



Adobe Experience Manager 6 Architect

Adobe Certified Expert Exam Guide

Exam number: 9A0-385

Revised 05 February 2018

This exam guide provides detail about a new version of the AEM 6 Architect exam that will be published on January 16, 2017. Candidates who register for the exam with a delivery date prior to January 16 will be provided the current version of the exam; any exam delivered on or after January 16 will be the new version.

About Adobe Certified Expert Exams

To be an Adobe Certified Expert is to demonstrate expertise in helping clients realize value in Adobe solutions.

Adobe's Certification exams follow industry-accepted procedures to ensure validity and reliability. We work with industry experts to create our exams, which represent real-world requirements and objectives for the job roles we certify.

This guide is designed to provide the recommendations needed to prepare for your Adobe Certified Expert exam, and help you determine when you are ready to take the exam. It will outline the knowledge and skills required of a "minimally qualified candidate" for a specific job role, which will be evaluated in the exam.

How is the Adobe Experience Manager 6 Architect Exam Structured?

- Number of questions: 50
- Time limit: 95 minutes
- Passing score: All Adobe exams are reported on a scale of 300 to 700. The passing score for each exam is 550. For more information about scaled scoring, visit the [FAQs](#).

How Do I Register for the Exam?

Our exams are delivered worldwide by PSI.

- Exam name: Adobe Experience Manager 6 Architect
- Exam number: 9A0-385
- Exam cost: \$180 (US Dollars)

To register for the exam at a PSI testing center:

1. Visit Adobe's [credential management system](#).
2. If you have logged in before, use your email address or login ID and password to access the system and go to step 6.
3. If you have never logged into CertMetrics before, click "Never logged in before" to create an account and follow step 4 or 5.

4. **If you have previously taken an Adobe exam**, select “Click here if you have already taken an Adobe exam.” You will be asked to enter the email address you last used to register for an exam. If you do not remember which email address you used, you may also enter information from an exam score report to verify your identity. You will receive an email with your login ID and a link to reset your password.
5. **If you have never taken an Adobe exam before**, provide the required information to establish an account. Once you submit the form, you will receive an email prompting you to set up a login ID and password.
6. When you are logged into CertMetrics, click “Schedule your exam at PSI.”
7. You will be directed to a new page within CertMetrics where you will click “Click here to log in to PSI.”
8. Scroll through the list of exams and press the “Schedule Exam” button for your exam.
9. Select your exam language and location to see test center options in your area.
10. Select an available date and start time.
11. Confirm schedule details to receive a booking confirmation.
12. Proceed to payment.
13. After payment is successful, you will receive an email confirmation your registration details and a receipt.

What topics are covered on the Adobe Experience Manager 6 Architect exam?

The tasks measured on the exam are grouped into the following domains:

- Discovering existing environments and business processes
- Discovering client expectations
- Validating business requirements
- Designing a solution architecture
- Identifying components and templates for web pages
- Creating migration strategies
- Identifying and recommending performance requirements
- Identifying and recommending a security model
- Identifying quality assurance (QA) requirements and planning the QA process
- Integrating with third-party systems
- Managing the content editing process
- Creating the development process

Within each domain, there are specific tasks that you should be able to perform as an Adobe Experience Manager Architect:

- **Discovering existing environments and business processes**
You should be able to review the client systems and 3rd-party software services in which AEM will be integrated. You should also be able to analyze business processes and workflows.
- **Discovering client expectations**
You should be able to analyze business requirements and also interpret the short- and long-term client needs.

- **Validating business requirements**
You should be able to document which business requirements map to AEM out-of-the-box functionality.
- **Designing a solution architecture**
You should be able to modify customer technical requirement definitions based on project progress.
- **Identifying components and templates for Web pages**
You should be able to review all pages that are needed on a website. You should be able to categorize web pages, and also design templates for categories. You should be able to identify out-of-the-box components to support a template and define custom components that support a template.
- **Creating migration strategies**
You should be able to map attributes from an AS-IS content structure to a TO-BE content structure. You should also be able to document the migration path for content from AS-IS to TO-BE. In addition, you should be able to plan the execution of migration strategies.
- **Identifying and recommending performance requirements**
You should be able to identify client security requirements and document an overall security model.
- **Identifying and recommending a security model**
You should be able to identify client security requirements and document an overall security model.
- **Identifying quality assurance (QA) requirements and planning the QA process**
You should be able to plan QA phases based on customer requirements including identifying key areas of focus for QA and target metrics for QA phases. You should be able to automate the QA process and integrate QA into the change management process.
- **Integrating with third-party systems**
You should be able to identify considerations associated when integrating with other Adobe solutions. You should also be able to integrate an AEM solution with standard 3rd-party systems and non-standard 3rd-party systems (Standard 3rd-party systems include LDAP, general SSO solutions, e-commerce. Non-standard 3rd-party systems include customer database, event management system, product configurators).
- **Managing the content editing process**
You should be able to clarify the process of initial filling of content (e.g. sequential delivery enable to start with partially finished system). You should also be able to document the translation process and drive verification by end users.
- **Creating the development process**
You should be able to define the toolchain that will be used on a project (including Version Control, Continuous Integration environment, and document location). You should be able to identify existing roles and responsibilities and provide feedback associated with the release and development processes and also be able to identify process dependencies. You should be able to define the communication and develop

