

2024 CpSc Q2

Section: Software Design and Development

Topic: Agile vs Iterative — Evaluation Differences

Question Summary

Describe how evaluation differs when developing software using an agile methodology compared to an iterative methodology.

Worked Solution

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In both approaches, evaluation checks whether the software meets requirements, but it happens at different times and with different goals:

Iterative methodology:

- Each development cycle ends with evaluation of the whole iteration — does the current version meet the agreed requirements?
- Evaluation focuses on comparing output against the specification and planning what to improve in the next cycle.

Agile methodology:

- Evaluation is continuous and collaborative, often at the end of short 'sprints'.
- The focus is on client feedback — what works well, what should be changed or reprioritised.
- The client actively participates, so evaluation directly

shapes the next sprint's backlog.

Therefore, evaluation in Agile is ongoing and customer-driven, whereas in Iterative it is periodic and driven by predefined requirements.

Final Answer

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In Agile, evaluation is continuous and based on client feedback after each sprint, influencing the next stage. In Iterative, evaluation happens at the end of each full iteration to assess progress against requirements before planning improvements.

Revision Tips

- Iterative = planned evaluation after each cycle; Agile = ongoing feedback after every sprint.
- Agile emphasises customer collaboration and adaptability.
- Iterative emphasises refinement towards the original specification.
- Both use evaluation to identify improvements but differ in timing and focus.

Exam Alignment

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Matches 2024 MI: two marks for correctly distinguishing Agile's ongoing, client-focused evaluation from Iterative's end-of-cycle, specification-focused evaluation.