

1. What is DAMA, and why is it growing so rapidly worldwide?

DAMA is the international professional association for data management professionals. It is growing rapidly because organisations worldwide see data management as a critical prerequisite for digital transformation, AI readiness, compliance, data quality and business continuity. During the meeting, it was mentioned that **more than 80 countries** now have a DAMA chapter and that new chapters are being added almost every week.

2. What makes the DMBoK framework so valuable to organisations?

DMBoK provides a common language for all data disciplines. It does not prescribe what to do, but shows the building blocks of data management and how they relate to one another. This allows organisations to set their own priorities based on their maturity, strategy and risks.

3. Why is DMBoK considered practical rather than theoretical?

The session emphasised that DMBoK is not an academic model, but a collection of best practices from the field. Everything in it is based on real data management experience. Professionals recognise their own day-to-day work in it, making it accessible and applicable.

4. What are the five core principles of data management according to DMBoK?

These principles describe how data should be created, used, managed and maintained throughout its entire lifecycle. They form the underlying philosophy of all DMBoK knowledge areas. The transcript discusses how these principles often feel self-evident to experienced data professionals.

5. Why is the data lifecycle important within DMBoK?

The data lifecycle emphasises that data is created, stored, used, improved and ultimately archived or deleted. Governance, security, privacy, metadata and data quality are essential throughout this process: the so-called "foundation activities".

6. How does the hexagon model help build data management capability?

The hexagon shows that data management rests on six elements: people, processes, technology, tools, organisation/culture and techniques. The session explained how this model helps organisations understand that data management involves more than technology alone.

7. What is the DMBoK context diagram, and how does it help with study and practice?

The context diagram summarises each knowledge area on a single page, covering definitions, goals, inputs, outputs, roles and activities (planning, control, development and operations). It is ideal for quickly gaining an understanding of the key components of a knowledge area.

8. Why is data quality a foundation for almost all DMBoK knowledge areas?

Data quality affects analytics, AI, compliance, migrations and master data. The meeting emphasised that data quality has an impact almost everywhere in an organisation (a "multilayer effect") and is therefore often a key focus of implementations.

9. How does data management relate to the GDPR, procurement and contract management?

Data management provides structure for questions such as: Who is responsible for the data? How do we arrange for data to be returned when a contract ends? How do we safeguard privacy and security? This was cited as an example of how data management extends far beyond IT alone.

10. Why is metadata considered an essential foundation?

Metadata makes data findable, understandable and usable. It supports lineage, governance, impact analysis, security and data quality. This is why metadata is one of the "foundation activities" that many organisations still give too little attention to.

11. What is CDMP, and why is it valuable worldwide?

CDMP certification demonstrates that a professional understands and applies data management according to DMBOK. Organisations increasingly request CDMP certification in job vacancies. The number of candidates is growing rapidly, particularly in the Netherlands and Europe.

12. What certification levels are available?

1. Associate - score of at least 60%
2. Practitioner - at least 70% + two specialisations at 70% or above
3. Master - at least 80% + three specialisations at 80% or above + at least 10 years of experience

All scores are recorded and remain valid (you do not need to retake the Fundamentals exam).

13. How are the exam questions distributed?

The exam contains 100 multiple-choice questions. Approximately:

- 60% purely based on the book's content
- 20% requiring deeper interpretation
- 20% not stated explicitly in the book, drawing on experience and insight

This has recently changed: questions increasingly test understanding and connections, rather than factual knowledge alone.

14. Can you use the book during the exam?

Yes, it is an open-book exam. You may use:

- either the physical book
- or the official PDF.

You may not use both. The book may contain notes, but not complete summaries.

15. How much time do you have for the exam?

- Native English speakers: 90 minutes
- Non-native English speakers: 110 minutes
- Dyslexia: an additional 20 minutes (on request)

This time is needed because each question contains a substantial amount of text.

16. What types of questions can you expect?

There are two main types:

- "Straightforward" - one clearly correct answer
- "Best possible answer" - several answers contain elements of truth, but one is clearly the best fit according to DMBok logic

Some questions are long and contain words such as "NOT" or "EXCEPT" that are easy to overlook.

17. How important is English?

All questions are in English and are often worded at length. Automatic translation may only be used to translate, not to look up content on the internet. Translation tools do not always work reliably and take time, so many candidates end up not using them.

