References:

- ? Agile Teams - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? High-Performing Teams - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? How to Create a Safe Environment for Agile Teams | AgileConnection
- ? Psychological Safety - Scaled Agile Framework

**NEW QUESTION 6**

What is one example of Scrum Masters/Team Coaches helping without diminishing the commitment of others?

- A. Facilitating necessary meetings for the team
- B. Deming the team's completed work
- C. Encouraging handoffs so each team member contributes to the work
- D. Coaching the team to refrain from relying on external resources

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

One example of Scrum Masters/Team Coaches helping without diminishing the commitment of others is facilitating necessary meetings for the team. Facilitating means providing guidance and support to the team in conducting effective and productive meetings, such as Iteration Planning, Daily Stand-up, Iteration Review, and Iteration Retrospective<sup>1</sup> Facilitating does not mean taking over the meeting or making decisions for the team. Rather, it means creating a safe and respectful environment, ensuring clear and shared objectives, encouraging participation and collaboration, managing time and agenda, resolving conflicts and issues, and summarizing outcomes and action items<sup>23</sup> By facilitating necessary meetings for the team, Scrum Masters/Team Coaches help the team to achieve their goals, improve their processes, and deliver value to the customers and the organization<sup>14</sup> At the same time, they respect and empower the team's autonomy, self-organization, and self-management, and do not interfere with their commitment or accountability<sup>14</sup> (Must be taken from SAFe 6 Scrum Master resources)

References:

- ? Scrum Master/Team Coach - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? Facilitation - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? How to Facilitate Effective Meetings as a Scrum Master | Agile Velocity
- ? The Scrum Master Balancing Act | Scrum.org

**NEW QUESTION 7**

What is one recommended practice for Scrum Masters/Team Coaches when facilitating Iteration Review?

- A. Limit participants to just the team members
- B. Encourage team members to spend 3+ hours preparing
- C. Encourage the team member with the best presentation skills to demo each Iteration
- D. Begin to consider how and what to demo in Iteration Planning

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

One of the recommended practices for Scrum Masters/Team Coaches when facilitating Iteration Review is to begin to consider how and what to demo in Iteration Planning. This helps the team to have a clear vision of the expected outcome and to align their work with the iteration goals. It also facilitates the preparation and execution of the demo, as the team can anticipate the feedback and questions from the stakeholders. (Must be taken from SAFe 6 Scrum Master resources)

References:

- ? Iteration Review - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? SAFe Scrum Master Course Outline

#### **NEW QUESTION 8**

What is one Scrum value that can help Agile Teams create transparency?

- A. Persistence
- B. Respect
- C. Communication
- D. Empathy

**Answer: B**

#### **Explanation:**

Respect is one of the five Scrum values that can help Agile Teams create transparency. Respect means that team members value each other's opinions, skills, and contributions, and treat each other with dignity and professionalism. Respect also means that team members are honest and open with each other, and share information and feedback without hiding or withholding anything. By respecting each other, Agile Teams can foster a culture of trust and collaboration, where everyone feels comfortable to express their ideas, concerns, and issues, and work together to solve them. Transparency is essential for Agile Teams to inspect and adapt their work, and to align their actions with the vision and goals of the organization.

References:

- ? Scrum Values Poster | Scrum.org
- ? Core Values - Scaled Agile Framework
- ? Exam Study Guide: SSM (6.0) - SAFe® Scrum Master

#### **NEW QUESTION 9**

Team A has decided to use the IP Iteration to continue the finalizing Feature delivery work they have been working on for the past two Iterations. What is one effect Team A might experience by continuing to stay heads-down rather than using the IP Iteration as intended?

- A. Individual team members could lose an opportunity to learn from one another
- B. Individual team members could lose an opportunity to keep their technical skills current
- C. Individual team members could lose an opportunity to consider their team work more holistically
- D. Individual team members could lose an opportunity to refresh their motivation

**Answer: C**

#### **Explanation:**

By continuing to stay heads-down on the finalizing Feature delivery work, Team A might miss the chance to reflect on their team work more holistically and identify areas for improvement. The IP Iteration is intended to provide time for the team to participate in the Inspect and Adapt event, where they can review their PI performance, analyze the root causes of any issues, and create an improvement backlog. The IP Iteration also allows the team to engage in innovation and learning activities, such as hackathons, that can foster creativity, collaboration, and experimentation. These activities can help the team generate new ideas, solutions, and feedback that can benefit their future work. By skipping the IP Iteration, Team A might lose the opportunity to learn from their past experiences, improve

their processes, and innovate their products. References: Innovation and Planning Iteration - Scaled Agile Framework, Exam Study Guide: SSM (6.0) - SAFe® Scrum Master

#### **NEW QUESTION 10**

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