CDMP Pay-if-you-Pass 2026

Frequently Asked Questions | Preparation Session 3

19 October 2026 • Online preparation session • DAMA NL

This FAQ summarizes the main subjects discussed during the third online preparation session for the DAMA CDMP Pay-if-you-Pass programme, including the DAMA-DMBOK, certification pathways, examination procedures, and preparation resources.

1. DAMA International and the DAMA-DMBOK

Q1. What is DAMA International?

DAMA International is an independent, not-for-profit professional association dedicated to advancing data management. It supports professionals worldwide through knowledge sharing, communities, frameworks, publications, and certification programmes. DAMA NL is the Dutch chapter of DAMA International.

Q2. What is the DAMA-DMBOK, and why is it important for CDMP certification?

The DAMA Data Management Body of Knowledge (DAMA-DMBOK) is a comprehensive framework covering the major disciplines, concepts, and practices of data management. It provides the main knowledge foundation for CDMP certification. Candidates should become familiar with its terminology, knowledge areas, and the relationships between them.

Q3. What is the DAMA Wheel?

The DAMA Wheel visually represents the knowledge areas within the DAMA-DMBOK. Data Governance is positioned at the centre, reflecting its coordinating and guiding role across data management disciplines. The wheel illustrates how areas such as Data Quality, Metadata Management, Data Modelling, and Data Warehousing relate to one another.

Q4. Are the context diagrams in the DAMA-DMBOK important for exam preparation?

Yes. Context diagrams provide structured overviews of the activities, inputs, outputs, participants, and other elements associated with a knowledge area. They help candidates understand how disciplines operate in organizations. Use them to understand concepts and relationships rather than simply memorizing them.

2. CDMP Certification and Examination Structure

Q5. What is the difference between the CDMP Fundamentals exam and the Specialist exams?

The Data Management Fundamentals exam covers a broad range of data management knowledge areas described in the DAMA-DMBOK. Specialist exams focus more deeply on particular disciplines, such as Data Governance, Data Quality, or Data Modelling. Fundamentals establishes broad knowledge, while Specialist exams enable candidates to demonstrate deeper subject-specific expertise.

Q6. What are the different CDMP certification levels?

The CDMP programme includes Associate, Practitioner, and Master levels. Associate demonstrates foundational knowledge. Practitioner recognizes broader and deeper expertise through the required examination results. Master recognizes a higher level of demonstrated expertise. Exact examination combinations and score requirements depend on the certification level; check DAMA International's current criteria.

3. Examination Procedures and Practical Arrangements

Q9. How will the Pay-if-you-Pass examinations be organized?

The programme includes classroom-proctored examinations, supervised by proctors. Candidates use an examination platform to access and complete their exams. Follow the practical instructions on arrival, identification, examination access, and supervision.

Q10. What identification do I need to bring?

Identification requirements were discussed, including the use of a passport or other accepted identification document. Verify current requirements in the official exam instructions and bring the appropriate document.

Q13. How do I access and complete the examination?

The exam is accessed through the designated examination platform using provided credentials and instructions. The session covered starting the exam, selecting answers, submitting it, and accessing results. Familiarize yourself with the instructions beforehand.

Q14. How do I receive my examination results and certification?

The session discussed examination results and certification information available through the relevant portal. Depending on the certification achieved, candidates may be eligible for a certificate and digital badge.

4. Preparation and Study Recommendations

Q15. What is the best way to prepare for the CDMP Fundamentals exam?

Use a structured approach: become familiar with the DMBOK's structure; study the concepts and terminology of each knowledge area; understand relationships between disciplines; use practice exams; revisit weaker areas; and review examination procedures before the exam. The objective is to understand the framework, not only memorize facts.

Q16. Are practice examinations useful?

Yes. Practice exams can help candidates become familiar with question formats, identify gaps, and practice applying DMBOK knowledge. They are preparation tools, not guarantees of the questions or results of the actual examination.

Q17. Do I need to memorize the entire DAMA-DMBOK?

The session emphasized understanding the framework, its structure, and underlying concepts. Focus on the purpose of each knowledge area, its key activities and terms, and links with other disciplines. Knowing how the book is organized can help you find information more efficiently.

Q18. Where can I find reliable CDMP information and preparation resources?

Use DAMA International for official certification requirements; the DAMA-DMBOK as the primary reference; DAMA NL for Pay-if-you-Pass information, preparation sessions, and FAQs; and practice examinations to assess understanding.

5. Additional Questions and Support

Q19. Can I submit questions after the preparation session?

Yes. Participants are encouraged to submit questions about exam procedures, the DAMA-DMBOK, or specific knowledge areas to secretary@dama-nl.org. Relevant questions may be addressed in upcoming preparation sessions or future FAQ updates.

Q20. Where can I find information about the Pay-if-you-Pass preparation sessions?

Information about the programme, preparation sessions, and FAQs is available at https://dama-nl.org/piyp-sessions-2026/.

Final recommendations

- Use the DAMA-DMBOK as your primary study reference.
- Understand how the data management knowledge areas relate to each other.
- Understand the CDMP certification pathway and applicable examination requirements.
- Use practice exams to identify and address knowledge gaps.
- Verify examination logistics and permitted reference materials before exam day.

We wish all participants success in preparing for their CDMP examinations!