

CERTIFICATION STUDY METHOD

# The 4 Quarters Learning System

Learn smarter, pass with confidence: a structured, repeatable way to prepare for Microsoft certification exams

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

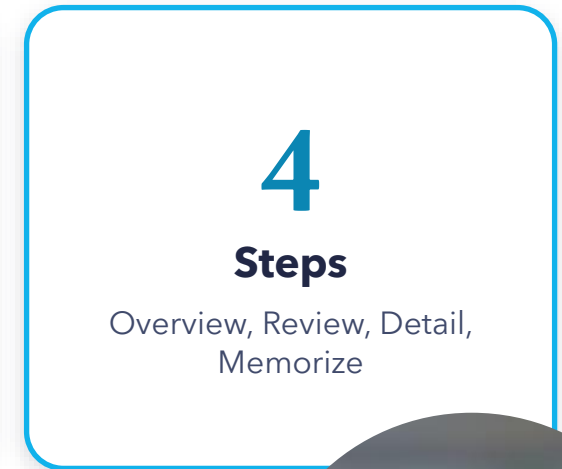
James Dethwick | [www.4qls.com](http://www.4qls.com)



# What Is the 4 Quarters Learning System?

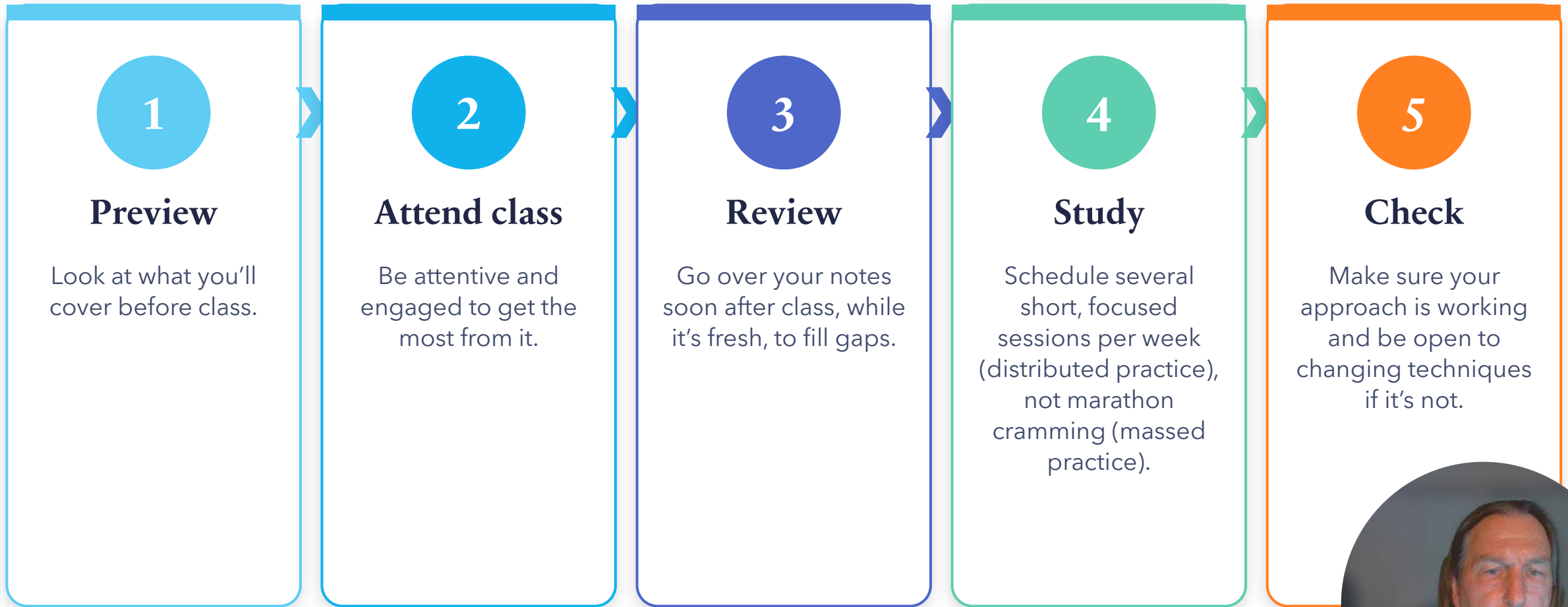
The 4QLS is a structured, repeatable study method that breaks your exam journey into four clear phases, so you always know exactly what to do next.