Distribution of content covered on the exam:

The questions on the exam are distributed as follows for each domain. (Note: each question carries the same weight and there is no partial credit for any question)

Domain	Percent of Exam
Discovering existing environments and business processes	10%
Discovering client expectations	10%
Validating business requirements	6%
Designing a solution architecture	2%
Identifying components and templates for web pages	10%
Creating migration strategies	8%
Identifying and recommending performance requirements	8%
Identifying and recommending a security model	10%
Identifying quality assurance requirements and planning the QA process.	8%
Integrating with third-party systems	8%
Managing the content editing process	10%
Creating the development process	10%

The Adobe Experience Manager Architect job role

This exam is designed for individuals who are currently performing or have previous work experience with the job responsibilities of an Adobe Experience Manager Architect.

The Minimally Qualified Candidate

To pass the exam, you must possess the minimum level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required of an Adobe Experience Manager Architect, which are outlined below.

As an Adobe Experience Manager Architect you should be able to perform the following tasks without any assistance:

- Define a content model for content/assets that can accommodate future requirements
- Defines the necessary templates and components based on business requirements
- Identify when to use out-of-the-box components versus custom components
- Create specifications for custom components
- Identify when to use OSGi bundles/services and tag libraries

- Identify when a proof of concept (POC) is needed
- Explain common security models and concepts (for example: LDAP, SSO)
- Determines which storage type to use based upon non-functional business requirements.
- Explain and can apply common performance optimization concepts to customer requirements (for example: caching/CDN, user-generated content)
- Leads the design of workflow models for business processes
- Defines analytics tagging architecture for customer websites
- Creates a security concept for an AEM installation (Users, groups, ACLs, Dispatcher rules, OS-based security)
- Develops migration strategies from legacy systems to AEM
- Explain localization concepts that could impact content structure, templates and components (i18n), and 3rd-party translations
- Demonstrate knowledge of User Interface (UI) frameworks
- Set up a sufficient testing infrastructure (this includes staging environments, coordination of tests, clarification of which automated and/or manual tests are mandatory)

You should also be familiar with Linux and other Unix systems, Windows Server, networks and network topologies, Web servers (e.g., IIS, Apache), and build environments and Continuous Integration Servers (e.g., Jenkins).

What is the typical job experience for minimally qualified candidates taking this exam?

A minimally qualified Adobe Experience Manager Architect typically has the following work experience:

- At least 5 years' experience coding with Java/J2EE
- 2-4 years of experience with AEM
- 2-4 years' experience with OSGi framework (Bundles/Services, tag libraries)
- Minimum 5 years of experience with WCM (Can be any CMS)
- Has been an architect or co-architect on at least three AEM-based solutions or projects
- Has experience with industry standard methodologies such as Agile Scrum and Waterfall
- Has experience with back-end integration and front-end integration
- Has experience utilizing taxonomies within AEM applications
- Has experience working with different persistence architectures (Architectures include: Binary storages, content storages, relational databases, index technologies, and cloud installation)
- Can architect an entire AEM infrastructure/environment

- Can architect an AEM-based solution
- Can complete As Is/Discovery analysis of client architecture
- Must be comfortable creating documents, presenting to customers
- Is capable of abstracting functional requirements based on customer vision
- Is capable of writing coherent functional specifications
- Is capable of identifying colliding requirements and is able to moderate resolution of a functional conflict.

What training is available to help me prepare for the exam?

Is training required?

You are not required to complete training before taking the exam; however, training can significantly increase your knowledge of and skills with Adobe Experience Manager. It is important to note that training alone will not provide you with the knowledge and skills required to pass an exam. Successful, on-the-job experience is critical to providing you the knowledge needed to pass the exam.

Training for Adobe Partners

A variety of training and resources are available for Adobe Solution Partners. To access these resources, you will need to login to the [Solution Partner Portal](#) with your Adobe ID and visit the [Training landing page](#). From there you can select your solution of interest and access on-demand, instructor led, and onsite training options.

