

DAMA CDMP Pay if you Pass FAQ

Session 2 12 October 2026 20.00 to 21.00

Questions and answers from the second online preparation session for the DAMA NL CDMP Pay-if-you-Pass event on 6 November 2026. This FAQ covers exam selection, study methods, practice exams and practical rules. The main advice is to study the handbook, practise finding information quickly and choose the exam that fits your certification goal.

Event registration and preparation sessions

1. When and where will the exam take place?

The event takes place on 6 November 2026 at Hogeschool Utrecht. You attend in person and take the exam on your own laptop in a supervised classroom. Follow the venue and access instructions sent by the organisers.

2. What does Pay if you Pass mean?

You pay the exam fee if you pass. If you do not pass, you do not pay for that attempt. Passing an exam and achieving your intended certification level are separate matters.

3. Can I take a specialist exam at this event?

Yes. You can choose Data Management Fundamentals or one of the seven specialist exams. Indicate your choice in the registration form so the organisers can arrange the correct exam.

4. Can I take two exams on 6 November?

No. There is only one exam time slot. You can take one Fundamentals exam or one specialist exam. Arrange any additional exam separately.

5. Can I change my selected exam?

Yes. A request to change from a specialist exam to Fundamentals was accepted during the session. Contact the organisers in advance so they can update your selection.

6. Can I use an exam payment I have already made?

This remained open at the end of the session. The organisers will check whether a previous payment can be used for this event. Contact them before making assumptions about your existing booking or payment.

7. Do I need to attend every preparation session?

No. You may join the remaining Monday sessions, held from 20.00 to 21.00 Dutch time until 2 November. Some introductory topics will be repeated because different candidates join at different times. English may be used to accommodate English-speaking participants.



8. Do these sessions include classroom training or subject specific explanations?

The evening sessions provide exam guidance and answer questions; they are not a full training course. You can request an explanation of a concept or methodology from the handbook. Email your question in advance so the organisers can prepare an answer or include it in a suitable session. Separate training providers are listed at <https://dama-nl.org/opleidingen/opleiders/>.

Study materials and preparation

9. Which book should I study?

Use the DAMA Data Management Body of Knowledge, second edition. The revised edition is strongly recommended because some chapters contain significant changes. The full handbook is the main reference for preparation and the open-book exam.

10. What does the DAMA framework cover?

It provides a common language and a set of practices for data management across industries. It connects business needs with the activities, roles and technology required to manage data. The Fundamentals exam covers the breadth of these knowledge areas.

11. How can the context diagrams help me study?

Use each context diagram as a map of its knowledge area. It brings together the definition, goals, business drivers, activities, deliverables, stakeholders, tools, techniques and measures. Understanding these relationships helps you interpret the chapter and answer questions that test insight.

12. Should I learn the structure of each chapter?

Yes. Chapters follow a similar structure. Learning that structure helps you understand the material and locate an answer quickly during the exam. Practise using the table of contents, chapter tabs or PDF bookmarks while studying.

13. Which Fundamentals topics should I prioritise?

The session highlighted data governance, data modelling, data warehousing, master and reference data, data quality and metadata as prominent topics. Start with the areas carrying more questions, but study the other areas too. Every correct answer contributes to your score, and you do not need to read the chapters in a fixed order.

14. For a specialist exam should I study only the relevant chapter?

No. Focus on your specialist area, but review its connections with other knowledge areas. For example, master data questions may involve data quality or metadata. Specialist exams require deeper understanding of the subject and how it relates to the wider framework.

15. Do I need to read every reference listed in the handbook?

The advice was to look at references that are discussed repeatedly or used to explain important concepts. You were not asked to read every book or paper in every reading list. Use selected references to deepen your understanding where needed.



Exam format and certification levels

16. How do Fundamentals and specialist exams differ?

Fundamentals covers the full range of data management knowledge areas. A specialist exam explores one area in greater depth and may test relationships with other areas. Both have 100 multiple-choice questions, with five possible answers per question.

17. How long is the exam?

The standard duration is 90 minutes. Non-native English speakers receive 20 additional minutes, giving 110 minutes in total. Even with extra time, you have only just over one minute per question, so manage lookups carefully.

18. What scores are needed for Associate, Practitioner and Master?

Associate requires at least 60% in Fundamentals. Practitioner requires at least 70% in Fundamentals and in each of two specialist exams. Master requires at least 80% in each of those three exams and evidence of at least ten years of relevant experience, as explained in this session. These are thresholds for each exam, not an average across the three.

19. Does a specialist score between 60 and 69 percent count as a pass?

During the session, the organisers clarified that 60% counts as an exam pass, but a score below 70% does not count towards Practitioner. Under Pay-if-you-Pass, a passing score therefore requires payment even if it is below the level you were aiming for.

