Why Certification is Still Relevant & Why the CSQE Stands Out

Presented by: Linda Westfall

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What is a Certification

- "Certification is formal recognition by a professional organization that an individual has demonstrated a proficiency within and comprehension of a specific body of knowledge at a point in time."

- Peer recognition

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Why Are Certifications Still Relevant to You?

Benefits to the individual:

- It's the journey – not the destination
- The more you know – the easier, faster & better you can do your job – certifications motivate you to keep learning
- Increase your job satisfaction – and maybe your paycheck
- Remaining employable & staying competitive in the marketplace
- Help define your career path & helps with career advancement
- Provides credentials that are valued in the industry

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Certifications are Still Relevant to Organizations?

Benefits to the organization:

- Helps when hiring to identify individual:
  - With needed knowledge & skills
  - Who are committed to refining their capabilities & growing
- More knowledgeable employees create products & services more effectively & efficiently with fewer defects
- Contributes to the company's bottom line
- Drives product quality
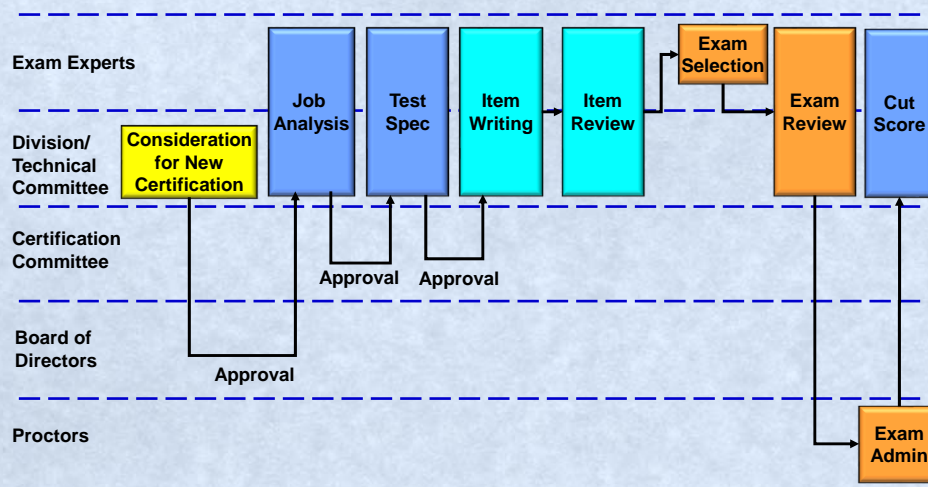- Increases customer satisfaction

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The Number of Certifications is Skyrocketing

PMP CMST CSTE ISTQB – Test Analyst
CSDP CTFL-AT
CSM CHRM
CSBA PMI-PRMP
SPC CSQE CMSQ
PMI-PBA CSTP
OPM CSTE TMMI CPO RDCS
CSQA ICAgile ISTQB – Test Manager
IAPM SP CSM CSP
CIPT PMI-ACP SA
CTFL

Certification & Exam Development Process

More than 250,000 certifications have been issued worldwide since 1968.

Exam Experts

Division/ Technical Committee — Consideration for New Certification — Job Analysis — Test Spec — Item Writing — Item Review — Exam Selection — Exam Review — Cut Score

Certification Committee — Approval Approval

Board of Directors — Approval

Proctors — Exam Admin

The Examination

The CSQE examination is:

- Starting in December 2016, the CSQE exam is offered as a computer-based exam

- Open book - bring own reference materials

- 160 multiple choice questions

- 4 hours long

Types of Items – Positive Closed Stem

1. Which of the following levels of testing focuses on the interfaces between the components of a software product?

    A. Unit testing

    B. System testing

    C. Acceptance testing

    D. Integration testing

Types of Items – Positive Open Stem

2. Controlling changes to software products is a function of:

    A. Software testing.

    B. Software project management.

    C. Software configuration management.

    D. Software auditing.

Types of Items – Negative

3. Which of the following is NOT a typical role in a software inspection?

    A. Author

    B. Moderator

    C. Scribe

    D. Tester

Types of Items – Order

4. Put the following phases of a software life cycle in the order in which they typically occur in a waterfall life cycle model.

1. Design
2. Requirements
3. Coding
4. Testing

A. 1, 2, 4, 3
B. 2, 1, 3, 4
C. 3, 1, 4, 2
D. 3, 4, 1, 2

Scoring

- Passing score established via a systematic procedure (Cut-score study)

- Minimum competency level

- Scaled score of at least 550 required to obtain certification (range 200-750)

- Email & written notification of exam results

Tip for Preparing for the CSQE Exam

- Use the CSQE Body of Knowledge as a checklist

- Practice taking CSQE exam questions – use the results to focus your study

- Don't memorize things you don't need to know – look them up

- Take a preparation course – like this one

Tip When Taking the CSQE Exam

- Read each question carefully

- Read all 4 answers carefully

- SKIP & come back to any questions that:
  - You need to look up
  - Require anything more than simple math

- Guess

- Don't change your answers

- Use a calculator
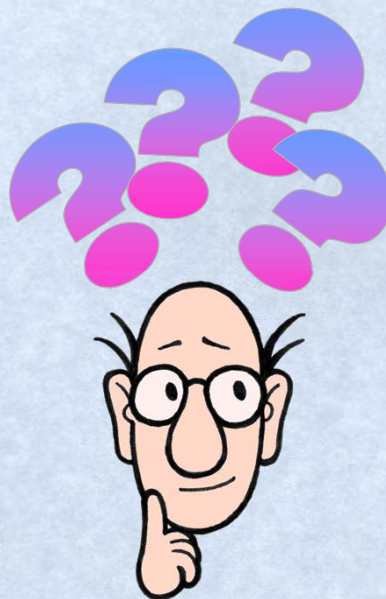
- Keep track of your time

Recertification Requirements

Every 3 years - 18 recertification units

- Professional development (conference, seminars, workshops, webinars & forums)
- Professional employment in the field
- Courses - Instructor/student
- Professionally or technically based meetings
- Committees (Advancement of the quality profession)
- Electronic media (video, CDs, DVDs, & podcasts)
- Publishing (papers, books, presentations, reviews)

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Questions?

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Upcoming Webinars from the Software Excellence Academy

Software Excellence Academy: westfallteam.mykajabi.com

Weekly live webinars:

- June 2020 is Agile month:
  - June 16th: The Business Analyst's Role in Agile - Judy Alter
  - June 23rd: Write Right Agile User Story Acceptance Tests - Robin Goldsmith
  - June 30th: 7 Lean Wastes Translated for Software - Linda
- July 2020 topic of the month: Software Metrics
- August 2020 topic of the month: Software Risk Management

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Contact Information

the WestfallTeam
Partnering for Software Excellence

lwestfall@westfallteam.com
phone: 972-867-1172

westfallteam.com

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