PUBLICATION

EXAM-TM50N-PRE

PRE-TEST — SL 5N: ADVANCED UI/UX DESIGNER

Maven Smart System (MSS) — USAREUR-AF

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE AND AFRICA
(USAREUR-AF)
Wiesbaden, Germany

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PRE-TEST — SL 5N: ADVANCED UI/UX DESIGNER

MAVEN SMART SYSTEM (MSS) — USAREUR-AF

Field	Detail
Course	SL 5N: Advanced UI/UX Designer
Form	Pre-Test
Level	SL 5N (Advanced Specialist)
Audience	Experienced UI/UX designers; prerequisite: SL 4N Go
Time Allowed	30 minutes
Passing Score	N/A — diagnostic only

INSTRUCTIONS

This diagnostic assessment establishes your baseline knowledge before training. Your score does not affect course eligibility. Answer honestly — results help the instructor tailor instruction to gaps.

SECTION 1 — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the letter of the best answer. (2 points each)

1. A "design token" is:

A. A physical device used for two-factor authentication in design tools B. An atomic design value (color, spacing, typography) stored as a named variable and used consistently across all components C. A placeholder image used in wireframes D. A user research participant's anonymous identifier

2. A "design system" differs from a "style guide" because:

A. A style guide is digital; a design system is printed B. A style guide covers more topics than a design system C. A design system is a living product with components, documentation, governance, versioning, and releases — not just a static reference D. A design system only applies to mobile applications

3. "DDIL" in military design contexts stands for:

A. Design, Development, Integration, Launch B. Digital Data Information Layer C. Distributed Design Integration Loop D. Denied, Disrupted, Intermittent, and Limited (bandwidth)

4. When displaying data under DDIL conditions, a "data freshness indicator" should show:

A. The last-updated timestamp, a visual staleness indicator, and the current source connectivity status B. Only whether the data is "good" or "bad" C. The file size of the cached data D. The name of the server that provided the data

5. In cross-domain UI design, classification banners must:

A. Be displayed only when the user is accessing classified data B. Remain visible at all times — never hidden by scroll, modal, or overlay — using IC/DoD mandated colors with text labels C. Use the application's theme colors for consistency D. Be removable by users who find them distracting

SECTION 2 — SHORT ANSWER

Answer in 2–3 sentences. (5 points each)

6. What is the difference between a "locked" and "configurable" design token? Give an example of each in the MSS context.

7. Describe what a "research repository" is and why it matters for an organization with multiple design teams.

8. What is "DesignOps"? How does it relate to DevOps?

SECTION 3 — SCENARIO

Answer in 3–5 sentences. (10 points)

9. Three different MSS application teams have each independently designed their own status indicator component — similar function but different colors, icons, and text labels. A commander switches between these applications daily. Describe the problem this creates and how a design system would prevent it.

SCORING SUMMARY

Section	Questions	Points Each	Total Points
Multiple Choice	5	2	10
Short Answer	3	5	15
Scenario	1	10	10
Total	—	—	**35**

Passing: N/A — Pre-test is diagnostic only.

ANSWER KEY — INSTRUCTOR USE ONLY

Do not distribute to students.

Multiple Choice: 1. B — A design token is an atomic design value (color, spacing, typography) stored as a named variable and used consistently across all components. 2. C — A design system is a living product with components, documentation, governance, versioning, and releases — not just a static reference document. 3. D — DDIL = Denied, Disrupted, Intermittent, and Limited (bandwidth) — describes degraded network conditions common in military operations. 4. A — A freshness indicator must show the last-updated timestamp, a visual staleness indicator, and the current source connectivity status. 5. B — Classification banners must remain visible at all times — never hidden by scroll, modal, or overlay — using IC/DoD mandated colors with text labels.

Short Answer Guidance:

SA-6. Full credit: a locked token is fixed and cannot be overridden by application teams — example: classification banner colors (mandated by IC/DoD, no design discretion). A configurable token can be adjusted within defined bounds — example: application accent color (teams can choose from an approved palette to distinguish their app). Must provide one example of each type in MSS context. Partial credit (3 pts) for correct distinction without MSS-specific examples.

SA-7. Full credit: a research repository is a centralized, searchable archive of user research findings (interview notes, usability test results, survey data, insights) shared across teams. It matters because: (1) it prevents duplicate research — teams don't re-ask the same questions; (2) it enables cross-team pattern recognition — insights from one product inform another; (3) it preserves institutional knowledge when team members rotate (critical in military orgs with frequent PCS/PCA cycles). Partial credit (3 pts) for correct definition without explaining organizational value.

SA-8. Full credit: DesignOps is the operational infrastructure that enables design teams to work efficiently — tools, processes, governance, standards, and workflows. It relates to DevOps the same way DevOps relates to development: just as DevOps automates and streamlines the path from code to production, DesignOps automates and streamlines the path from research to implemented design — including design system management, handoff automation, research operations, and design review processes. Partial credit (3 pts) for correct definition without DevOps parallel.

Scenario Guidance:

S-9. Full credit (10 pts): the problem is inconsistency — the commander must learn three different visual languages for the same concept (status), increasing cognitive load, slowing interpretation, and increasing error risk (e.g., "green" means different things in different apps). A design system prevents this by: (1) defining a single status indicator component with mandated colors, icons, and text labels; (2) publishing it as a shared library that all teams consume; (3) enforcing governance — new applications must use the library component, not invent their own; (4) when the standard changes, it changes once in the library and all applications inherit the update. Must identify the cognitive load / consistency problem AND explain how the design system solves it structurally. Partial credit (5 pts) for identifying the problem without the design system solution.

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