

# ASQ Certification

Benefits, Preparation,  
Hints, and Renewing

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# Benefits of Certification

- Preparing for an ASQ Certification, you will learn new knowledge in the Body of Knowledge
- Certification is a peer recognition that an individual has proficiency and comprehension in a particular quality area
- Hopefully, the knowledge can be applied where you work, to achieve improvements

# ASQ Certifications

- Biomedical Auditor (CBA)
- Calibration Technician (CCT)
- HACCP Auditor (CHA)
- Lean Certification (Lean) through SME
- Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence (CMQ/OE)
- Master Black Belt (CMBB)

# ASQ Certifications

- Pharmaceutical GMP Professional (CPGP)
- Quality Auditor (CQA)
- Quality Engineer (CQE)
- Quality Improvement Associate (CQIA)
- Quality Inspector (CQI)
- Quality Process Analyst (CQPA)

# ASQ Certifications

- Quality Technician (CQT)
- Reliability Engineer (CRE)
- Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB)
- Six Sigma Green Belt (CSSGB)
- Software Quality Engineer (CSQE)
- Department of Navy, Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (DON CLSSBB)

# Preparation

- Exam application deadlines are typically two months prior to the exam date
- Check the ASQ web site for current exam dates and application dates
- Exams are given two times a year, plus at the annual WCQI, and other conferences
- Exam fees are considerably less for ASQ members

# Preparation

- March and October Exams:  
CBA, CHA, CMBB, CQI, CMQ/OE  
CQT, CRE, CSSBB
- June and December Exams:  
CCT, CPGP, CQA, CQE, CQIA  
CQPA, CSQE, CSSGB

# Preparation

- Review the Body of Knowledge and identify your weak subject areas
- Study content and work practice exam questions
- Consider an ASQ refresher course or a study group with others
- Prepare for the Certification Exam over a two to three month period
- Do not try to learn everything in a week



# Preparation

- Read the ASQ web site Certification, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and the Certification Brochure.
- The ASQ Discussion Board has a Certification area where many questions and answers have already been posted.

# Preparation

- About two weeks before the Exam date, you should receive a letter with the time and location for your Exam.
- Make sure you know the exact location of the Exam prior to the Exam date.

# Preparation

- The day before the Exam, set out all materials and the calculator that you are going to take to the Exam.
- Do not study the night before the Exam, instead do something else, and try to get a good night's sleep.

# Preparation

- The day of the Exam, arrive at least one hour before the start of the exam.
- Leave any content with questions at home or in your vehicle.
- Bring a picture identification
- Bring your calculator, study materials

# Questions and Costs

Cert	Questions	Time	Member	Nonmember
CBA*	135Q	4h	\$259	\$399
CCT*	125Q	4h	\$179	\$339
CHA*	135Q	4h	\$259	\$399
CMBB*	100Q E	5h	\$495+\$1995	\$650+\$2150
CMQ/OE*	150Q 2E	4h	\$310	\$450
CPGP*	150Q	4h	\$259	\$399
CQA*	150Q	5h	\$259	\$399
CQE*	160Q	5h	\$259	\$399

# Questions and Costs

Cert	Questions	Time	Member	Nonmember
CQI	100Q	4h	\$179	\$339
CQIA	100Q	3h	\$179	\$339
CQPA	100Q	4h	\$179	\$339
CQT	100Q	4h	\$179	\$339
CRE*	150Q	4h	\$259	\$399
CSQE*	160Q	4h	\$259	\$399
CSSBB*	150Q	4h	\$299	\$449
CSSGB	100Q	4h	\$199	\$339
Lean*	170Q	3h	\$490	\$690

# Exam Question Types

- Multiple choice (a, b, c, d)
- CMQ/OE 2 constructed response questions, and 150 multiple choice
- CQA some case studies that end up with multiple choice

# Certification Requirements

- Requirements to sit for ASQ Certification Exams are specific to each Certification
- Each is based on years of experience in the Body of Knowledge areas, and some provide for education waivers for a portion
- CSSBB requires an Affidavit of one or two projects
- Lean requires a project journal



# Hints

- For each Exam question, read the complete question and all answer choices.
- First pass, if you know the correct answer fill in the bubble for the letter a, b, c, d.
- Second pass, work questions that require a calculation or table lookup.

