

Candidate Guidelines for the Synopsis (Experience Report) Agile Practitioner Certification

The Agile Consortium offers you the opportunity to gain a qualification as an Agile Practitioner through the Certify to Inspire Agile Certification program.

One of the prerequisites of this is the provision of a synopsis (experience report). Two examiners will independently assess the synopsis.

How to write a good synopsis

The purpose of the synopsis is to allow the examiners to verify the candidate's practical experience and understanding of agile leadership. Whilst not all experience submitted will adhere fully to an agile approach, the candidate should be comparing and contrasting their project to the Agile Practitioner competencies. A synopsis showing a clear understanding of what it takes to be an Agile Practitioner is the primary aim.

The key points are:

- practical experience: the synopsis is a document in which you can communicate your practical experience as an Agile Practitioner.
- a good synopsis shows that you understand the concepts of being an Agile Practitioner.
- 'comparing and contrasting': if your project did not entirely follow the agile way of working, you should highlight the agile and non-agile aspects, and the impacts of these on your context.

The synopsis is your document

The synopsis reflects your interpretation of the challenges you face, and what you contributed in your role. It should clearly show practices which you considered to be agile and those which you did not.

The synopsis must be your own work and indicate your personal involvement in the project. You should also reflect on the roles of others in the project and their responsibilities.

Your synopsis should be between 2500 and 3500 words and should be clearly aligned to the Agile Practitioner high-level competencies, which are:

- Prioritization, planning and delivery
- Feedback and adaptation
- Leadership style
- Team
- Stakeholder
- Tailoring
- Manifesto

The experience you choose for your synopsis should show at least 12 months agile leadership experience (including team leadership). This need not be continuous, but should show a total of at least that level of experience.

Any agile approach is acceptable, provided that it is well-recognised and its key characteristics are listed in the synopsis (a full explanation of approaches such as DSDM, Scrum, Feature Driven Development (FDD), Crystal, XP etc. are not needed) .

Your project synopsis is assessed against the following categories:

- Context introduction and background: this should contain a short context description. This is where you state which agile approach was used and why.
- The competencies and how they were applied in your project
- How you executed your assignment(s). You should indicate:
 - o what the process was and how “agile” this was
 - o which tools were used, if any
 - o which techniques were applied
 - o whether and how the assignment stayed within its original scope, time and budget.
- The people and the team; any assigned roles, team structure, contracting organisations, and how empowered the team really was
- Your role in the experience and the leadership style used
- Lessons learnt: you should reflect on the execution of the whole experience, from your standpoint as an agile leader.

A good final check is to ask yourself whether the synopsis is clear enough for someone who does not know the context you worked in to understand it.

The result of synopsis assessment

The examiners may do one of two things:

- Award a “pass” to the synopsis. You will then be invited to attend an oral examination at an agreed date;
- Defer your synopsis for further work. If the synopsis was not considered to show sufficient evidence of Agile Practitioner experience, the examiners will give feedback. It will then be necessary for you to adapt your synopsis in the areas identified and to submit this new version.

For further information on the Certification process, please contact info@agileconsortium.nl