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Updated on 03/04/2026

Sign up

ISAQB® CPSA® Foundation Certification Training

3 days (21 hours)

Overview

The ISAQB® CPSA® Foundation certification helps you structure your architectural decisions and speak a common language with teams. It applies directly to architecture reviews, solution design, and continuous system improvement.

This training aims to solidify the fundamentals of software architecture: roles and responsibilities, quality requirements, styles and patterns, documentation, and communication. You will learn to analyze a context, articulate trade-offs, and justify technical choices in a traceable manner.

The approach is hands-on: guided workshops, mini-case studies, demos of documentation techniques, and practice exams. Deliverables include a quality analysis grid, a sample documentation structure, and a certification preparation plan.

Objectives

- Identify functional requirements and priority qualities.
- Break down a system into components and responsibilities.
- Select styles/patterns and justify trade-offs.
- Document the architecture using a clear and reusable structure.
- Effectively prepare for the CPSA-F exam.

Target Audience

- Developers
- Entry-level software architects
- Tech leads and technical managers.
- Project managers/POs

Prerequisites

- Experience in software development (ideally 2 years).
- Basic design concepts (lightweight UML, patterns, modularity).
- Understanding of APIs, databases, and integration.
- Basic knowledge of testing and deployment.

Technical requirements

- PC/Mac with at least 8 GB of RAM (16 GB recommended).
- Windows 10/11, macOS, or Linux.
- Code editor (VS Code, IntelliJ, etc.) and PDF reader.
- Stable internet connection and headphones for communication.

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ISAQB® CPSA® Foundation Certification Training Program

[Day 1 - Morning]

Fundamentals of software architecture and the role of the architect

- Defining architecture vs. design: scope, decisions, constraints
- Identifying responsibilities: vision, trade-offs, communication, governance
- Understanding the drivers: business objectives, technical constraints, organization
- Mapping stakeholders and their expectations (quality, costs, deadlines)
- Hands-on workshop: analyzing a project context and listing the main architectural drivers.

[Day 1 - Afternoon]

Quality requirements (QAS) and quality scenarios

- Classifying requirements: functional vs. quality (performance, security, maintainability)
- Formulating quality scenarios (stimulus, environment, response, measurement)
- Prioritizing and balancing quality attributes (trade-offs)
- Mapping quality requirements to architectural decisions and tests
- Hands-on workshop: write 3 measurable quality scenarios for a given system.

[Day 2 - Morning]

Design and structuring: views, modules, components, and interfaces

- Structuring with views: context, containers, components, deployment
- Defining modules, components, and responsibilities (cohesion, coupling)
- Specifying interfaces: contracts, data, errors, versioning
- Identifying critical dependencies and variation points
- Hands-on workshop: propose a decomposition into components and their main interfaces.

[Day 2 - Afternoon]

Architectural decisions: patterns, tactics, and justification

- Choose patterns (layers, hexagonal, microservices, event-driven) based on the drivers
- Apply quality tactics (caching, circuit breakers, partitioning, validation)
- Document a decision with an ADR: context, options, decision, consequences
- Assessing impacts: risks, costs, technical debt, maintainability
- Hands-on workshop: write an ADR comparing two architectural options and justify the choice.

[Day 3 - Morning]

Architecture Documentation and Communication

- Producing useful documentation: objectives, target audience, level of detail
- Use consistent notations and diagrams (context, components, sequences, deployment)
- Defining architectural rules and principles (guidelines, conventions)
- Ensuring traceability: quality requirements? decisions? elements? validations
- Hands-on workshop: Creating a mini architectural portfolio (views + design decisions + guidelines).

[Day 3 - Afternoon]

Assessment, risks, and preparation for CPSA-F certification

- Identify architecture risks: performance, security, integration, operations, organization
- Implement validation processes: reviews, prototypes, architecture tests, acceptance criteria
- Prepare an action plan: priorities, quick wins, technical debt, governance
- Review of CPSA-F concepts and strategy for answering exam-style questions
- Hands-on workshop: comprehensive case study + CPSA-F practice quiz with detailed feedback.

FAQ – QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

In what language is the CPSA® training taught?

The training is in French.

Is the exam included in the training price?

Yes, the certification fee is included in the course cost ($300 as a rough estimate). You will be able to take the exam at the end of the session.

How is the CPSA® certification exam administered?

The exam consists of a multiple-choice test with a maximum of 45 questions.

The exam lasts 75 minutes, and you must achieve a minimum score of 60%.

Target Audience

This training is intended for both individuals and companies, large or small, wishing to train their teams in new advanced IT technology or to acquire specific professional knowledge or modern methods.

Entry-level assessment

The assessment conducted at the start of the training program complies with Qualiopi quality standards. Upon final registration, the learner receives a self-assessment questionnaire that allows us to evaluate their estimated proficiency with various types of technology, as well as their expectations and personal goals for the upcoming training, within the constraints of the selected format. This questionnaire also allows us to anticipate certain connection or internal security issues within the company (intra-company or virtual classroom) that could pose challenges for monitoring and ensuring the smooth running of the training session.

Teaching Methods

Practical Course: 60% Practical, 40% Theory. Training materials distributed in digital format to all participants.

Organization

The course alternates between theoretical input from the trainer, supported by examples and reflection sessions, and group work.

Assessment

At the end of the session, a multiple-choice questionnaire is used to verify that the skills have been properly acquired.

Certification

A certificate will be issued to each trainee who has completed the entire training program.

Training organization registered under number 11 75 54743 75. This registration does not constitute state accreditation.
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