- On-demand Training: All Partners have access to on-demand training resources for sales, technical and delivery roles. This includes self-paced learning modules, eSeminar videos, quizzes, exams, and test outs to help measure comprehension - All at no cost!
- Virtual Instructor Led Training: Partners at the Business and above levels can access Virtual Instructor Led Training through the learning management system. These trainings are 100% subsidized.
- In-person Instructor Led Training: Partners also have access to training delivered through Adobe Digital Learning Services (ADLS). Adobe Digital Learning Services offers comprehensive, hands-on courses across all job roles. Learn from Adobe experts in a virtual classroom or live in-person at any Adobe training center globally. Courses come with a cost and Partners receive a discount (15-30%) based on their Partner level in the Solution Partner Program.
- On-site Training: Get your team up-to-speed quickly with on-site training where we can come to your location or you can bring your team to one of our training centers. Adobe Digital Learning Services offers flexible, convenient instructor-led training for teams virtually or in-person. Content can be customized to match your unique learning requirements.

Partners also have access to Certification Learner Journeys, Certification Paths, and free Certification Prep courses. Please visit the [Solution Partner Portal Certification page](#) to access these valuable resources.

Not registered for the Solution Partner Portal? Please follow [these instructions](#) to get registered.

Training Courses Available to the Public

The following includes courses are relevant to the Adobe Experience Manager Architect job role. Compare the course descriptions to your current knowledge and skill level to determine which courses are best for you. You can find a complete list of all [Adobe AEM training here](#).

How do I know if I am ready to take the exam?

Nothing can guarantee that you will pass your test, however; the more practical work experience you have and the more training you complete, the better your chances are to pass the test. Use the self-assessment preparation worksheet (below) to evaluate your level of readiness.

On-the-Job Experience

Since Adobe exams measure knowledge and skills for a specific job role, one of the best ways to prepare for the exam is to ensure you have the minimum work experience, as described in this guide.

Self-Assessment Preparation Worksheet

Use the following worksheet to review the exam topics, and assess your own readiness. If you need to prepare more for a certain topic, determine if you need training, on-the-job-experience, or both.

Topic	Yes	No
Discovering existing environments and business processes		
I can review client systems in which AEM will be integrated		
I can review 3rd-party software services in which AEM will be integrated		
I can analyze business processes and workflows		
Topic	Yes	No
Discovering client expectations		
I can analyze business requirements		
I can interpret short-term and long-term client needs		
Topic	Yes	No
Validating business requirements		
I can document which business requirements map to AEM out-of-the-box functionality		
Topic	Yes	No
Designing a solution architecture		
I can modify customer technical requirement definitions based on project progress.		
Topic	Yes	No
Identifying components and templates for web pages		
I can review all pages that are needed on a website		
I can categorize web pages		
I can design templates for categories		
I can identify out-of-the-box components to support a template		
I can define custom components that support a template		

Topic	Yes	No
Creating migration strategies		
I can map attributes from and AS-IS content structure to a TO-BE content structure		
I can document the migration path for content from AS-IS to TO-BE		
I can plan the execution of migration strategies		
I can determine the feasibility of automatic and manual migration strategies		
Topic	Yes	No
Identifying and recommending performance requirements		
I can collect customer historical performance metrics and documenting performance acceptance criteria/performance KPIs (getting from the client).		
I can document best practices for performance requirements.		
Topic	Yes	No
Identifying and recommending a security model		
I can Identify client security requirements.		
I can Document an overall security model.		
Topic	Yes	No
Identifying quality assurance requirements and planning the QA process		
I can plan QA phases based on customer requirements.		
I can identify key areas to focus on QA.		
I can identify target metrics for QA phases.		
I can plan infrastructure requirements to accommodate QA activities.		
I can automate the QA process		
I can integrate QA into the change management process.		

Topic	Yes	No
Integrating with third-party systems		
I can identify considerations associated when integrating with other Adobe solutions.		
I can integrate an AEM solution with standard 3rd-party systems. (Standard 3rd-party systems include LDAP,		
I can integrate an AEM solution with non-standard 3rd-party systems. (Non-standard 3rd-party systems include		
Topic	Yes	No
Managing the content editing process		
I can identify gaps between required features and out-of-the-box features.		
I can ensure that requirements are met by driving the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) process, and identify usability issues.		
I can clarify the process of initial filling of content (For example: sequential delivery enabling to start with partially finished system).		
I can document the translation process and driving verification by end users.		
I can define and verify rollout processes (e.g. MSM) and clarify constraints.		
I can define user and group model based on business requirements and organization structure.		
I can define the content promotion process		
Topic	Yes	No
Creating the development process		
I can define the toolchain that will be used on a project. (Including: Version Control, Continuous Integration environment, documentation location).		
I can identify existing roles and responsibilities and provide feedback associated with the release and development processes.		
I can define the communication and development escalation process that will be used on a project.		
I can identify process dependencies		
I can define the staging process when promoting code		

Sample questions

Try out these practice questions to get a feel for the types of questions on the exam. Please note that **your performance here does not indicate how you will do on the actual exam**. To fully prepare for the exam, closely review the topic areas and objectives in this Exam Guide. You will find the correct answers at the end of the exam guide.