- 1 Structured**  
Each quarter has one job, from first overview to final mastery.
- 2 Understanding over memorizing**  
A scenario-based approach that helps the material actually stick.
- 3 Repeatable**  
Works for any technical exam, not just one certification.



# Studying for Exam: 4 Quarters Learning System

## Traditional: The Study Cycle

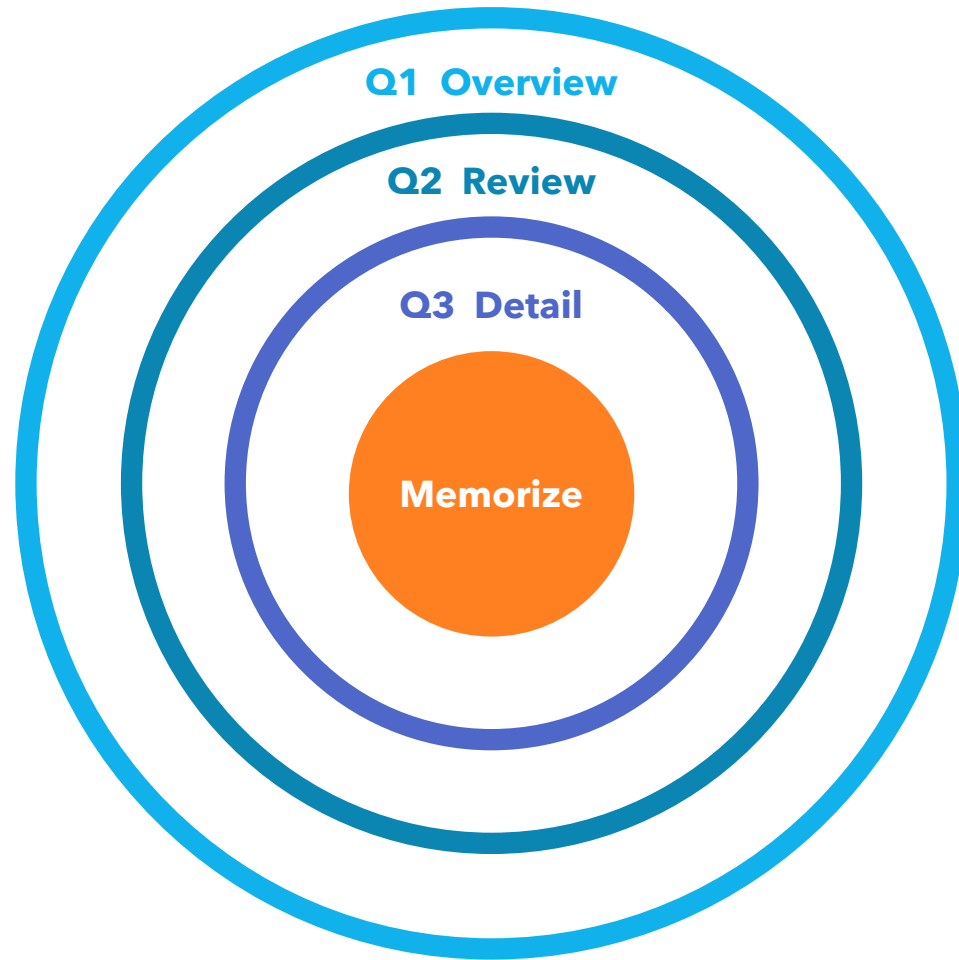


*Each step builds on the previous one, which helps avoid cramming the night before the exam.*



# Four passes turn exposure into exam readiness

**It is a gradual accumulation of knowledge leading up to exam day!**



- 1 Complete Class**  
Focus on the Bullets and not the details
- 2 Re-Read the slides for details**  
Focus on the details
- 3 Take several Practice Tests**  
Record brief notes on incorrect answers for later review
- 4 Prepare for the Real Exam**  
Memorize brief notes, review class slides, and last simulated test where you achieve at least 80% mark

**Each return adds a different kind of understanding—no single pass has to do everything.**



# Each quarter has one job—and one exit condition

## Quarter 1

Follow the Class

Follow class and understand the bullets. Don't worry about details yet.

