



# DAML Certification Syllabus

DAML Contract Developer

October 2020





## Introduction

### DAML Contract Developer Exam

The DAML Contract Developer exam covers the details required for a developer to be successful in writing and testing the core of their distributed application using DAML contracts. It covers both theoretical knowledge of the underlying abstractions, hands-on development know-how, and testing capabilities.

You will be tested on your understanding of the DAML Ledger Model, DAML's surface syntax and how it links to that model, your ability to translate between real-world workflows and DAML code, and your know-how regarding the testing and debugging of DAML code.



## DAML-Certification Program

The DAML Contract Developer exam is the entry-level exam in the DAML Contracts track. It tests you on the technical knowhow to translate application requirements into DAML code, reason about the runtime behaviour of that code, and debug and test its functionality.

Patterns, best practices and advanced privacy, security and performance topics are covered in the DAML Contract Expert certification.





## Prerequisites

- DAML Associate Certification
- Solid understanding of standard computer science concepts
- Installation of DAML SDK, or access to the web SDK at [daml.com/learn](https://daml.com/learn)

## Exam Outline

### Exam Organization

The exam takes approximately 90 minutes to complete and will be conducted online at the time of your choosing. It consists of 40 questions of different types, ranging from technical definitions to code analysis and translating requirements into code. It is expected that candidates will use the [DAML developer documentation](#) and SDK as aids during the exam.

The 30 exam questions will be separated into four main topics. The total score on each topic counts as a percentage of your final score as shown below. Each topic will be scored separately, with all questions for a topic having the same weight.

The exam score will be the total of the topic scores. To be DAML-certified, you must have a total exam score of 70%.

### Exam Topics

#### DAML Contract Language (60%)

- Template structure, keywords, and their link to the Ledger Model
- DAML's type system for data, inbuilt types, immutability, the keywords and syntax used to define custom data types, serializability, and some basics on typeclasses
- Pattern Matching and control flow - `case` and `if` expressions
- Actions and `do` notation in DAML
- The Update Action and its link to the DAML Ledger model
- Function signatures and defining custom functions
- "Looping" - folds and recursion
- Errors, Aborts, and Assertions
- DAML Projects, Packages, Modules, Imports, and dependencies
- Basic Standard Library functions on Tuples and Lists
- Searching the Standard Library by signature and name



## Testing and Debugging (17.5%)

- Functionality of tooling - Scenarios, Script, REPL, Navigator
- Differences between IDE-integration ``daml test`/`daml test-script`` and ``daml script``
- Translation between Scenario/Script View and Ledger Model
- Testing DAML Models via API and Navigator
- The debug and trace functions
- Testing for failures

## DAML Ledger Model (17.5%)

- Ledger structure in terms of Commits, Actions, Subactions, Transactions, Subtransactions, Immutability
- Relationships between parties and contracts: Signatories, Observers, Stakeholders, Maintainers, Controllers, Actors, Informees, Witnesses
- Guarantees the DAML Ledger Model gives
- Party Projections of transactions
- Action types and their authorization rules
- The time model of the ledger, and the guarantees on Ledger Time
- Immutability, contract state, and consistency of DAML ledgers

## DAML Execution Model (5%)

- DAML execution model in terms of Interpretation, Validation, and Commit, and what happens during each phase
- High- level link between DAML, DAML-LF, and Transactions
- Different types of errors and where they occur during execution
- The semantics of contract and key lookups during command interpretation

## Example Questions

Correct answers are marked in **bold**

### Random Numbers

Ledger Time is a source of random numbers as no single party can manipulate it.

- True
- **False**



## Causal Monotonicity

Ledger Time is guaranteed to satisfy causal monotonicity. What does that mean? Select the correct option.

- Archives always come after all other actions on a contract
- All actions on a contract are totally ordered by time
- Actions on a contract are ordered by when they were submitted
- Actions on a contract are ordered by when they were committed
- **Creates always precede all other actions on a contract**

## Debug and Trace

Where are messages from the `debug` and `trace` functions put out? Select all that apply.

- **The bottom of the Transaction View for Scenarios/Scripts in the IDE**
- The bottom of the Table View for Scenarios/Scripts in the IDE
- **The console output of DAML REPL**
- **The log output of DAML Script**
- **The log output of Ledger Nodes**

## Test Tool Architecture

Which of these tools allow you to test/debug a DAML model through the Ledger API, allowing you to perform the same action any other client application could take? Select all that apply.

- **Navigator**
- **Script**
- **REPL**
- Scripts run by the IDE / Studio

## Technical Architecture

The [DAML Compiler, DAR, DAML-LF, DAML Engine, JVM] consumes DAML code files and emits a [DAML Compiler, **DAR**, DAML-LF, DAML Engine, JVM] containing DALF files, which are binary encoded messages from the DAML-LF schema. The PackageService consumes a DAR file and emits [DAML Compiler, DAR, **DAML-LF**, DAML Engine, JVM] packages. When a command gets submitted, the [DAML Compiler, DAR, DAML-LF, **DAML Engine**, JVM] interprets the DAML-LF in a [DAML Compiler, DAR, DAML-LF, DAML Engine, **JVM**] process to generate a transaction.



## Finding out StdLib Function Signatures

What's the full signature (including typeclass bounds) of the Standard Library function `Prelude.sequence``?

**Applicative m => [m a] -> m [a]**