

Introduction to Foundation Level Certification



Welcome to this brief introduction to foundation level certification. In this introduction, I'll explain a little about the certification and the ISTQB syllabus. If you need further information, visit the ASTQB web site at www.astqb.org.



Who is the ISTQB?

- ISTQB – International Software Testing Qualifications Board
- Mission - To support a single, universally accepted, international qualification scheme, aimed at software and system testing professionals, by providing the core syllabi and by setting guidelines for accreditation and examination for national boards.
- www.istqb.org

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Who is the ASTQB?

- The ASTQB is the board that administers the ISTQB certification exams in the U.S.
- Founded in 2003.
- www.astqb.org

The American Software Testing Qualifications Board (ASTQB) was founded in 2003 as the American Testing Board. In April 2005, the name was changed to the American Software Testing Qualifications Board. The ASTQB is the board that administers the ISTQB certification exams in the U.S. You can learn more at www.astqb.org.



Foundation Level Certification

- The Foundation Level qualification is aimed at anyone involved in software testing. This includes people in roles such as:
 - testers,
 - test analysts,
 - test engineers,
 - test consultants,
 - test managers,
 - user acceptance testers, and
 - software developers.

The Foundation Level qualification is aimed at anyone involved in software testing. This includes people in roles such as testers, test analysts, test engineers, test consultants, test managers, user acceptance testers and software developers. This Foundation Level qualification is also appropriate for anyone who wants a basic understanding of software testing, such as project managers, quality managers, software development managers, business analysts, IT directors and management consultants.



Next Steps

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Levels of Knowledge

- Cognitive levels are given for each section in this syllabus:
 - K1: remember, recognize, recall;
 - K2: understand, explain, give reasons, compare, classify, summarize;
 - K3: apply.
- You can learn more about the knowledge levels in Appendix B of the syllabus.

Throughout the ISTQB syllabus and this course, you will see the levels K1, K2 and K3. K1 means that you should remember, recognize, and recall the information; K2 means that you understand, can explain, give reasons, compare, classify, summarize the information. K3 means that you can apply the information. You can learn more about the knowledge levels in Appendix B of the syllabus.



The Exam

- The Foundation Certificate examination will be based on the ISTQB syllabus.
- Answers to examination questions may require the use of material based on more than one section of this syllabus.
- All sections of the syllabus are examinable.
- The format of the examination is multiple choice.
- Exams may be taken as part of an accredited training course or taken independently (e.g. at an examination center or event).

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Why a Common Syllabus

- The ISTQB syllabus allows internationally consistent teaching and examination.
- In order to achieve this goal, the syllabus consists of:
 - General instructional objectives describing the intention of the foundation level.
 - A list of information to teach, including a description, and references to additional sources if required.

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The Syllabus Contains...

- Learning objectives for each knowledge area, describing the cognitive learning outcome and mindset to be achieved.
- A list of terms that students must be able to recall and have understood.
- A description of the key concepts, including sources such as accepted literature or standards.

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What the Syllabus Isn't

- The syllabus content is not a description of the entire knowledge area of software testing; it reflects the level of detail to be covered in foundation level training courses.

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Syllabus Structure

- There are six major chapters.
- The top level heading shows the levels of learning objectives that are covered within the chapter, and specifies the time for the chapter.
- Within each chapter there are a number of sections.
 - Each section also has the learning objectives and the amount of time required.

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Where You Can Get the Syllabus

- You can download a copy of the ISTQB syllabus from the attachments section of this presentation or from the ASTQB's web site (www.astqb.org).

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The ISTQB Glossary

- Inconsistent, non-standard, terminology is a major issue in software testing.
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 - You can download a copy from the attachments or from www.astqb.org.

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How to Get the Most From This Course

- Listen to the lectures with focused attention.
 - It might not hurt to go through them twice, with the second time being just before the exam.
- Take the quizzes and the practice exam.
- Do the exercises!

Listen to the lectures with focused attention. It might not hurt to go through them twice, with the second time being just before the exam. Take the quizzes and the practice exam. Do the exercises! The exercises are not optional. You will be expected to do on the exam the things that the exercises reinforce.

Other Sources

- I highly recommend this book as a supplemental source of preparation for the exam.



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