18. What happens if you do not pass the exam?

You can resit the exam at a reduced fee. The process and question style remain the same. You do not need to buy the book again if you retake the Fundamentals exam.

19. How long is the certificate valid?

A CDMP certificate is valid for three years. After that, you pay a small recertification fee of 50 dollars and must demonstrate that you are still active in the field. No new exam is required.

20. What happens immediately after the exam?

You receive your result within a few minutes. In classroom sessions, the proctor asks you to wait quietly until everyone has finished, to avoid emotional reactions and stress among other candidates.

21. How should you start studying for CDMP?

Start by working through the structure of the DMBok book: the table of contents, context diagrams and the layout of each chapter. This helps you understand more quickly where to find information during the open-book exam.

22. How much time should I spend preparing?

On average, 24-48 hours, although this varies considerably between professionals. Those with experience in governance, quality or architecture often need less time. Beginners need more time to understand the terminology and structures. Taking a training course beforehand can be helpful. Working through practice exams several times is strongly recommended.

23. What is the best way to use the book during the exam?

Use tabs, sticky notes and highlighting to find chapters quickly. Most candidates use the physical book because searching a PDF can be stressful and time-consuming. Using a PDF requires an additional device and good search skills.

24. How do practice exams in the DAMA portal work?

You can take multiple practice exams (40 questions per session, 36 minutes). These give you insight into:

- question types
- common pitfalls
- time pressure
- gaps in your knowledge

Repetition significantly improves your chances of success.

25. What is an effective exam strategy?

- Start with the quick, clear questions
- Flag difficult questions for review
- Answer everything you are sure about first
- Leave difficult comparison questions until the end
- Watch for words such as NOT, EXCEPT and BEST
- Make a note of questions you are unsure about on your scratch paper

26. How do you deal with long or complex exam questions?

Read the question first, then the answers. Identify keywords, check whether the knowledge area is clear, and decide whether you know the answer immediately or will return to it later. Many long questions contain unnecessary context.

27. How can you avoid running out of time?

Avoid spending too long on difficult questions, take practice exams and learn to navigate the book quickly. The time pressure is considerable: 100 questions in 110 minutes.

28. How can you recognise incorrect answers?

Watch for:

- An IT term where a business role should actually be used
- An answer that is too technical for DMBok
- An answer that is inconsistent with DMBok definitions
- Options that are conspicuously long or short (a red flag)
- Answers that deviate from DMBok logic

29. How do you know which answer is the best?

Choose the answer that fits the DMBok philosophy:

- Business over IT
- Governance over tooling
- Processes over technology
- Clear distinctions between roles

DMBok has a clear preference for organisational clarity and governance over technical solutions. However, use this approach only when you really do not know the answer.

30. Can you pass without practical experience?

Yes, but it is more difficult. Twenty per cent of the questions test practical insight. Without work experience, you need to invest extra time in understanding the logic and examples in the book and practice exams.

31. How does CDMP certification help within an organisation?

It provides a shared language, strategic maturity and professionalisation. CDMP-certified teams demonstrably perform better because they share definitions and a common frame of reference.

32. How does data management help with migrations and system integrations?

Data stewards and data architects can identify risks, safeguard data quality, map lineage and monitor compliance with contractual agreements.

33. How does DMBok contribute to AI readiness?

AI requires reliable data, clear metadata, governance, quality and lineage. DMBok provides the structure on which AI can be built responsibly.

34. How does DMBok help with compliance?

The framework provides structure for security, privacy, the GDPR, risk management and auditability. Many compliance issues are directly related to data quality, lineage and governance.

35. How does DMBok help build a data-driven culture?

Clarifying roles, responsibilities and processes creates consistency and transparency. This promotes collaboration and data-driven decision-making.

36. How does DMBok help with organisation-wide communication?

DMBok clarifies who is responsible, who provides input, who makes decisions and what the outputs are. This makes communication more efficient and reduces misunderstandings.

37. What happens during proctoring on exam day?

The proctor checks candidates' identities, book editions, notes and behaviour, and ensures that exam rules are followed. This is part of the proctor's ethical responsibility.

38. What is the key message for all candidates?

You need to study independently, but you are not on your own. With the right preparation, practice exams, an understanding of the DMBok structure and support from the trainers, you can successfully pass the exam. The trainers emphasised that they help with structure, strategy and tips, but you are the one who achieves the result.

39. CDMP websites

www.cdmp.info (all rules and requirements)

<https://cdmp.brightspace.com/> (exam portal)