To obtain a RUP 7.0 certificate from IBM, you need to pass test number 839. To study for this test, the best you can do, is to follow a special training program, but for the real home student, here are some guidelines.

Learning RUP 7.0

The exam

The exam consists of 52 multiple choice questions that you must answer in 75 minutes. If you have 33 or more of the answers right, then you may call yourself an IBM-certified Solution Developer for the Rational Unified Process Version 7.0. You are not allowed to use a book or another source of information, other than your own brains. All questions have 4 possible answers, of which you must select one, two or three. You can mark questions for your review later on. The questions are divided in five categories:

1. Iterative Development Principles (8 questions)

2. Iterative Development Work Products (8 questions)

3. Basic Method Elements and their Relationships (8 questions)

4. Basic Process Elements and their Relationships (8 questions)

5. Basic Content of Disciplines (20 questions)

Categories 1 and 2 address the so-called 'Key Principles for Business-Driven Development'. Categories 3 and 4 refer to the 'Unified Method Architecture'. Both subjects are new in RUP 7.0 compared to RUP 2003.

Questions in category 5 test your knowledge of the disciplines, which haven't changed much in this version of RUP.

Download the product

The first thing you should do, is download the Rational Method Composer. This is a tool to modify RUP to suit your needs, or to build your own development process from scratch. It includes a ready-to-use web site that represents RUP 7.5 (or another version, depending on what you have downloaded) in its entirety. This web site covers all information you need for test 839.

You may download a trial version from www.ibm.com/software. Click on 'Downloads' (left column), then on 'Trials and demos', then on the letter R and then on Rational Method Composer and follow the installation instructions. You don't need to install ITUP Libraries or Rational Enterprise Deployment. After the installation, you can start the RUP site at \Program Files\IBM\RMC75\rmc\RUP\LargeProjects\index.htm. This part of the product is usuable even beyond the end of the trial period. Make sure that you have a recent version of SUN's Java Runtime Environment and that your browser enables the execution of Java applets.

Read the web site

The RUP 7 web site counts more than 5,600 files supplying a vast amount of information. Based on my own experience with the exam and some other sources, I have compiled a list of pages that form a sufficient subset to successfully complete the test.

Categories 1 + 2

Click on the tab page "Getting Started" and then select "Key Principles for Business-Driven Development". The overview of principles will appear. Read this and study all six principles (there is one web page for each principle). Note, that their names start with the first six letters of the alphabet. Be sure that you know their names and their benefits by heart.

Under the key principle "Demonstrate Value Iteratively", there is a link to "Supporting Material: Iterative Development". Read that material.

Finally, you should know the names and purposes of the Project Management work products. Click on the tab page "Team", then select "Work Products", then "RUP Domains" and then "Project Management". Pay special attention to the Software Development Plan. This is sometimes called "Project Plan" in the exam. Also learn the five contained artifacts: Measurement Plan, Problem Resolution Plan, Product Acceptance Plan, Quality Assurance Plan and Risk Management Plan.

Categories 3 + 4

Click on the tab page "Getting Started" and then select "Method Architecture Fundamentals". Study this page and the following linked pages:

- Key Capabilities of the Unified Method Architecture
- Method Content Concepts
- Method Content Concepts → Work Product
- Method Content Concepts → Role
- Method Content Concepts → Task
- Guidance (try to understand the diagram, without learning it by heart)
- All types of Guidance: Guidance → Checklist, Guidance → Concept etc.

- Process Concepts
- Process Concepts → Activity
- Process Concepts → Capability Pattern
- Process Concepts → Delivery Process
- Process Concepts → Descriptor
- Organizational Concepts

It is not easy to understand the UMA, as it is very theoretic and on the meta level. What helps is, to browse through the RUP activities, tasks etc. to get acquainted with the terminology and the relationships between them. Observe how a delivery process is divided in phases, phases divided in activities etc. Discover how capability patterns are used to form delivery processes.

Category 5

The remaining questions test your knowledge of the RUP disciplines. Make sure you know which disciplines there are, what their purposes are and how they are interrelated. This information is supplied by the disciplines' main pages: click on the tab page "Team", select "Disciplines" and then select every individual discipline. You don't need to learn the lists of tasks literally, but these lists do contribute to a better understanding of the scope of the discipline.
The main page of the discipline "Project Management" has a link to the task "Identify and Assess Risks". Follow that link and expand all steps.
The main page of the discipline "Configuration and Change Management" has a link to the concept of "Configuration and Change Request Management". Follow that link.

Anything else?

There are some other pages in the web site, that are valuable for the exam as well:

- Tab "Team": Delivery Processes
- Tab "Team": Delivery Processes → Classic RUP Lifecycle
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Inception
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Inception → Lifecycle Objectives Milestone
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Elaboration
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Elaboration → Lifecycle Architecture Milestone
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Construction
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Construction → Initial Operational Capability Milestone
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Transition
- Tab "Team": RUP Lifecycle → Transition → Product Release Milestone
- Tab "Glossary": The following terms are important: Baseline, Executable Architecture, Lifecycle, Release, Stakeholder, Use Case.

Read the book

The book "IBM Rational Unified Process Reference and Certification Guide - Solution Designer" by Ahmad K Shuja and Jochen Krebs provides a lot of the information needed for the RUP 7.0 exam. One problem is, that the book is about 300 pages and it contains much information that is not relevant for the examination. You won't get questions about software architecture (chapter 7) and of most disciplines, apart from project management, you only need to know the purpose. My advice is, to focus on the web pages listed above and to use the book as a reference guide if you want to learn more about certain topics.

Do some practice exams

After you have studied the material, it is very helpful to do some practice exams. The Reference and Certification Guide contains a practice examination and another can be found via the web site www.admiraalit.nl. The latter matches more closely the real examination, not only because it is on-line, but also because the questions themselves are mostly only slight variations of the real questions.

Be lucky

Passing the test is not a matter of simply guessing the right answers, but you'll probably find some questions ambiguous or unfamiliar (at least I did). If you insist on getting a 100% score, you will not only have to learn the material above by heart, but you will also need a bit of luck to get these nasty questions right.

If you want to test yourself using an on-line practice exam, don't hesitate to contact me.

I wish you all the best!

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