Guideline – Topic Areas in the TOGAF® Exams

by Roger Evernden

The TOGAF® documentation covers a lot of ground, and it can be difficult to know exactly what to revise so that you are well prepared for the examination. This guideline will help you focus on the topics that are included in the Part 1 and Part 2 exams.

Key Learning Points

To qualify as an official TOGAF® training course, the course provider has to make sure that the course covers all of the relevant subject matter from the documentation. Every TOGAF® training course therefore has to cover a defined set of Key Learning Points (KLPs). The Open Group define a KLP as "a self-contained learning object, typically ranging from 2 to 15 minutes". They go on to say that "the TOGAF 9 Knowledge Base is defined as a set of Key Learning Points (KLPs) on a section-by-section basis".[1]

Every chapter in TOGAF 9 has defined Learning Points – some apply for Level 1 certification, while others are [illegible] to achieve Level 2 certification. Level 2 requires a deeper knowledge of TOGAF, and this is why the questions at Level 2 are based [illegible] rather than the simple multiple choice questions of Level 1.

Learning Units

The KLPs are then grouped into something that The Open Group call Learning Units! Typically a Learning Unit will take around 30 to 90 minutes of study.

The Open Group check all Accredited TOGAF Training Courses to make sure that they cover all of the learning outcomes for the target certification level or levels. But each training organization is free to structure their courses as they see fit; the Open Group doesn't require a particular course structure. Despite this freedom of approach, most of the TOGAF training courses that I have taught or seen follow a similar structure and approach.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of each learning unit there are specific [illegible] (hopefully) have learned. These outcomes are all start with a verb, and the set [illegible] follows:

- **Identify** – where you have to name one or more items; for example, to identify the [illegible] in an organization.
- **List** – where you are expected to name multiple items; for example, to list the business benefits of having an enterprise [illegible]

[illegible] u gain an [illegible] ncept or item; for [illegible] derstanding of the [illegible]

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- **Define** – provide a definition of a term; for example, to define what an Architecture Framework is.
- **Demonstrate** – describe and explain a concept or term; for example, to demonstrate the role that risk monitoring plays in the Implementation Governance Phase (G)
- **Describe/State** – provide a description of or statement for a concept or item or give a factual statement; for example, to describe the purpose of Architecture Partitioning.
- **Explain** – provide a description with a rationale; for example, to explain how to apply iteration cycles to the ADM phases.
- **Discuss** – the ability to write logically about a topic; for example to discuss the relationship between stakeholders, concerns, views, and viewpoints.
- **Justify** – demonstrate the correctness of an assertion through a written discussion; for example, to justify the relationship between entities in the full metamodel.

Now you may have [illegible] lot more about TOGAF for the learning outcomes that are [illegible] easier to list or define something than to discuss or justify it. [Incidentally, as far as I am aware, there is only one learning outcome [illegible] with the word "justify" – which is the one I've used as an example in the list above.]

I hope the discussion a[illegible] insight into how the ce[illegible] relate back to the traini[illegible] taken. It should also giv[illegible] what you need to learn, [illegible] the course. If you want to get more details on the Key Learning Points, the Learning Units, or the Learning Outcomes, they are all documented in the TOGAF® Certification for People Conformance Requirements, which you can find on the official web site.[2]

From the discussion above, you can see that assessing your skills in TOGAF is a complex task that involves all of the TOGAF documentation, the KLPs, Learning Units and Learning Outcomes!

It is the conformance requirements document that explains in detail what the exams cover, but this is a very detailed document, and it can be quite daunting to read.

Topic Areas Covered by the TOGAF Exams

Fortunately, the Open Group conveniently group each exam into a number of Topic Areas, and knowing these will help you prepare for and revise for the TOGAF exams.[3]

The topic areas are weighted. There are more questions for the most important topics. For example, you will see from the list below that in the TOGAF 9 Part 1 exam, 60% of the questions come from only four topic areas [ADM Phases, ADM guidelines and techniques, Enterprise Continuum and Tools, and Architecture Governance]. So you really need to focus your revision efforts on these four topics (but not exclusively!!).

TOGAF Level 1 Topic Areas

The eleven topic areas covered by the TOGAF 9 Part 1 examination together with the number of questions per area in the examination follows:

- Basic Concepts (32 questions)
- Core Concepts (3 questions)
- Introduction to the ADM (3 questions)
- The Enterprise Continuum and Tools (4 questions)
- ADM Phases (9 questions)
- ADM Guidelines and Techniques (6 questions)
- Architecture Governance (4 questions)
- [illegible] points and [illegible]ns)
- [illegible]ons)
- ADM Deliverables (2 questions)
- TOGAF Reference Models (2 questions)

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TOGAF Level 2 Topic Areas

TOGAF 9 Part 2 samples the key learning outcomes with eight scenarios and eight questions drawn from the following topic areas:

- ADM Phases: Project Establishment (phases Preliminary, A, Requirements Management)
- ADM Phases: Architecture Definition (phases B,C,D)
- ADM Phases: Transition Planning (phases E and F)
- ADM Phases: Governance (phases G and H)
- Adapting the ADM
- Architecture Content Framework
- TOGAF Reference Models
- Architecture Capability Framework

We hope you have found this information interesting, informative, and [illegible] And I hope it will help you gain your TOGAF certification. As ever, we are interested to know your comments, feedback, advice or suggestion.

1. https://www.opengroup.org/togaf9/certdocs/TOGAF9_Conformance_Requ[illegible]
2. https://www.opengroup.org/togaf9/cert/docs/TOGAF9_Conformance_Requirements.pdf
3. This information can be found on-line at: https://www.[illegible]cert/docs/indiv.html

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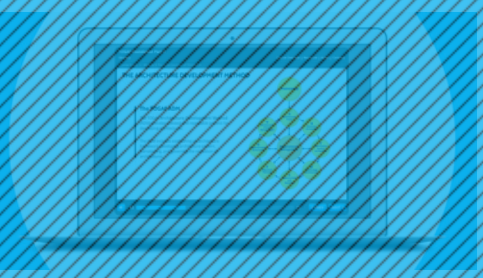

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