

PRINCE2 Agile® Practitioner Examination Overview and Syllabus for Candidates

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Introduction

This document is intended to provide information to prospective PRINCE2 Agile® Practitioner candidates and indeed anyone interested in the format and content of the PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner examination.

It includes:

- PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner Examination Overview - general information and overview of the exam format
- PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner Syllabus for Candidates - detailing:
 - the format of the exam and the learning outcomes from the delegates' course of study that will be assessed in each section
 - the specific criteria by which each learning outcome is assessed, along with references to the PRINCE2 Agile guidance

PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner Examination Overview

Pre-requisite qualifications: Delegates wishing to take this examination must hold a current PRINCE2® Agile Foundation, PRINCE2® Foundation or PRINCE2® Practitioner qualification.

Training: Though formal training is not mandatory, attendance at an accredited PRINCE2 Agile course is strongly recommended.

Material permitted: The examination is 'open book', i.e. the PRINCE2 Agile guide is allowed for reference during the examination.

Examination duration: 2 hour and 30 minutes

Format: The examination is scenario-based i.e. the questions relate to a case study (referred to as the 'Scenario').

The Scenario is included in the Scenario Booklet (see also the sample papers available on AXELOS.com) along with 4 sets of additional information necessary to answer each section of questions.

There are 5 sets of multiple choice questions (MCQs) in the Question Booklet, and each set tests particular learning outcomes from the candidate's course of study, (see the table below).

There are 50 questions in total and each question is worth 1 mark.

Pass mark: Candidates are expected to achieve a score of 60% (30 marks) or higher in order to pass the examination and be awarded certification.

Syllabus for Candidates

Exam Sections and Learning Outcomes Assessed

Exam sections	Exam weight	Learning Outcome (LO)
6 x Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)	6%	1. Understand the basic concepts of common agile ways of working
	6%	2. Understand the purpose and context for combining PRINCE2® and the agile way of working
12 x MCQs using the scenario and one set of additional information	24%	3. Be able to apply and evaluate the focus areas to a project in an agile context
8 x MCQs using the scenario and one set of additional information	16%	4. Be able to fix and flex the six aspects of a project in an agile context
12 x MCQs using the scenario and one set of additional information	48%	5. Be able to apply or tailor the PRINCE2 principles, themes, processes and management products to a project in an agile context
12 x MCQs using the scenario and one set of additional information		
50 MCQs	100%	

Assessment Criteria for each Learning Outcome

LO	Courseware content (references to the PRINCE2 Agile® guide are in brackets)
1	Explain the differences between projects and BAU (Business as usual) (<i>Figure 1.1, Section 1.2</i>)
	Describe agile and its common approaches, how and why agile approaches have developed and where they are used (<i>Figure 2.3, Section 2.1</i>)
	Describe the history of agile, its contrast to the waterfall way of working and how the Agile Manifesto fits in (<i>Figure 2.1</i>)
	Describe the different levels of agile maturity and well-known agile frameworks (<i>Section 2.2.1, Table 2.1</i>)
	Describe behaviours, concepts and techniques that characterize agile (<i>Section 2.2.2, Table 2.2</i>)
	Define the PRINCE2 Agile view of 'agile' (<i>Section 2.2</i>)
	Describe Kanban, the Kanban method and its six general practices, including the use of Cumulative Flow Diagrams (CFDs) (<i>Figure 20.2, Figure 20.4, Section 20.4.1</i>)
	Describe the core concepts of Lean Start-up (<i>Section 20.4.2</i>)
	Describe the use of workshops (<i>Section 26.4.1</i>)
	Describe how to transition to agile (<i>Appendix F</i>)
	Define Scrum theory and explain the nature of the Scrum team, Scrum events, Scrum artefacts and Sprints (<i>Appendix H</i>)

Assessment Criteria for each Learning Outcome (continued)

