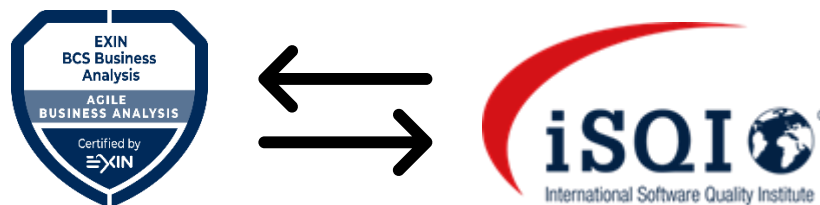


Comparison of Agile Business Analysis courses from BCS and ISQI (A4Q)

1. Introduction

When choosing an Agile Business Analysis course, finding the right fit can be challenging, with so many options available. Two well-recognized certifications, BCS Agile Business Analysis and iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA), each offer unique approaches tailored to different professional needs. While both courses aim to strengthen Agile skills within business analysis, they differ in focus, structure, and application.



This comparison aims to highlight the core principles, syllabus content, target audience, and key distinctions between the two certifications. By examining these factors, you'll gain a clearer understanding of which course best aligns with your career goals, industry requirements, and learning style, helping you make an informed decision that supports your professional growth in Agile Business Analysis.

The comparison is structured around the following elements:

1. Foundation and Framework,
2. Curriculum Content & Key Study Areas,
3. Target Audience, and
4. Certification Structure and Exam Format.

We also mention the commonalities between these two courses and provide guidance to select a course most suitable for a candidate.

2. Foundation and framework

BCS Agile Business Analysis	iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA)
Developed in alignment with a broad spectrum of Agile frameworks, focusing on applying Agile principles within traditional BA roles.	Based on the <i>Agile Extension to the BABOK® Guide</i> by the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA®).
Discusses the following Agile frameworks: XP, SCRUM, and Lean Software Development.	Discusses the following Agile frameworks: XP, SCRUM, and Kanban.
Discusses scaled Agile frameworks: DSDM and SAFe.	-
BCS Agile Business Analysis translates the generic 12 Agile principles to 5 key principles that are then detailed throughout the course	CABA certification discussed in detail 7 Agile Business Analysis principles connected to Agile Extension to the BABOK Guide.

3. Curriculum Content & Key Study Areas

BCS Agile Business Analysis	iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA)
Value-Driven Delivery: Prioritization with the MoSCoW technique.	Value-Driven Delivery: Prioritization techniques with the KANO analysis and Purpose Alignment Model.
Role of the Agile BA: Guidance in balancing traditional BA roles with Agile-specific roles such as Product Owner or Agile BA.	Role of the Agile BA: Insights on Agile-specific responsibilities, such as supporting the Product Owner and maintaining alignment with Agile values.
Agile Requirement Elicitation: Emphasizes engaging stakeholders throughout Agile iterations, with techniques like interviews, observations, scenario analysis, workshops, and surveys.	Agile Requirement Elicitation: Value stream mapping, rapid prototyping, storyboarding, personas, techniques for refining requirements in real-time, including iterative user feedback.
Iterative Development: Understanding Agile cycles and how to conduct requirements analysis incrementally, ensuring adaptability.	Iterative Development: Understanding Agile cycles and how to conduct requirements analysis incrementally, ensuring adaptability.
Modelling techniques include business activity diagram, persona, business use cases, business context diagram, system context diagram, system use cases, component diagram.	Modelling techniques include business capability analysis, persona, value stream mapping, storyboarding, story mapping, Behaviour Driven Development with Gherkin.
Agile Adoption: POP-IT model, the system of interest model.	Agile Adoption: Not mentioned
Story decomposition hierarchy: Theme – Epic - Story	Story decomposition hierarchy: Theme – Epic - Story

4. Target Audience

BCS Agile Business Analysis	iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA)
Anyone wishing to understand the Agile approach from a business perspective. This includes business architects, business analysts, project managers and business managers.	Well-suited for Agile practitioners and Product Owners who wish to understand business analysis in the context of an agile environment. This includes business analysts, product owners, staff associated with Agile initiatives.
Ideal for experienced BAs or team leads who need to incorporate Agile within broader organizational processes.	Particularly beneficial for Agile teams needing to strengthen their business analysis practices with BABOK-aligned methods.

