

# SAFe® 5

# Agilist

## Exam Study Guide (5.0)

Scaled Agile Professional Certification Program



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## Study Guide Terms of Use

This study guide is the copyrighted property of Scaled Agile, Inc. Scaled Agile provides this study guide solely for your personal use in preparing for the exam associated with the SAFe course you attended. You may not disclose the content of this study guide with anyone else in any format; modify or create derivative works of the content; resell any portion of the content; or alter, remove, or add any trademark or copyright identifier.

## Candidate Agreement and Delivery

Each candidate will be required to agree to the [Candidate Agreement](#) terms on the [Certification Program Policies](#) page prior to launching the exam. Scaled Agile regularly monitors exam data and looks for trends indicating cheating, collusion (group/instructor testing), and exam breaches.

Some key points to know:

- Exams are closed book and must be taken independently without assistance from another person and without written notes, published materials, testing aids, or any other material during the exam.
- Candidates cannot reproduce, use, or disclose any exam or test content in any form (digital, print, verbal) to anyone before, during, or after testing.
- Candidates, instructors, or any other person cannot give, seek, or receive unauthorized assistance during an exam.

Please review the complete [Candidate Agreement](#) on the [Certification Program Policies](#) page for information related to the terms of testing and certification. Thank you for helping us maintain the integrity of SAFe exams!

## Welcome to Scaled Agile Professional Certification

Scaled Agile, Inc.'s role-based offerings focus on the knowledge, skills, and mindset required to be successful in your SAFe role. As part of your Scaled Agile Framework® (SAFe®) learning journey, we encourage you to attend training, read recommended articles, take advantage of videos and enablement content, gain real-world experience in the role, and then take the exam.

### About This Study Guide

This study guide is designed to provide relevant and content-specific exam information, such as the certification role description and skill level, exam objectives, and a comprehensive reading list as defined by our subject matter experts. Reviewing this study guide does not guarantee success on the exam, but it will provide guidance on your journey to become a certified SAFe professional.

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Attending the class does not guarantee passing the exam. Please take the time to review the materials covered in this study guide.

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### Why Get SAFe Certified?

Looking for some great information on the value and benefits of becoming a Certified SAFe professional? Check out these video resources!

- SAFe Certification Benefits (3:44) - <https://vimeo.com/307578726/50b5456425>
- Why is SAFe Certification So Important (1:04) - <https://vimeo.com/325023634>
- How Does the Scaled Agile Role Based Certification Help to Validate a Person's Skill Set? (0:44) - <https://vimeo.com/325023609>

### Preparing for the Exam

Congratulations on taking the first step toward becoming part of a growing community of certified SAFe® professionals! Below is a quick checklist to prepare for the exam followed by more details.

1. Attend a course (required)
2. Study SAFe materials (required)
3. Gain SAFe experience (required)
4. Take the exam (required)
5. Join the certified SAFe professional global community (recommended)
6. Continue your SAFe learning journey (recommended)

## 1. Attend a course (required)

Attendance for all days of the course is required. Once the course roster is uploaded after the class, you will be given access to the exam, which is part of your SAFe Learning Plan found on the SAFe Community Platform.

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Attending the class does not guarantee passing the exam. Please take the time to review the materials covered in this study guide.

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## 2. Study SAFe materials (required)

There are several resources to help you study, learn, and prepare for the exam.

Course materials – Information in the course materials are a key part of the exam. Be sure to review all of the materials: review your student workbook, go through the course exercises and activities again, and review your notes.

Study guide – Review all of the information found in this study guide. It will direct you to key areas of focus, provide exam section percentage scores, and provide links to specific articles that exam questions cover.

Practice test – The practice test is designed to be predictive of success on the certification exam. The practice test contains the same number of questions as the exam, is the same level of difficulty, covers the same general domain areas (using different questions from the certification exam), and has the same timebox for completion. It is available on the Scaled Agile Community Platform as part of your Learning Plan.

The practice test is available at no additional charge, and you can take it as often as you like, no matter the outcome of pass or fail. However, it provides the same bank of questions randomized in a different order.

Practice test score reports are available and can be used to focus on areas where you may need improvement. **New for SAFe 5** – Questions are now highlighted to show correct and incorrect answers. Be sure to take a screenshot of the score report, as the practice test will reset after completion, and your previous score reports are not available. The practice test falls under the Candidate Agreement policy, and you are not authorized to copy, share, or reproduce it in any way.