## Quarter 2

Read any handouts and review the slides

Read the presentation slides and handouts thoroughly to understand the details.

## Quarter 3

Practice Exams

Take at least 4 exams, then write a brief note on any questions you didn't understand or answered incorrectly. Review notes before the next exam. Repeat until you score over 95% on all four exams.

## Quarter 4

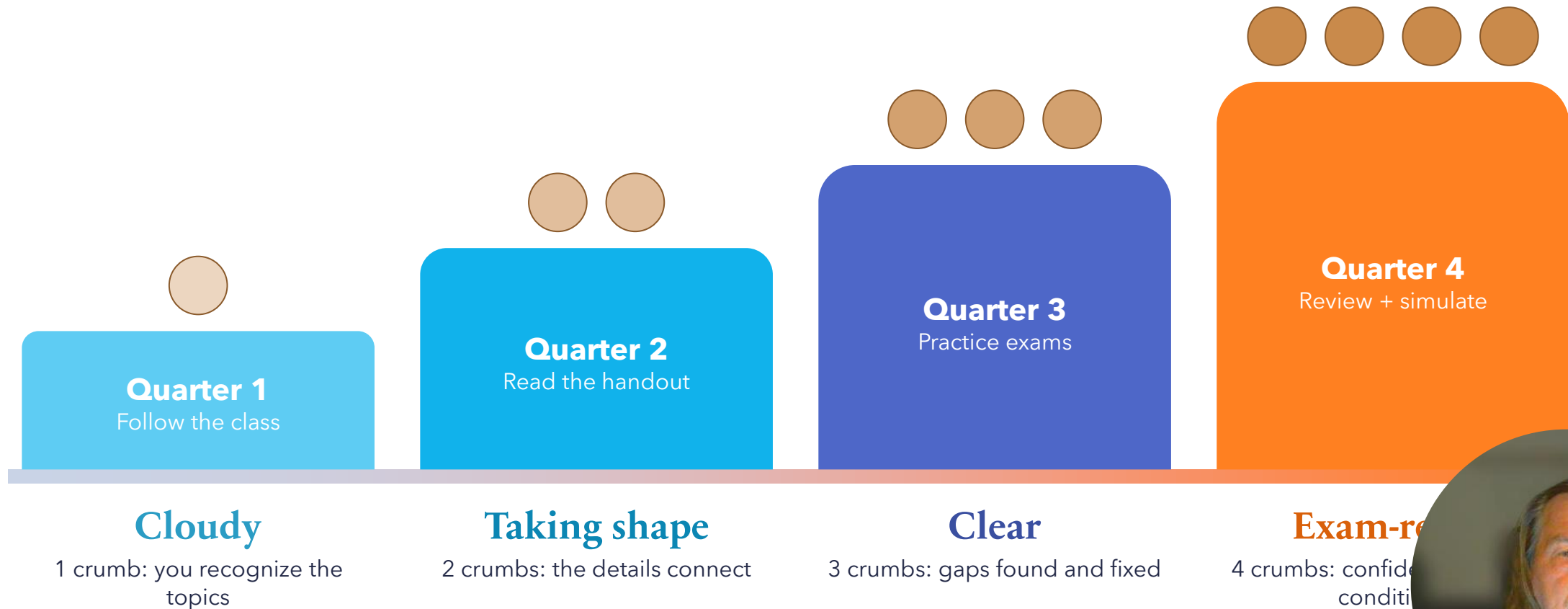
Simulate the Exam

Read the slides and handouts thoroughly one more time, then memorize your step 3 notes. Take a 5th exam in a simulated test environment. Add the questions you missed to your brief notes. Repeat until you score above 80% on the simulated exam. Congratulations, you are ready for the exam.



# Knowledge builds one crumb at a time

The first pass gives you a fragment. The next three connect, test, and strengthen it until you can perform under pressure.



# Like viewing a home, every return reveals more

You rarely see every flaw—or every concept—on the first visit. Purposeful returns change what you notice.



**Returning is valuable only when you look for something new each time.**

# Practice exams turn mistakes into readiness

Quarter 3 is a feedback loop: test, capture every miss, review the notes, and retest.