5. Certification structure and exam format

BCS Agile Business Analysis	iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA)
Exam: 40 multiple choice questions Time: 90 min Type: Closed book Pass mark: 26/40 (65%) Extra-time: 25% extra time for candidates whose language is not the language of the examination	Exam: 40 multiple choice questions Time: 60 min Type: Closed book Pass mark: 26/40 (65%) Extra-time: 25% extra time for candidates whose language is not the language of the examination
Pre-requisites: Requires prior BA experience. Candidates should also understand the following techniques: CATWOE, Business Activity Model and Use Case Diagrams prior to attending an accredited course or sitting the examination.	Pre-requisites: None
Knowledge levels: K2 – Understanding K3 - Application K4 - Analysis	Knowledge levels: K1 - Remember K2 – Understanding K3 - Application
Online exam available (via EXIN)	Online exam available (via Pearson VUE)
Costs differ per country, e.g. Netherlands: €663.00 (VAT included) India: INR 56,904.00 (VAT included)	Costs differ per country, e.g. Netherlands: €240.00 (VAT included)
This certification is part of the BCS Professional Diploma in Business Analysis and builds on some knowledge from the Practitioner Diploma in Business Analysis, as mentioned in the pre-requisites.	This certificate belongs to Agile certifications from iSQI certification family.

6. Commonalities

Next to differences between courses, they also have many commonalities. Both the BCS Agile Business Analysis and iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA) certifications emphasize:

- **Agile Mindset:** Encouraging BAs to adopt Agile values like e.g., collaboration, flexibility, and continuous improvement.
- **Value-Driven Analysis:** Prioritizing and delivering the highest value to stakeholders through iterative development and regular feedback loops. Different techniques are promoted, but the topic is extensively discussed in both courses.
- **Goal orientation:** Promotion of goal decomposition to ensure value delivery, techniques like story mapping in the CABA course, and topic of story decomposition in the BCS course.
- **Practical Techniques:** Both certifications cover hands-on methods, such as user stories, personas, and backlog management, to ground Agile theory in practice.
- **Adaptation in Agile Roles:** Preparing BAs to work effectively within Agile teams, whether as part of the team itself or as a bridge between business and development.

7. Course selection criteria

Choosing between the BCS Agile Business Analysis and iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA) certifications depends on a variety of factors beyond course content. Understanding criteria such as career goals, industry recognition, learning style, and employer preferences can simplify the decision. In this section, we'll explore these selection criteria to help you identify which certification aligns best with your professional path and the skills you wish to build.

Choose the BCS Agile Business Analysis course, if you:

- Are an experienced BA looking to adapt to Agile practices within a broader BA framework.
- Want a certification recognized for comprehensive BA skills, adaptable to Agile roles.
- Seek structured learning aligned with traditional BA career development.
- Want to achieve the BCS Professional Diploma in Business Analysis.

Choose the iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA) if you:

- Work directly in Agile teams, such as Scrum Masters, Agile BAs, or Product Owners.
- Want to develop hands-on, practical Agile analysis skills aligned with Agile methodologies.
- Learn best with interactive, scenario-based methods directly relevant to Agile roles.
- And your organization already adopted the Agile iSQI certifications.

In conclusion, whether you're looking to deepen your Agile skills with the **BCS Agile Business Analysis** or **iSQI Certified Agile Business Analysis (CABA)** certification, BA Coach offers both courses in flexible formats, including classroom and online options. For more information, please reach out to us at info@bacoach.nl or call us at **+31 6 38 33 01 33**.

8. References

[1] [EXIN BCS Professional Certificate in Agile Business Analysis](#)

[2] [A4Q IOBBA Certified Agile Business Analysis \(IOBBA CABA\)](#)