Sample questions - The sample questions provides examples of the format and type of questions to expect on the exam (these are not the actual exam questions). Performance on the sample questions is NOT an indicator of performance on the exam, and it should NOT be considered an assessment tool. A web-enabled version of the sample questions can be found here:

[https://rise.articulate.com/share/AzITXNj\\_0Pe\\_Cm8TogNWBaJ5l4sjm6o3](https://rise.articulate.com/share/AzITXNj_0Pe_Cm8TogNWBaJ5l4sjm6o3)

The sample questions can also be found on the *About SAFe Certification* summary web page, under the specific “Get Certified” links, at: [www.scaledagile.com/certification/about-safe-certification/](http://www.scaledagile.com/certification/about-safe-certification/).

SAFe website and articles – To quote one certified SAFe professional, “Students must study from the Scaled Agile website!” All course content and SAFe roles are based on the many articles found on the Scaled Agile Framework website. Use this resource to extend your classroom learning and further your SAFe knowledge.

**Note:** All exams cover fundamental SAFe ideas and concepts including:

- [SAFe for Lean Enterprises Configuration](#)
- [SAFe Implementation Roadmap](#)
- [Case Studies](#)
- [SAFe Glossary](#) (available for download in several languages)

Need help finding a SAFe article? Looking for more details about the latest information in SAFe or one of the SAFe roles? Use the web search option to search the entire site based on your key search terms.



Certification video resources – Learning how Scaled Agile builds exams may provide insights into what to expect when you take the exam. These videos are for your information only and will not be covered in any exam:

- SAFe Certification Overview (3:50) - <https://vimeo.com/307577688/974b23c7e1>
- Creating SAFe Certification Exams (4:29) - <https://vimeo.com/307578467/ff75d5d648>

### **3. Gain SAFe experience (required)**

There is so much more to SAFe than what is covered in a multiple day class. Additional learning builds upon the class content and opens up the world of knowledge around each SAFe role. This is the basis for SAFe certifications. The goal of certification is to measure what each student knows against a standard level of competency and difficulty defined for each SAFe role and not to simply ‘pass or fail’ people.

Your SAFe learning journey should continue after class as you become more familiar with your role in SAFe. We encourage you to read Framework articles, refine your understanding of key SAFe concepts, talk to your peers and other SAFe professionals, and expand your SAFe knowledge, skills, and mindset. Extending your learning beyond the class will prepare you to take and pass the exam to become a certified SAFe professional.

Listen to one Scaled Agile’s SAFe Program Consultant Trainers (SPCT) talk about the importance of extending the learning beyond the classroom to prepare for the exam:

- What Are Some of The Misconceptions about Testing and Certification Process at Scaled Agile? (1:12) - <https://vimeo.com/325023617>

#### **4. Take the exam (required)**

When you are ready to take the exam, log into the SAFe Community Platform to access the exam within your Learning Plan.

When you launch the exam you will be required to review and accept the [Candidate Agreement](#) before starting the exam. Exams are timed and the timer will be visible throughout the exam.

When the exam timer ends, the exam will be submitted, regardless of the number of questions answered. A score will be calculated based on the number of questions answered. Unanswered questions will be automatically marked as incorrect. If you finish answering all questions before the exam timer ends, you can click the “Submit” button and your score will be calculated.

Questions are structured in multiple choice or multiple response format. Most questions require one answer. There may be a few “Choose two” or a “Choose three” style multiple response questions that indicate the number of answers required for the question. Multiple response questions require all correct answers to be selected (no partial credit is given).

#### **5. Join the certified SAFe professional global community (recommended)**

When you become a Certified SAFe professional, you will automatically be added to the specific SAFe Community of Practice (CoP) on the SAFe Community Platform for that certification. CoPs are a great place to share ideas, post questions, collaborate, and network with other Certified SAFe professionals.

Certified SAFe professionals also earn a [SAFe digital badge](#). You will receive an e-mail from [Acclaim, our digital badging partner](#), where you can accept and share your digital badge and have your skills recognized worldwide. [Acclaim by Credly](#) is free to use and you can set up an account at any time.

Check out some of the key benefits of becoming a certified SAFe professional!

