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Certified Usability Analyst (CUA)™

Exam fact sheet

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Certified Usability Analyst (CUA)™ Exam Overview

- The CUA™ is the leading worldwide credential for User Experience practitioners, demonstrating their mastery of the fundamental principles of user-centered design.
- HFI Training launched the CUA™ program in 2001, and since then, close to 10,000 individuals in 59 countries around the world have received the CUA™ designation.

Purpose of the CUA™ Exam

- The goal of the CUA™ exam is to gauge an individual's knowledge and skills. It is not designed to be a final exam for the CUA™ courses, and attending the courses is not required to take the exam.
- The CUA™ certification is not intended to replace or compete with academic degrees earned in the field of Human Computer Interaction.
- The CUA™ exam measures a practitioner's factual knowledge and application of user-centered design principles in four competency areas, in the approximate percentages of the total questions:

- User experience foundations - 20%
- User-centered analysis - 30%
- Web and application design - 30%
- Usability testing - 20%

Benefits of the CUA™ Designation

- The CUA™ designation validates that practitioners possess a common set of skills in user-centered design, with the knowledge to routinely make quality interfaces that are effective, easy to learn, efficient, memorable, and satisfying.
- CUAs have a shared set of techniques, vocabulary, and best practices to make informed interface design decisions.

No Prerequisites

- There are no prerequisites for taking the CUA™ exam.
- Test-takers are not required to take any HFI courses since the exam assesses mastery of basic principles of user-centered design.

CUA™ Exam Format

- There are a total of 100 multiple-choice questions, with four available response options.
- A unique online exam is presented to each test-taker by randomly selecting equivalent questions from a larger database of questions.

Relevant Preparation

- The exam is challenging. Many questions assess factual knowledge, while other questions test the ability to apply methodologies and tools to common design challenges.
- Those who have the best chance of passing the exam on the first attempt typically have:

- A few years of practical experience in user-centered design
- Prepared for the exam by organizing their materials
- Conducted a review of the concepts individually by themselves or in a group
- Formulated a strategy for taking the exam
- Attended all of the most recent CUA™ training courses

Time Limit of Exam

- Test-takers have a 2.5 hour time limit to complete the exam.
- Test-takers in India have a 3 hour time limit.
- Test-takers not fluent in English may request a time extension for a total of 4 hours.

Taking the CUA™ Exam

- HFI course materials and personal notes may be used as resources during the exam, however the use of online resources or in-person assistance is not allowed.
- Test-takers may take the online exam on their own computer, whether at home or at work.
  (Note: Candidates in India are required to test with an online proctor.)
- The test platform requires that a secure app be downloaded prior to taking the exam.
- The exam can be started anytime during a 24-hour period on the scheduled test date.
- Test-takers may not pause the exam once it is started.
- Test-takers may skip and flag a question within a section and return to it.
- After each of the four sections are submitted, those questions are no longer accessible.

Passing Requirements

- A passing score is 70% or higher out of the total of 100 questions.
- If someone does not pass, they can schedule to retake the exam within six months at no extra cost.
- The final screen of the exam shows the percent correct for each of the four sections.
- The assessment result at the bottom of the screen is the overall score for the exam.

Cost of CUA™ Exam

- The CUA™ exam costs $800 USD, which includes two attempts, if needed.
- For those who have taken all four CUA™ courses and want to purchase the exam separately, the exam costs $400 USD, which includes two attempts.
- When the CUA™ training is purchased as a package, the exam fee is included at no extra cost.

No Expiration of Certification

- The CUA™ certification does not expire since passing the CUA™ exam demonstrates mastery of the fundamental principles of user-centered design.
- Upon passing the CUA™ exam, successful test-takers will receive:

- An authenticated PDF certificate
- A profile in the HFI online CUA Directory, which they can update at any time.
- An invitation to join the CUA group on LinkedIn.

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To find out more, email us on
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visit our website **www.hfi.training**