

KK07 — Strategies for conducting beta testing

Development & Evaluation · Comprehensive exam study guide

STUDY DESIGN — YOU MUST KNOW

- construction of a testing plan and test scenarios
- observation of testing scenarios
- documentation of test results

Beta testing is testing by **real/representative users** in a realistic setting before full release. Know its strategies and how it differs from alpha testing.

Beta-testing strategies

- **Construct a testing plan and test scenarios** — realistic tasks for users to attempt.
- **Observe** users performing the scenarios — note where they struggle or errors occur.
- **Document the results** — record issues, feedback and outcomes to guide fixes.

Alpha vs beta

	Alpha	Beta
Who tests	The developer (internal).	Real/representative users (external).
When	Earlier, before release.	Later, near release.
Finds	Code defects, requirement gaps.	Usability issues and real-world problems.

Key definitions to memorise

Beta testing	Testing by real or representative users in a realistic environment before full release.
Test scenario	A realistic task a tester attempts to check the solution behaves correctly.
Testing plan	A documented plan of what will be tested, how, and by whom.

Exam technique

EXAM TIP

- For 'distinguish alpha/beta', contrast WHO tests and WHAT each finds.
- Beta testing's value is uncovering real usability issues missed internally.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying beta testing is done by developers — it is done by users.
- Listing strategies without observation/documentation, which are central.

Quick revision checklist

- I can describe the three beta-testing strategies.
- I can distinguish alpha from beta testing and explain beta's benefit.

Exam practice — questions & model answers

Q1. Distinguish between alpha and beta testing.

Distinguish · 2 marks

Model answer

- Alpha testing is done internally by the developer (1);
- beta testing is done by real/representative users in a realistic setting before release (1).

Q2. Explain one benefit of observing users during beta testing.

Explain · 2 marks

Model answer

- Observation reveals where real users actually struggle or make errors (1),
- exposing usability problems the developer may not have anticipated, so they can be fixed (1).