

# Symantec Beta Certification Exam Frequently Asked Questions

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As Symantec develops new certification exams, part of the process involves conducting a Beta exam.

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>What is a Beta exam?</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<p>From time to time, Symantec offers exams during a “try-out” or Beta period. These Beta exams are open for a short period of time, typically 10 days, with a goal of having 60 or more participants complete the test. For a limited number of candidates, Beta exams are free.</p> <p>Beta exams are used to collect data on the performance of the test items. The statistical results of the test items’ performance, along with the candidates’ comments and feedback, assist Symantec in selecting effective test items to build and release the production test, which is the final version of the exam.</p> <p>The Beta test is longer than the production test. That is because Beta participants will answer all of the items in the item pool. After the Beta period is closed, test scores, survey results, and item data are collected from Pearson VUE, the testing service provider.</p> <p>Beta test information is imported into a testing database and linked to the item IDs and descriptions. Next, Beta candidate comments and classical item statistics or item response theory parameters are generated and reported.</p> <p>The reports are psychometrically analyzed to ensure that the items actually measure what we want them to measure.</p> <p>Items may be discarded if they are identified as too difficult or too easy, show evidence of not being clearly understood, are a poor discriminator of knowledge, and so on.</p> <p>Using the raw data from the Beta exam, the Beta participants are re- scored on the new final production exam.</p> <p>The final step is to modify the tests with the results of the Beta and psychometric analysis. If a candidate passes a Beta exam, he or she receives credit towards the designated certification.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Results from the Beta test are not available until approximately five to six weeks after the Beta close date.</p>

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>Where do candidates register to take the exam?</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<p>Online by visiting <a href="http://www.symantec.com/certracker">http://www.symantec.com/certracker</a></p> <p>The online registration system offers the most convenient and efficient means of scheduling examinations. This system allows candidates to access real-time scheduling 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Candidates can select their preferred testing date and location, obtain immediate on-screen confirmation, and receive a follow-up email confirming their appointment details.</p>
<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>How does a candidate prepare to take the Beta exam?</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<p>A candidate reviews the exam Study Guide to assess his or her level of knowledge on the topics covered in the exam. You can find your exam using the following link:</p> <p><a href="http://www.symantec.com/certification">http://www.symantec.com/certification</a></p> <p>Once you have located your exam, click the link and you will find the exam Study Guide under "Suggested Preparation".</p>
<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>How much time is required to take the Beta exam?</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<p>A candidate must allow 3 hours (180 minutes) to complete the entire exam item pool. Depending on knowledge and experience, some candidates may complete the exam in a shorter period of time.</p>
<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>When will candidates see the results of their completed Beta exam?</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<p>Beta analysis is completed five to six weeks after the close of the Beta period. After this analysis is finished, Pearson will email a score report and your results be posted to CertTracker.</p>