- SAFe Certification Benefits (3:44) - <https://vimeo.com/307578726/50b5456425>

#### **6. Continue your SAFe learning journey (recommended)**

Once you have demonstrated your SAFe knowledge, skills, and mindset you can continue your SAFe learning journey through all the learning resources available on the SAFe Community Platform.

## Certification Role—SAFe 5 Agilist

A Certified SAFe® 5 Agilist (SA) is a Scaled Agile Framework® (SAFe) enterprise leadership professional who is part of a Lean-Agile transformation.

### Key Areas of Competency

- Apply SAFe to scale Lean and Agile development in the enterprise
- Apply Lean-Agile Mindset and principles
- Plan and successfully execute Program Increments
- Execute and release value through Agile Release Trains
- Build an Agile portfolio with Lean-Agile budgeting

### Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge

- 5+ years experience in software development, testing, business analysis, product or project management
- Experience in Scrum

### Level of Difficulty: Foundational

This role is based on three levels of difficulty: foundational, intermediate, and advanced. Candidates who pass this exam have demonstrated their knowledge, skill, and mindset at this level of difficulty. This will also appear on the Certified SAFe digital badge.

### Level of Competency: 2 [Competent]

This role is based on a five-point competency scale -- one being a novice competency level, five being master competency level. Candidates who pass this exam have met a qualifying standard and can demonstrate their knowledge, skill, or mindset at this level of competency.

SAFe Certification Role Levels of Competency	Difficulty
1 - [Novice] Minimal knowledge or experience	Foundational
2 - [Competent] Some knowledge or experience; can perform tasks with assistance	Foundational
3 - [Proficient] Capable; can perform tasks with some assistance	Intermediate
4 - [Expert] Fully competent; can perform tasks with little assistance	Advanced
5 - [Master] Content developer or contributor; can perform tasks with no assistance	Advanced

## Exam Details, Objectives, and Resources

An exam blueprint creates the foundation for the overall exam competency standard, outlines the exam objectives, and identifies key areas to test. Scaled Agile subject matter experts use the blueprint to develop exam questions. It is recommended that you review these objectives and ask yourself a few questions. Do I know how to complete the tasks in the objective? Am I familiar with the terms and concepts? Do I know the outcome of NOT performing the tasks correctly (anti-patterns)? Additionally, think about the exercises and practice scenarios covered during class which serve as a foundation for scenario-based exam questions.



## Exam Details

The latest information can also be found on the “About SAFe Certification” web page at: [www.scaledagile.com/certification/about-safe-certification/](http://www.scaledagile.com/certification/about-safe-certification/).

Exam	Details
Exam name	SAFe 5 Agilist Exam
Exam format	Multiple choice, questions are randomized, can skip questions and answer later
Exam question format	All questions are multiple choice (one correct answer) unless otherwise stated in the question (two or three correct answers).
Exam delivery	Web-based (single-browser), closed book, no outside assistance, timed
Exam access	Candidates can access to the exam within the SAFe Community Platform upon completion of the Leading SAFe course
Exam duration	Once the exam begins, candidates have 90 minutes (1.5 hours) to complete the exam.
Number of questions	45
Passing score	35 out of 45 (77%)
Language	English
Exam cost	First exam attempt is included as part of the course registration fee if the exam is taken within 30 days of course completion. Each retake attempt, or attempt past the 30-day window, costs \$50.

## Exam Section Numbering and Course Lesson Numbering

The exam section numbers may not specifically map to the course lesson numbers because the course content may evolve to support an ongoing learner-centric instructional approach. Please review the “Exam Section Numbering and Course Lesson Numbering” sections below for more information.

## Exam Content Percentage

The table below outlines the approximate percentage of questions from each section that will appear on the exam.

Exam Sections	Percent of Items on Exam
SECTION 1: Thriving in the Digital Age with Business Agility	13%
SECTION 2: Becoming a Lean-Agile Leader	29%

SECTION 3: Establishing Team and Technical Agility	9%
SECTION 4: Building Solutions with Agile Product Delivery	33%
SECTION 5: Exploring Lean Portfolio Management	11%
SECTION 6: Leading the Change	4%

### Exam Reading and Reference List

As part of the exam development process, each exam question is assigned a reference where the answer can be found for the question. The references are converted into a reading list and provided at the end of the relevant exam objectives section in this study guide. Be sure to read the linked content and resources contained in the reading list because there is at least one exam question written to each item.