# Hints

- Third pass, work questions that you need to look up or review in greater detail.
- Monitor your progress and the available time for completion.

# Hints

- With about 5 to 10 minutes left in the Exam, make sure you have filled in an answer for every question.
- Do not leave any questions unanswered, there is no penalty for wrong answers, only that you did not get it right.
- Guess on remaining questions, if necessary.

# After the Exam

- If you passed, results of the exam will be e-mailed in about 10 days, or you can login to your ASQ account for status. CMQ/OE results take longer.
- Receiving the Certification is important, but more important is using and sharing the knowledge.
- Consider if you are interested in taking additional certifications.

# Renewing

The following ASQ Certifications are for life and do not require renewal:

CQIA, CQPA, CSSGB, CQI, CQT

# Renewing

The following ASQ Certifications require renewal on a 3 year cycle:

CBA, CCT, CHA, CMBB,  
CQA, CQE, CMQ/OE,  
CPGP, CRE, CSQE,  
CSSBB, Lean, DON CLSSBB

# Renewing

- Maintain the Recertification Journal
- 18 points are needed in 3 years
- 0.1 recertification unit (RU) per hour
- Multiple certifications can be synchronized
- RUs apply for all certifications
- Can recertify by examination

# Renewing

- Easiest is to keep journal current
- Meeting attendance, get recertification coupon or slip
- RU credit for ASQ committees, meetings, employment, conferences, publishing, instructor courses, student courses, and proctoring exams



# Subjective Difficulty Ranking

- Hardest: CRE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hardest: CMQ/OE, CQE, CSSBB
- Moderate: CCT, CQA, CQI, CQPA, CQT, CSQE, CSSGB
- Easiest: CQIA
  
- I have not taken: CBA, CHA, CMBB, CPGP, Lean

# Subjective Difficulty Ranking

- Difficulty for a given individual will depend upon their knowledge and experience.
- Rankings are from WR perspective only.

# Resources

- Quality Council of Indiana (QCI)
- <http://www.qualitycouncil.com>
- (800) 660-4215
- [qci@qualitycouncil.com](mailto:qci@qualitycouncil.com)
  
- ASQ <http://www.asq.org>
- then click on Certification
- (800) 248-1946

# Resources

- “Test Run, Improve your chances of passing an ASQ Certification Exam” by Govind Ramu, <http://rube.asq.org/quality-progress/2010/01/certification-asq/test-run.pdf>
- “Certification Exam Tips, Trips, and Traps,” by James J. Rooney <http://www.asq.org/pub/qualityprogress/past/1004/qp1004rooney.pdf>

# Resources

- “Quality in the First Person: Combining Exams With Travel and Fun,” by Darrell Ashworth, <http://www.asq.org/quality-progress/2008/09/quality-in-the-first-person/quality-in-the-first-person-the-main-event.html>

# Resources

- “Quality in the First Person: Rocky Start,” by Tamara L. Payne, <http://www.asq.org/qualityprogress/2008/08/quality-in-the-first-person/rocky-start.html>
- “ASQ’s Black Belt Certification: A Personal Experience,” by Don Cochran and Praveen Gupta, <http://www.asq.org/data/subscriptions/qp/2002/0502/qp0502cochrane.pdf>

# Practice Questions

- ASQ sample questions - free
- QCI practice exam CDs, 1000Q  
\$70 no time limitation
- ASQ online questions, 300Q to 450Q  
\$99 for 1 year access
- Note that none of these are current actual exam questions!

Questions?