

IMS Fundamentals Mastery Program



Role Description: The IMS Fundamentals Mastery is for an entry level IMS DBA, Systems Programmer or Application Developer. This individual is knowledgeable about the fundamental concepts of IMS through either hands-on experience or formal and informal education. An IMS Fundamentals Mastery requires an in-depth knowledge of the basic to intermediate tasks required in day-to-day administration, basic DL/I programming, understanding how to create databases and database objects, and a basic knowledge of database security. The IMS Transaction Manager facilities such as terminal management, message editing, message queueing, program scheduling and transaction isolation must also be understood. The ability to generate, start, stop and restart the IMS system is required.

Mastery Requirements: Passing the IMS Fundamentals test earns you an IMS Fundamentals Mastery and provides you with a prerequisite for other more intermediate/advanced IMS Mastery programs. It also shows that you have the requisite information to access data in an IMS Server.

Test Objectives: The IMS Fundamentals test requires knowledge of the IMS components that are required for your system, an understanding of the tools that are available with the products, and the ability to understand the authorities and privileges required to access data. It demonstrates a wide general knowledge of the product, not specific job related knowledge. It demonstrates a broad level of skills in all areas covered by the Administration Guides and/or the Primer. It requires knowledge of DL/I, to work with IMS data and messages, as well as knowledge of the control blocks required to work with the basic IMS data and messages. The IMS Fundamentals test contains 40-60 questions. Candidates are required to score 70% or better to pass the test.

Test: The test covers the following areas:

General knowledge of the IMS product

- IMS Transaction Manager

- IMS Database Manager

- IMS system services

- IMS and the operating system (z/OS or OS/390)

IMS Transaction Manager

- Network access to IMS/TM

- IMS transaction flow.

- Processing input from a terminal

- Fast-Path transactions

- Non-terminal related input

 - Inter-System Communications (ISC)

 - Multiple Systems Coupling (MSC)

 - Advanced Program-to-Program Communication (APPC)

 - Open Transaction Manager Access (OTMA)

- Application coding for IMS Transaction Manager

- IMS Message Format Service

- Connecting to other IMS and CICS systems

IMS Database Manager

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- Functions of IMS Database Manager
- Implementation of IMS databases
- Full Function IMS DB (DL/I DB)
- Fast Path Data Entry Database (DEDB)
- Database reorganization processing
- Database recovery processing
- Application coding for IMS Database Manager
- IMS system administration
 - Database recovery control (DBRC).
 - The master terminal
 - IMS logging
 - IMS system generation process
 - IMS security overview
 - IMS and DB2

Test Preparation: There are a number of ways to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary. Below is a list of specific resources to help prepare for this test:

Education Courses offered:

- IMS Fundamentals
- IMS V7 Product Enhancements
- IMS V8 Product Enhancements

Publications available:

- IMS Administration Guide: Database Manager
- IMS Administration Guide: System
- IMS Administration Guide: Transaction Manager
- IMS Application Programming: Design Guide
- IMS Database Recovery Control (DBRC) Guide and Reference Part 1
- IMS Operations Guide Part 1 and 2
- Release Planning Guides for V6, V7, V8

Presentations available through the IMS home page www.ibm.com/ims :

- IMS V8 Overview
- IMS for New Users
- A Beginner's Guide to IMS Databases
- IMS SYSGEN for First Timers
- IMS e-business 101
- Exploring Database Recovery Control
- IMS and DB2, Working Together

Redbooks available through the Red Books home page www.redbooks.ibm.com :

- IMS Primer GG24-5352
- IMS Version 7 Release Guide
- IMS Version 7 and Java Application Programming

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Interoperability Between VSE DL/I and OS/390 IMS DBCTL