Please remember that the goal of this reading list is not only to provide focused areas of study for the exam but also to provide a broader context for learning SAFe.

### Exam Objectives

<b>SECTION 1: Thriving in the Digital Age with Business Agility</b>
Please refer to your student workbook for lesson details.
<b>Reading and Reference List for Section 1</b>
<p>At least one exam question is written from each of these resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Leading SAFe Student Workbook</i> (available only from taking the course): materials and exercises from Lesson 1</li> <li>• <a href="https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/implementation-roadmap/">v5.scaledagileframework.com/implementation-roadmap/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/business-agility/">v5.scaledagileframework.com/business-agility/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/lean-agile-leadership/">v5.scaledagileframework.com/lean-agile-leadership/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/organize-around-value/">v5.scaledagileframework.com/organize-around-value/</a></li> </ul> <p><i>*Any additional materials referenced above that are outside the course or Scaled Agile Framework website will not be provided by Scaled Agile.</i></p>

## SECTION 2: Becoming a Lean-Agile Leader

Please refer to your student workbook for lesson details.

### Reading and Reference List for Section 2

At least one exam question is written from each of these resources:

- *Leading SAFe Student Workbook* (available only from taking the course): materials and exercises from Lessons 2 and 3
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/safe-core-values/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/safe-core-values/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/lean-agile-mindset/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/lean-agile-mindset/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/safe-lean-agile-principles/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/safe-lean-agile-principles/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/assume-variability-preserve-options/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/assume-variability-preserve-options/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/visualize-and-limit-wip-reduce-batch-sizes-and-manage-queue-lengths/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/visualize-and-limit-wip-reduce-batch-sizes-and-manage-queue-lengths/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/apply-cadence-synchronize-with-cross-domain-planning/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/apply-cadence-synchronize-with-cross-domain-planning/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/unlock-the-intrinsic-motivation-of-knowledge-workers/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/unlock-the-intrinsic-motivation-of-knowledge-workers/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/decentralize-decision-making/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/decentralize-decision-making/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/organize-around-value/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/organize-around-value/)

*\*Any additional materials referenced above that are outside the course or Scaled Agile Framework website will not be provided by Scaled Agile.*

## SECTION 3: Establishing Team and Technical Agility

Please refer to your student workbook for lesson details.

### Reading and Reference List for Section 3

At least one exam question is written from each of these resources:

- *Leading SAFe Student Workbook* (available only from taking the course): materials and exercises from Lessons 3, 4, and 7

*\*Any additional materials referenced above that are outside the course or Scaled Agile Framework website will not be provided by Scaled Agile.*

## SECTION 4: Building Solutions with Agile Product Delivery

Please refer to your student workbook for lesson details.

### Reading and Reference List for Section 4

At least one exam question is written from each of these resources:

- Leading SAFe Student Workbook (available only from taking the course): materials and exercises from Lessons 4, 5, and 7
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/business-owners/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/business-owners/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/customer-centricity/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/customer-centricity/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/design-thinking/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/design-thinking/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/continuous-integration/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/continuous-integration/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/DevOps/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/DevOps/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/solution-demo/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/solution-demo/)

\*Any additional materials referenced above that are outside the course or Scaled Agile Framework website will not be provided by Scaled Agile.

## SECTION 5: Exploring Lean Portfolio Management

Please refer to your student workbook for lesson details.

### Reading and Reference List for Section 5

At least one exam question is written from each of these resources:

- Leading SAFe Student Workbook (available only from taking the course): materials and exercises from Lessons 5 and 7
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/Portfolio-SAFE/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/Portfolio-SAFE/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/value-streams/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/value-streams/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/strategic-themes/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/strategic-themes/)
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/guardrails/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/guardrails/)

\*Any additional materials referenced above that are outside the course or Scaled Agile Framework website will not be provided by Scaled Agile.

## SECTION 6: Leading the Change

Please refer to your student workbook for lesson details.

### Reading and Reference List for Section 6

At least one exam question is written from each of these resources:

- Leading SAFe Student Workbook (available only from taking the course): materials and exercises from Lessons 2, and 6
- [v5.scaledagileframework.com/lean-agile-leadership/](https://v5.scaledagileframework.com/lean-agile-leadership/)

\*Any additional materials referenced above that are outside the course or Scaled Agile Framework website will not be provided by Scaled Agile.

## Acknowledgements

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