- 1. Your customer has just purchased AEM and would like to use an existing database for authentication. They do NOT want to use LDAP. Which should you implement?**
 - A. SSO
 - B. Custom Login Module
 - C. SAML
 - D. Apache Filter

- 2. A marketing company wishes to present known clients with lists of offers. Offers are contained within back-end database and updated daily. Which approach should you recommend?**
 - A. Retrieve offers from back-end database via AJAX
 - B. Create an AEM component to retrieve offers via an OSGI Service
 - C. Deliver offers via a scheduled job with a JSON response
 - D. Retrieve offers from back-end system via Server Side Includes (SSI)

- 3. A customer wishes to approve content by multiple users; collect data from the users who are assigned a work item; and replicate content to publish instances. Which out-of-the-box Workflow component should be used as part of the overall workflow development?**
 - A. Form Participant Step.
 - B. Dialog Participant Step.
 - C. Participant Step.
 - D. Dynamic Participant Step.

- 4. Your customer wants to re-brand the AEM UI with their company/project logo. Which approach would you recommend?**
 - A. Find the AEM logo images/sprites and replace the binaries with their company logos.
 - B. Modify the AEM code in /libs to reference their company assets.
 - C. Override the AEM code in /libs with /apps code to reference their company assets.
 - D. Use AEM UI hooks and JS to swap the assets client-side.

- 5. Which two business requirements are appropriate to implement using AEM without any third-party system integration? (Choose two.)**
 - A. Chat rooms supporting more than 100 simultaneous users.
 - B. Unmoderated user forums for a community of 10,000 users.
 - C. Process credit card transactions for users.
 - D. Moderated comments on a blog which receives 100 comments per day.

- 6. You have created a solution architecture for a financial services company. After the design is completed, but before implementation starts, the company decides that rather than authenticating users against their internal LDAP server, they will authenticate using an externally-hosted SAML Identity Provider.**

Which two architectural diagrams need to be revised to meet this change? (Choose two.)

- A. Physical.
 - B. Conceptual.
 - C. Data Flow.
 - D. Logical.
- 7. Which approach should be used to reduce the overall number of HTTP requests?**
- A. Minify client libraries via an OSGI configuration.
 - B. GZIP client libraries via an OSGI configuration.
 - C. Combine JS files into client libraries.
 - D. Include multiple client libraries using the dependencies property

Answer key

Try out these practice questions to get a feel for the types of questions on the exam. Please note that **your performance here does not indicate how you will do on the actual exam**. To fully prepare for the exam, closely review the topic areas and objectives in this Exam Guide. You will find the correct answers at the end of the exam guide.

1. **Your customer has just purchased AEM and would like to use an existing database for authentication. They do NOT want to use LDAP. Which should you implement?**

Correct Answer: B - Custom Login Module

2. **A marketing company wishes to present known clients with lists of offers. Offers are contained within back-end database and updated daily. Which approach should you recommend?**

Correct Answer: C - Deliver offers via a scheduled job with a JSON response

3. **A customer wishes to approve content by multiple users; collect data from the users who are assigned a work item; and replicate content to publish instances. Which out-of-the-box Workflow component should be used as part of the overall workflow development?**

Correct Answer: B - Dialog Participant Step

4. **Your customer wants to re-brand the AEM UI with their company/project logo. Which approach would you recommend?**

Correct Answer: D - Use AEM UI hooks and JS to swap the assets client-side

5. **Which two business requirements are appropriate to implement using AEM without any third-party system integration? (Choose two.)**

Correct Answer: B - Unmoderated user forums for a community of 10,000 users.

Correct Answer: D - Moderated comments on a blog which receives 100 comments per day

6. **You have created a solution architecture for a financial services company. After the design is completed, but before implementation starts, the company decides that rather than authenticating users against their internal LDAP server, they will authenticate using an externally-hosted SAML Identity Provider.**

Which two architectural diagrams need to be revised to meet this change? (Choose two.)

Correct Answer: B - Conceptual

Correct Answer: C - Data Flow

7. **Which approach should be used to reduce the overall number of HTTP requests?**

Correct Answer: C - Combine JS files into client libraries

Support

For information on certification visit the [Solution Partner Portal](#) website. To contact us, please send an email to [Certification Support](#).