LO	Courseware content (references to the PRINCE2 Agile® guide are in brackets)
2	Describe the complementary strengths of PRINCE2 and the agile way of working (Section 3.1, Figure 3.1)
	Define who can benefit from using PRINCE2 Agile and in what contexts/situations (Section 3.1, Section 3.2, Section 3.3)
	Define the make-up of PRINCE2 Agile (frameworks, behaviours, concepts, techniques, focus areas) (Section 3.5, Figure 3.2)
	Explain the eight 'guidance points' (Section 3.6)
	Explain how PRINCE2 controls and governance can enable agile to be used in many environments (Section 3.7)
	Describe what a typical PRINCE2 'project journey' looks like in an agile context (Figure 4.1, Section 4.1)
3	Explain the purpose and use of the Agilometer throughout a project (Section 24.1, Section 24.2, Section 24.3)
	Describe the six sliders used on the Agilometer, explain their significance and how to improve them (Figure 24.1, Section 24.4)
	Describe in detail requirements terminology, decomposition and prioritization, including MoSCoW and Ordering (Figure 25.2, Section 25.5, Table 25.3)
	Explain how requirements prioritization is used (Figure 25.2, Section 25.5)
	Explain the rich communication focus area, its importance and its key techniques (Section 26.1, Section 26.2, Section 26.3)
	Explain how to manage frequent releases and the benefits of 'failing fast' (Section 27.1, Section 27.2)
4	Describe how to use the 'hexagon' in relation to the six aspects of project performance (Figure 6.1, Section 6.1)
	Explain the use of tolerances in terms of what to 'fix' and what to 'flex' in relation to the six aspects of project performance (Figure 6.1, Section 6.1, Table 6.1)
	Describe in detail each of the five targets that underpin the use of the hexagon (Section 6.4, Section 6.5, Table 6.2)
	Explain why the 'fix and flex' approach is good for the customer (Section 6.5)
5	Describe in detail the five PRINCE2 Agile behaviours (Transparency, Collaboration, Rich Communication, Self-Organization, Exploration) (Section 7.4, Figure 7.1)
	Explain that agile needs to be incorporated in all seven PRINCE2 processes and all seven themes but that the amount appropriate to each will vary depending on the project context (Section 8.1, Section 8.2, Figure 16.2, Figure 16.3, Figure 16.4, Section 16)
	Describe the two common Organization roles of Scrum master and Product owner (Section 10.2.1)
	Explain how to adjust roles, including the use of specialist roles, and the options for team organization in a project (Section 10.3, Section 10.4, Section 10.5.2, Table 10.1, Figure 10.4, Figure 10.5)
	Define the make-up of a typical delivery team (Section 10.4.2, Section 10.4.3)
	Describe servant leadership, its use and importance (Section 10.5.1)
	Describe how to define Working Agreements (Section 10.5.3)
	Describe quality setting techniques including 'definition of done' and the use of acceptance criteria (Section 11.2)
	Describe quality testing, quality checking and management techniques (Section 11.2, Section 11.3, Section 20.3)
	Describe approaches to planning and typical planning techniques (Section 12.3)
	Describe approaches to risk and how agile concepts mitigate many typical risks (Section 13.1, Section 13.2)

Assessment Criteria for each Learning Outcome (continued)

LO	Courseware content (references to the PRINCE2 Agile® guide are in brackets)
5 (cont)	Describe how blending PRINCE2 with agile approaches controls, responds to, and minimizes the impact of change, including risk management and configuration management (<i>Section 14.2, Section 14.3</i>)
	Describe how empowered self-organizing teams handle change dynamically within set tolerances (<i>Section 10.2, Section 14.3.3</i>)
	Describe common feedback loops and their importance (<i>Section 14.4.1</i>)
	Describe progress monitoring techniques including use of ‘work in progress’ boards, burn charts, information radiators (<i>Figure 15.1, Section 15.2, Section 15.3, Section 15.4</i>)
	Describe in detail agile techniques that may apply to each PRINCE2 process including Cynefin (<i>Figure 17.3, Section 17.3, Section 17.4</i>)
	Describe how to flex the ‘Direct a Project’ stage and the benefits of collaborative working (<i>Section 18.2, Section 18.3</i>)
	Describe how to ‘manage by exception’ with emphasis on empowerment, quantity of deliverables, rich information flows and value of deliverables (<i>Section 18.3</i>)
	Explain why PRINCE2 ‘stages’ may not be required, including the use of timeboxes and Scrum of scrums (<i>Section 19.2</i>)
	Describe typical output mechanisms when ‘Controlling a Stage’ and ‘Managing a Stage Boundary’ (<i>Section 19.2, Section 19.3, Section 21.3, Section 21.4</i>)
	Describe the use of retrospectives and how to make them effective (<i>Section 19.4.1</i>)
	Describe approaches to managing product delivery including Scrum and Kanban (<i>Section 20.2</i>)
	Explain how to define Work Packages, Product Descriptions, quality criteria and tolerances (<i>Section 20.3</i>)
	Give guidance on behaviours, risk and the frequency of releases (<i>Section 20.3</i>)
	Explain how to manage stage boundaries and the similarities between a stage and a release (<i>Section 21.2</i>)
	Explain how to assess quantity, quality and benefits of stage deliverables (<i>Section 21.3</i>)
	Explain how to effectively close a project, including evaluation of the use of agile (<i>Section 22.2, Section 22.3, Section 22.4</i>)
	Describe how to tailor PRINCE2 products, including Work Packages, Highlight Reports and Checkpoint Reports (<i>Chapter 23</i>)
	Describe in detail agile techniques that may apply to each PRINCE2 theme including requirements, defining value and user stories (<i>Figure 25.3, Section 9.4.1, Section 25.1, Section 25.6.1</i>)
	Describe guidance on the use of contracts (<i>Section 28.3</i>)
	Describe PRINCE2 Agile delivery roles (<i>Appendix A, Appendix B</i>)
Explain how to use the Health Check (<i>Appendix C</i>)	
Describe the fundamental values and principles of agile (<i>Appendix E</i>)	
Outline tips for the PRINCE2 Agile project manager (<i>Appendix G</i>)	