1

## TAKE AN EXAM

Use a fresh practice test



2

## LOG EVERY MISS

Incorrect or unclear



3

## REVIEW NOTES

Before the next attempt



4

## RETEST

Repeat the loop

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### QUARTER 3 EXIT

**>95%** on all four practice exams

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### QUARTER 4 EXIT

**>80%** on the simulated fifth exam

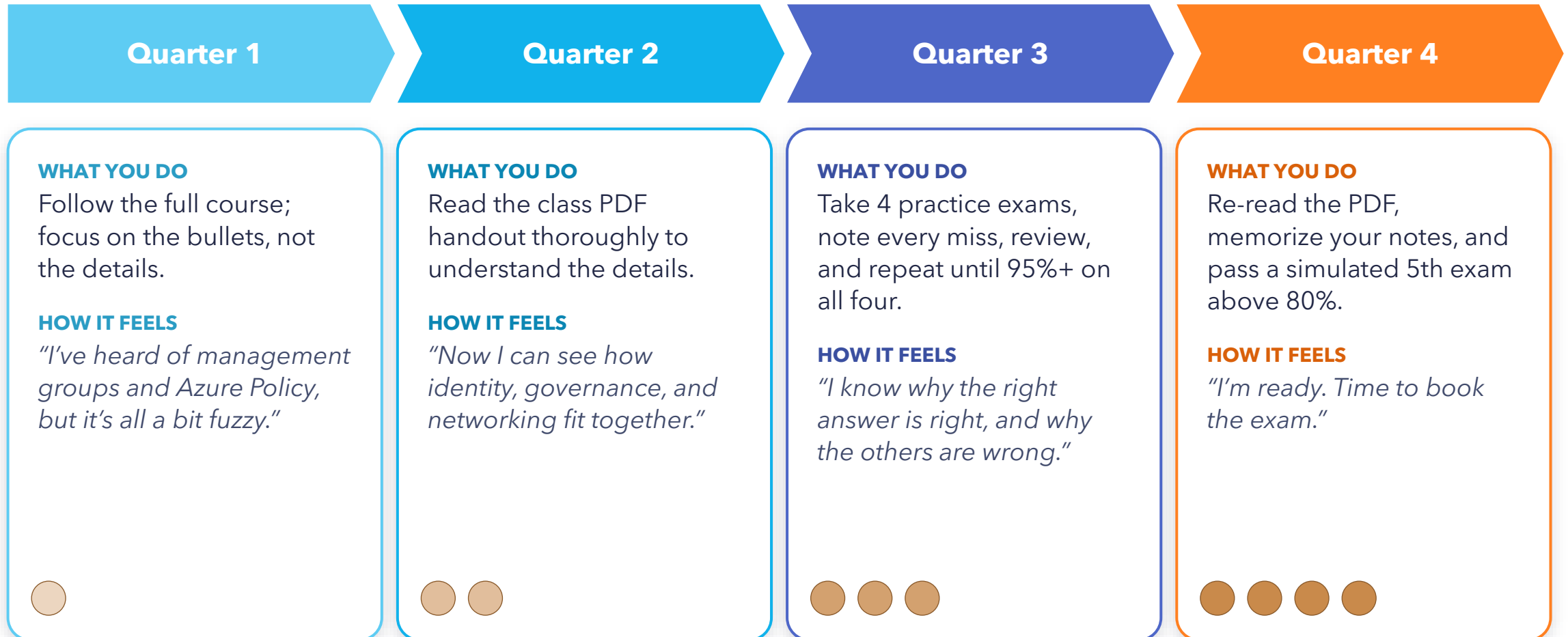
Re-read the handout • Memorize the miss log • Simulate test conditions

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These are 4QLS readiness gates—not the Microsoft exam passing score.

# Example: One Learner's Path to AZ-305 Exam

*Illustrative example of how understanding grows across the four quarters*



# You are ready when every gate is true



Completed the full class, focused on the bullets



Read the presentation slides and handouts thoroughly



Scored over 95% on all four practice exams



Memorized your notes on missed questions



Scored above 80% on a simulated 5th exam

## GET STARTED

### Put the 4QLS to work

- Start any certification course and follow the system from the first step.
- Already enrolled? Unlock the class PDF with your name and email.

[www.4qls.com](http://www.4qls.com)