



The PMI-ACP Exam: What is it and what's involved?

Presented by: Mike Ryan
Date: July 12, 2014



What is it?

Agile was born due to the failure of the Waterfall method of delivery of quality software on budget and on time. As Agile was adopted and usage of the Agile Methodology became more and more popular the Project Management Institute began offering the PMI – Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP) exam in 2012. This exam can be potentially helpful in that it will:

1. Help you understand the Agile Methods and terminology
2. Assist you in understanding how to help implement the Agile Methodology where you work.
3. Help you understand Scrum, XP, and Lean methods.
4. Help you become a more valuable Project Manager.

Key Takeaway: Certification is not well known, however gaining momentum as Agile becomes more widely used.



Application Timeline

Application Submission	Once started you have 90 days to complete
Application Completeness Review	10 days if submitted online
Applicant Payment Process	You cannot schedule exam until all fees are paid
Audit Process	If selected for audit, you have 90 days to submit materials.
Multiple Choice Exam Eligibility	You have one year to take the exam after application is accepted.
Certification Cycle	Begins the day you pass the exam.
Certification Maintenance	3 year cycle with 30 PDU's in Agile discipline per cycle
Certification Suspension	Occurs on the third year anniversary if you do not complete your Certification Cycle Requirements.
Certification Expiration	Occurs at the end of your suspension period if you did not meet the Certification Cycle Requirements.

Key Takeaway: Start early, work steady. Process is very similar to the PMP exam if you have taken that exam.



Eligibility and Exam Information

Education Level	General Project Experience	Agile Project Experience	Training on Agile Practices	Number of Questions	Continuing Education Units
Secondary Degree (High School Equivalent or higher)	2,000 hours (minimum of 12 months) working on Project Teams. These hours have to be earned in the past five years.	1,500 hours (8 months) working on Agile project teams or in Agile methodologies. These hours are in addition to the 2,000 hours of General Project Experience and must be earned in the last three years.	21 contact hours in Agile practices	120 multiple choice questions	30 CEU's in a three year cycle in Agile principles and practices.

Key Takeaway: Eligibility requirements are not rigorous but should be documented carefully in the exam application.



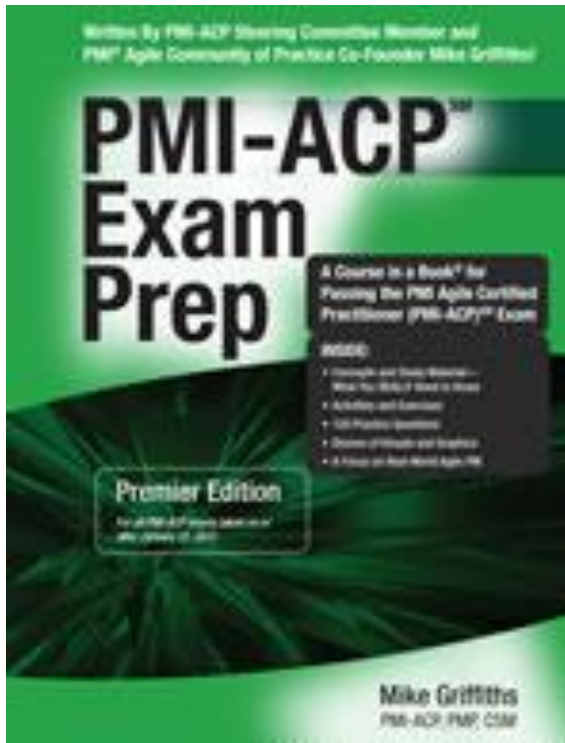
Exam Policies and Procedures

Cost	Number of Scored Questions	Number of Questions not scored	Total Exam Questions	Allotted Time
\$405	100	20	120	3 hours

Exam is preceded by a fifteen minute tutorial. The exam is followed by a PMI survey.

Key Takeaway: There is plenty of time for the 120 questions. PMI does not reveal a “pass score”. Notionally, getting 80% or so on tests during your preparation will provide for a passing score.

Exam Preparation



Key Takeaway: One of the best study guides available is Mike Griffith's book PMI-ACP Exam Prep (Premier Edition). It is complete, accurate and Mike was one of the authors of the PMI-ACP exam.



Agile Methods

I'd have a very good understanding of the following Agile methods:

1. Scrum
2. XP
3. Lean

Key Takeaway: Questions mainly relate to Scrum, XP, and Lean methods, so have a good understanding of these methods.



Agile Manifesto

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
Working software over comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
Responding to change over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

Key Takeaway: I'd know the Agile Manifesto "cold". Some questions can be answered just by knowing the Manifesto.



Agile Principles

1. Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.
2. Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.
3. Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.
4. Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.
5. Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.

Key Takeaway: I'd know the Agile Principles "cold". Some questions can be answered directly by knowing the Agile Principles.



Agile Principles (Cont'd)

6. The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.
7. Working software is the primary measure of progress.
8. Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.
9. Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility
10. Simplicity--the art of maximizing the amount of work not done--is essential.
11. The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.
12. At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.

Key Takeaway: Again, I'd know the Agile Principles "cold". Some questions can be answered directly by knowing the Agile Principles.



Exam Report

	Explanation
Overall Exam Report	Pass or Fail
Level of Proficiency	Proficient – indicates knowledge is above the average level for this domain.
	Moderately Proficient - indicates knowledge is at the average level for this domain.
	Below Proficient – indicates knowledge is below the average for this domain.

Key Takeaway: You get a Proficiency level score for both Agile Tools and Techniques as well as Agile Knowledge and Skills.



Questions

