Scaled Agile
SAFe-SPC
SAFe Practice Consultant SPC (6.0)

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Topic 1, Exam Pool A

Question: 1

What description best represents Capabilities as defined in SAFe?

A. Capabilities are simply a level of abstraction above Epics, exhibiting largely the same characteristics and practices.
B. Capability is a different name for Features, one that is preferred by some organizations.
C. Capabilities are simply a different kind of Epic, exhibiting largely the same characteristics and practices.
D. Capabilities are simply a level of abstraction above Features, exhibiting largely the same characteristics and practices.

Answer: D

Explanation:
In SAFe 6.0, Capabilities are defined as "higher-level solution behaviors that typically span multiple ARTs." They are maintained in the Solution Train Backlog and are sized and split into Features for implementation by individual ARTs. The SAFe 6.0 guidance specifically states:
"Capabilities are larger solution behaviors that often span multiple Agile Release Trains. They are typically sized to be delivered in a Planning Interval (PI) and are broken down into Features to facilitate implementation."
This distinguishes Capabilities from Epics and Features. Unlike Epics, which require Lean Business Cases and approval through Portfolio Kanban, Capabilities follow a breakdown path to Features for execution. Therefore, they are a level above Features, not a synonym for Epics or Features.
Reference:
SAFe 6.0 Website: Capabilities
SAFe Practice Consultant SPC (6.0) Training Guide — "Building Solutions with Agile Product Delivery"
Module Terminology Update: "Solution Backlog" → "Solution Train Backlog" confirms the hierarchical location of Capabilities

Question: 2

What activity calls for using the ROAM technique?

A. Refining the Program Backlog.
B. Managing the ART sync.
C. Categorizing program risks during PI Planning.
D. Managing teams by the Release Train Engineer.

Explanation:
The ROAM technique (Resolved, Owned, Accepted, Mitigated) is used during Planning Interval (PI) Planning to manage and categorize ART PI Risks. In the PI Planning session, all identified risks are discussed and then categorized using the ROAM framework, which helps teams and stakeholders clarify ownership, mitigation strategies, and acceptance of each risk. According to the SAFe 6.0 official guidance:
"During PI Planning, teams identify program risks and then use the ROAM technique to classify each risk as Resolved, Owned, Accepted, or Mitigated. This collaborative activity ensures transparency and allows teams to address significant risks before proceeding."
This activity does not take place during backlog refinement, ART syncs, or general team management; it is specific to the PI Planning event.
Reference:
SAFe 6.0 Website: PI Planning and ROAM
SAFe Practice Consultant SPC (6.0) Training Guide — "Launching an Agile Release Train" Module
New Terminology: "Program PI Risks" are now referred to as "ART PI Risks"

Question: 3

(Select 2) Why is Architectural Runway important?

A. It supports a stable velocity.
B. It provides the documentation on which Features and Capabilities are built.
C. It iteratively evolves the architecture to meet changing needs.
D. It allows for nontechnical changes

Explanation:
The Architectural Runway in SAFe consists of the existing code, components, and technical infrastructure necessary to support the implementation of prioritized, near-term Features without excessive redesign and delay. Its importance is twofold:
It supports a stable velocity (A): Teams need sufficient architectural runway to maintain a predictable velocity and reduce technical debt. As stated in SAFe, "Architectural Runway enables teams to build features quickly and efficiently, thus maintaining stable velocity."
It iteratively evolves the architecture to meet changing needs (C): SAFe recommends an incremental and emergent architectural approach. The runway is not static; it evolves to meet the emerging business and technical requirements, "just enough, just in time."
Incorrect options:
B is incorrect—while documentation may be produced, the runway itself is not documentation but actual working infrastructure.
D is incorrect—runway specifically supports technical changes, not nontechnical ones.
Reference:

SAFe 6.0 Website: Architectural Runway
SPC 6.0 Guide: "The runway must be continually maintained and extended to provide the foundation for developing Features and Capabilities at a sustainable pace."
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Question: 4

What is the most effective way to train the System Team members to operate effectively as part of the train?

A. Have them attend Leading SAFe training and Scrum Master orientation.
B. Have them attend Leading SAFe training.
C. Have them attend SAFe for Teams training with all other teams on the train.
D. Have them attend Implementing SAFe training with SPC certification.
E. Have them review the SAFe Foundations presentation and provide on-the-job training.

Answer: C

Explanation:
According to SAFe 6.0, System Teams are integral to the ART and are considered equal members. The recommended best practice is:
"System Team members should attend SAFe for Teams training together with all other teams on the train to ensure shared understanding of Agile, SAFe, and the train's objectives and practices."
This approach supports alignment, collaboration, and shared learning. Other answers do not ensure integration with the ART or are targeted at other roles or less comprehensive.
Reference:
SAFe 6.0 Website: System Team
SPC 6.0 Guide: "System Team members should attend SAFe for Teams training with all other teams on the ART."
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Question: 5

What are the primary responsibilities of Program Portfolio Management (PPM)?

A. Governance, strategy and investment funding, program management.
B. Program management, stakeholder management, PI Planning.
C. Lightweight business case, Epic specification workshop, Budget allocation.
D. Governance, investment funding, product strategy.

Answer: A

Explanation:
Program Portfolio Management (now commonly referred to as Lean Portfolio Management in SAFe 6.0)

is accountable for:

Strategy and Investment Funding: Ensuring the portfolio's investments align with the enterprise's business strategy.

Agile Portfolio Operations (Program Management): Supporting program execution, including coordination and support across value streams.

Governance: Assuring compliance, monitoring progress, and evaluating outcomes.

SAFe 6.0 documentation emphasizes these three pillars as the core responsibilities of LPM/PPM.

Option D omits program management, while B and C list activities or deliverables but not the full scope of responsibilities.

Reference:

SAFe 6.0 Website: Lean Portfolio Management

SPC 6.0 Guide: "Strategy and Investment Funding, Agile Portfolio Operations, and Lean Governance are the primary responsibilities of Lean Portfolio Management."

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