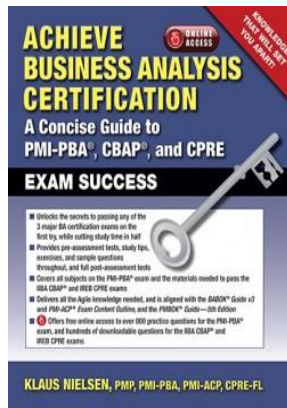


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Achieve Business Analysis Certification: A Concise Guide to PMI-PBA®, CBAP®, and CPRE Exam Success***

Author: **Klaus Nielsen**, PMP, PMI-PBA, PMI-ACP, CPRE-FL

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Introduction

In recent years, there has been an increased emphasis on business analysis certification. The three major business analysis certification exams are:

- PMI-PBA®, offered by the Project Management Institute
- CBAP®, offered by the International Institute of Business Analysis
- CPRE, offered by the International Requirements Engineering Board

More and more organizations are seeing advantages to have certified business analysts, and more and more individuals are seeking out these certifications.

Preparatory classes and “boot camps” can be expensive, so many individuals prefer to prepare for these exams on their own. Also, by self-studying, they can work at their own pace and according to their own schedule. This book can certainly help in that effort!

Overview of Book’s Structure

The book is broken down into six parts.

Part 1 consists of an overview of the business analysis certifications, some study tips and how to pass the PMI-PBA® exam (much of which also applies to the CBAP® and CPRE exams), an explanation of the organizational need for business analysts, and pre-test knowledge assessments for the PMI-PBA®, CBAP®, and CPRE certifications.

Part 2 contains chapters covering the following domains: Needs Assessment Domain, Planning Domain, Analysis Domain, Traceability and Monitoring Domain,

and Evaluation Domain. For each domain, there is a list of terms to know, an introduction to the domain, an explanation of each area within the domain, a chapter summary, and five test questions and answers relating to the domain.

Part 3 contains the PMI-PBA® knowledge skills, tools, and techniques; professional ethics and conduct standards; the relationship between the PMI-PBA® and PMBOK® Guide; Agile methodologies and the Agile Manifesto, and CBAP® and CPRE knowledge areas and alignment.

Part 4 contains an overview of the CBAP® exam and the BABOK® Guide, and how they align with the PMI-PBA®. Again, for those studying for the CBAP®, I highly recommend obtaining a copy of the BABOK® prior to studying for that exam, as well as some supplementary study material specific to the CBAP®. Also contained in Part 4 is an introduction to the CPRE, as well as a table of how the areas of the CPRE align with the PMI-PBA®.

Part 5 is a sample PMI-PBA® practice exam.

Part 6 contains glossary and acronyms, as well as a bibliography.

Highlights

There was more extensive treatment of material needed to pass the PMI-PBA® exam than the CBAP® and CPRE exams. As someone who has obtained the CBAP® certification, I would recommend that in addition to IIBA's *BABOK® (Business Analysis Body of Knowledge)*, an individual also study some CBAP® specific material as well as this guide.

For the PMI-PBA, there is very thorough treatment of the material. By using this guide, the *PMBOK® (Project Management Body of Knowledge)*, PMI's *Business Analysis for Practitioners: A Practice Guide*, the preparatory books PMI recommends on its website, and the online test bank, an individual might well have all they need to pass the PMI-PBA® certification exam. This assumes, of course, that an individual has enough self-discipline to set and adhere to a self-study schedule.

The CPRE, popular in Europe, is not a certification I have obtained, so I cannot speak to whether the study guide alone would be adequate to prepare for that exam. It certainly appears that the guide contains a great deal of study material that would be helpful to those studying for that exam. According to this guide, the CPRE exam is much shorter than the PMI-PBA® or CBAP® exams, taking only 75 minutes and consisting only of 45 multiple-choice questions.

Highlights: What I liked!

Free 45-day access to an online test bank is included with the purchase price with access to over 800 practice questions. When I studied for the PMI-PBA exam, I had to purchase a separate study guide and access to a test bank. Having access to a

free test bank is a great benefit to buyers of this book. Hundreds of downloadable practice questions for the CBAP®, and CPRE certifications are also available from the Web Added Value Download Resource Center on the publisher's website.

The questions at the end of the chapters on each domain are also helpful. This would give someone studying the guide a quick way of knowing how well they "got" the material, so that they could re-read sections of that chapter if they did not answer all of the questions correctly.

Chapter 2 contains some good study tips that are applicable not only to the PMI-PBA®, CBAP®, and CPRE, but any professional certification exam.

I appreciated the author's explanation of the CPRE certification. While popular in Europe, I had only heard of the exam in passing. This guide helped me learn more about that certification and exam.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Individuals who have made a definite decision to obtain the PMI-PBA®, CBAP® or CPRE certification could certainly benefit from this book.

Some individuals are "on the fence" about getting certified. This guide can provide insight into what material is covered on the exams and how the exams are structured to help such individuals decide whether or not certification is for them.

Still others may want to increase their business analysis knowledge without necessarily sitting for a certification exam. This book contains a wealth of business analysis knowledge that could benefit them and make them better at what they do.

Conclusion

With an increasing number of organizations seeking certified Business Analysts, and an increasing number of Business Analysts seeking certification, this is a very timely guide.

When I was preparing for my certification exams, I found answering practice questions online was one of the best ways to prepare for the exams. It let me know in what areas I was strong, and in what areas I needed to improve. Having free 45-day online access to a practice study questions is a definite benefit in this respect.

In summary, this guide would be a very worthwhile study aid for anyone seeking a business analysis certification. It would also be good for individuals seeking to expand their business analysis knowledge, even if obtaining a certification is not their goal.

For more about this book, go to: <http://www.jrosspub.com/business/business-analysis/achieve-business-analysis-certification.html>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



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Sandy Schmidt is a member of the PMI Dallas, PMI Fort Worth, and IIBA Fort Worth Chapters. She has served as Secretary and Vice President of Education on the IIBA Fort Worth Board of Directors. She is currently a Principal Systems Analyst at Sirius XM Connected Vehicle Services in Irving, TX, where she has worked since 2012. She has over 20 years of Information Technology experience in Business Analyst, Systems Analyst, Project Manager, and Consultant roles. Her experience spans the property and casualty insurance, transportation, taxation, financial services, and vehicle telematics industries. She always enjoys new opportunities, people, and challenges.

She is originally from Detroit, Michigan, but moved to Southern California as a teenager and graduated from high school there. She earned her BS in Management from Pepperdine University and an MBA in Information Systems from California State University at Los Angeles. She relocated to Dallas/Fort Worth with a former employer. She has been a PMP since 2002, a CBAP since 2011, a CSM since 2012, a PMI-PBA since 2015, and obtained her CSPO certification earlier this year. She is also a SAFe Agilist and a CPCU (Certified Property and Casualty Underwriter). When not learning new things herself, she enjoys coaching, teaching, and mentoring others.

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