<https://dama.org/cdmp-frequently-asked-questions/#certificates>

20. Are some specialist exams worth more than others?

No. The seven specialist exams have equal weight for progression. Choose the subjects that fit your work and interests; you need two specialist results at the required threshold for Practitioner or Master.

21. Is the exam mainly about memorising facts?

You need factual knowledge and understanding of how concepts relate to each other. Specialist exams place greater emphasis on that understanding. The session mentioned approximate proportions of factual and insight questions as an observation from experience, rather than an official exam specification.

Practice exams and answering questions

22. When and where will I receive the practice exam?

The organisers expect access roughly one and a half to two weeks before 6 November. You will receive an email with instructions for the exam portal. Treat this as an expected window rather than a confirmed release date; registering for the event does not immediately unlock the practice exam.

23. Are practice exams available for specialist subjects?

No. The practice exam discussed in the session is for Data Management Fundamentals. There are no subject-specific practice exams available for the specialist exams through this arrangement.



24. What is the format of the Fundamentals practice exam?

It contains 40 questions with a 36-minute time limit. It helps you become familiar with the interface, question wording and pace. Feedback on your answers helps you identify topics that need further study.

25. How often should I take the practice exam?

Study first, take one or two practice exams, review the feedback and revisit weaker areas. The session suggested no more than about three or four attempts for useful preparation, because questions start to repeat. This is study advice, not a stated limit on access.

26. How should I approach difficult multiple choice questions?

Read the question and all answers carefully, especially negative wording such as “not”. Eliminate clearly incorrect options and choose the best remaining answer. Answer every question, even when uncertain. Answer length or business-oriented wording may suggest a direction, but neither is a reliable rule for selecting the correct answer.

What to bring and how to use the handbook

27. What should I bring to the classroom exam?

Bring your own laptop, a valid identity document and your printed handbook or properly licensed PDF if you want to use the open-book reference. Google Chrome was recommended because it is known to work well with the exam platform. Bring a separate suitable device if that is your preferred way to read the PDF.

28. Can I use a PDF instead of the printed book?

Yes. Both formats are allowed. Choose the format you can navigate most efficiently and practise using it before the exam. An open-book exam still requires preparation; you will not have time to look up every answer.

29. Must the PDF be on a separate device?

No. Session 2 clarified that you may open the PDF on the same laptop used for the exam. A separate device, such as a tablet or another laptop, is recommended rather than mandatory. This updates the earlier guidance that described a separate device as required.

30. Why is a separate device recommended?

It reduces switching between the exam and the PDF and the risk of accidentally closing the exam window. Restarting the exam can take several minutes and cost valuable time. If you use one laptop, practise that setup beforehand.

31. Can I use a PDF licensed to somebody else or to a former employer?

You must have your own licensed PDF or be covered by an appropriate current enterprise licence. A copy in a former employer’s name was not accepted in the session. DAMA NL stated that candidates using an improperly licensed PDF would not be allowed to take the exam.



32. How can I find information quickly during the exam?

Use chapter tabs in the printed book or bookmarks in the PDF, and mark important methods or sections for easy navigation. Practise searching with precise terms; broad searches such as “metadata” or “data quality” may return too many results. Test your approach during practice exams.

33. May I use translation tools, internet searches or AI tools?

Browser translation was described as allowed to help understand English wording. It can take time, so familiarity with English terminology is useful. Searching the internet for answers or using generative AI tools is not allowed. Proctors will monitor compliance during the classroom exam.

34. Can I request extra time for dyslexia or another condition?

Contact the organisers in advance if a condition affects your ability to complete the exam. They can request additional time from DAMA International. The arrangement needs to be confirmed for your exam.

Results and further questions

35. When will I see my result and what should I do when finished?

The platform calculates your score after submission or when time expires. The result may take a few minutes to appear. Stay seated and quiet until everyone has finished so that you do not disturb other candidates.

36. What proof of certification will I receive?

The session described a certificate and digital credentials that can be shared professionally. You can indicate whether you want your credentials to be publicly visible. The designation depends on your exam results and the requirements for the relevant level.

37. What if I fail or want a higher score?

If you fail, no exam fee is due for this Pay-if-you-Pass attempt. You can arrange another exam individually, through an exam provider or at a future Pay-if-you-Pass event. If you pass but need a higher score for Practitioner or Master, arrange a retake separately.

38. Does my certification expire after two years?

The response in the session was that a professional designation does not simply lose all value after two years. The precise renewal and maintenance requirements were not clearly established in the discussion. Ask the organisers to confirm the current requirements for your certification level.

39. Where can I find the slides, FAQs and answers to further questions?

The presentations and FAQs are shared at <https://dama-nl.org/piyp-sessions-2026/>. Email **secretary@dama-nl.org** with practical questions or requests about handbook content. The organisers may answer directly or discuss the topic in an upcoming session and let you know when to join.

