

KK09 — Purpose and features of software requirements specifications

Analysis & Design · Comprehensive exam study guide

STUDY DESIGN — YOU MUST KNOW

- defining requirements
- constraints
- scope
- user characteristics
- technical environments
- analytical tools depicting existing processes and systems

An **SRS** is the detailed document that defines exactly what is to be built, agreed before design. You must know its purpose and the features it contains.

Features of an SRS

- **Requirements** — functional and non-functional.
- **Constraints** — economic, legal, social, technical.
- **Scope** — the boundaries/exclusions.
- **User characteristics** — who the users are (age, skills, accessibility needs).
- **Technical environment** — the hardware/software the solution must run on.
- **Analytical tools** — diagrams (context/DFD/use case) depicting existing processes and systems.

Purpose

The SRS provides a single, agreed reference for developers and stakeholders, reducing misunderstandings and forming the basis for design, development and later evaluation.

Key definitions to memorise

Software requirements specification (SRS)	A document defining a solution's requirements, constraints, scope, user characteristics, technical environment and supporting diagrams.
User characteristics	The relevant traits of intended users (e.g. age, technical skill, accessibility needs) that shape the design.

Exam technique

EXAM TIP

- Distinguish the SRS (detailed, comprehensive) from the brief (short, high-level).
- List user characteristics and technical environment — the features students most often miss.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Confusing the SRS with the brief.
- Forgetting that an SRS contains analytical diagrams of existing systems.

Quick revision checklist

- I can state the purpose of an SRS.
- I can list six features an SRS includes.

Exam practice — questions & model answers

Q1. State the purpose of a software requirements specification.

State · 2 marks

Model answer

- To define and document exactly what the solution must do, in an agreed reference (1),
- so developers and stakeholders share a clear, common understanding to design and build from (1).

Q2. List four features documented in an SRS.

List · 4 marks

Model answer

- Any four: requirements; constraints; scope; user characteristics; technical environment; analytical tools/diagrams (4).