ISTQB® Expert Level
Introduction and overview

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ISTQB® Expert Level Working Group

Information contained in this presentation may be re-used if credit is given to ISTQB®
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1. Expert Level: Building on Success
2. What is an Expert?
3. Achieving Expert Certification
4. The Training Courses
5. Achieving Roll-Out
6. Summary of Benefits
ISTQB® Certified Tester: a success story

• Over 330,000 certifications

• Over 50 National Boards

• Benefits to businesses:
  – Standard language for testing
  – Testing Body of Knowledge
  – More professionalism in testing
  – Career paths for testers
With the new Expert Level, ISTQB® offers career paths for testers

**Foundation**
- Test Analyst
- Technical Test Analyst

**Advanced**
- Test Manager
- Test Analyst

**Expert**
- Test Management
- Improving the Test Process
- Test Automation Management
- (TBD Usability)
- Test Automation Engineering
- Security Testing
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For ISTQB®, Expert really means Expert

• “A person with the special skills and knowledge representing mastery of a particular testing subject.
• Being an expert means possessing and displaying special skills and knowledge derived from training and experience”*

• Clearly stated expectations and business outcomes are established for each subject covered at Expert Level.

*ISTQB Expert Level Modules Overview (downloadable from www.istqb.org)
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Achieving Expert Level: Criteria

**Recommended:**
- At least 7 years of practical testing experience
- Completion of Expert Level course

**Mandatory:**
- ISTQB Foundations
- ISTQB Advanced (depending on Expert Level module)
- Completion of Expert Level course (if a non-public exam is taken)

**Exam passed** (65%)

**Experience levels**
(may be achieved before or after passing the exam)
- At least 5 years of practical testing experience
- At least 2 years of industry experience in the specific Expert Level topic
Achieving Expert Level: the Exam

- A certification scheme at Expert Level must meet the expectations and perceptions of its stakeholders and has to be seen to be truly “expert”
- The exam therefore consists of a multiple-choice section and a written “essay” section
- A score above 65% is required to pass

**Multiple-Choice Section**
- Duration: 1 Hour
- 20 Questions
- Learning objectives covered: K2, K3, K4 (like Advanced Level)

**Essay Section**
- Duration:
  - Reading: ½ hour
  - Answering: 2 hours
  - Add ¾ hour for non-native speakers
- Answer 4 questions out of 5
- Learning objectives covered: Mostly higher learning objectives (K5, K6)
Maintaining Certification at Expert Level

- Expert Level certification is not for life
- An Expert Level certificate is valid for 5 years
- Expert certification must be renewed using one of the following two options

Repeat the exam
- A passed exam results in certification for a further 5 years.

Achieve 200 „Certification Extension Credits“ (CEC)

CECs may be achieved in a number of areas. For example:
- Perform a professional testing activity
- Take a relevant training course
- Attend a testing conference
- Present at a testing conference
- Teaching a relevant training course
- Write a testing article or book
- Actively participate in a Working Group (NB, SIGIST, ISTQB)

Verifiable evidence must be submitted to the certifier
The Certification Extension Program is published by ISTQB
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Focus on Practical education

• Higher level Learning Objectives in focus
• “Evaluate” and “Create”*
• Emphasis is on practical work
• In-depth consideration of subjects introduced at Advanced Level
• Goal: Mastery of the subject

*also known as K5 and K6 learning objectives
Gain practical experience with workplace exercises

• Some learning objectives (mostly K5 and K6) may be performed at the student’s place of work instead of in the classroom. These are identified in each syllabus.
• Workplace exercises are particularly useful for syllabi requiring more than 5 days of tuition.

Benefit for trainee:
• Practical application in the workplace
• Tutor checks work and provides valuable feedback

Benefit for sponsor:
• Spread of training budget
• Project-specific application of knowledge
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Expert Level Components

- ISTQB®: Syllabus
- TP: Course Materials
- ISTQB®: Guidelines & Rules
- NB: Accreditations
- NB / Certifier: Exams & Markers
Expert Level Syllabi

ISTQB®: Syllabi

TP: Course Materials

ISTQB®: Guidelines & Rules

Expert Level Components

NB: Accreditation

NB / Certifier: Exams & Markers

• Improving the Test Process
• Test Management
• Test Automation - Engineering
• Test Automation - Management
• Security Testing

2 parts
3 parts
1 part
1 part

Released
Released
Released
In development
In development
Guidelines & Rules

- Expert Level Overview (external document)
- Rules & Recommendations
- Exam Structure & Rules
- Exam Guidelines for specific modules
Exams

 ISTQB®: Practice exams for all released syllabi
Accreditation

- International group cooperates on accrediting Expert Level courses
- First accreditation issued in 2013
Course materials

- Improving the Test Process:
  - Test Management

- First courses early 2014
  - Work in progress
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Summary: Advantages for a Professional Tester

An Expert level certificate demonstrates mastery of a particular testing subject and brings several advantages for a professional tester.

From a Knowledge Perspective
- Overview of current best practices for a specific topic
- Ability to select the best solutions for specific project contexts
- Ability to assess the value of new trends & hypes

From a Practical Perspective
- Enables leadership for a topic
- Ensures that work is conducted to state-of-the-art and performed efficiently
- Enables best practices to be adjusted according to project context.

From a Self-Selling Perspective
- Increases business value of employees
- Demonstrates high potential for a candidate
- Underpins continuous learning
Summary: Advantages for Training Providers

Providing Expert Level courses supports leadership in the market and brings several advantages for a Training Provider.

From a Marketing Perspective
- Demonstrates thought leadership in testing
- Creates image of being a trend setter with leading edge concepts
- Strengthens high-quality perception in the professional testing market.

From a Business Perspective
- Additional trainings for in-house as well as public offering
- Cross-selling (other trainings, services, etc.)
- Full-service providers covering complete career development paths.

From a Capability Perspective
- Increases in-house knowledge
- Simplifies integration of experts into a career path
- Creates additional channel for staff with high-potential
ISTQB® CONTACTS AND CHANNELS

- You Tube presence: [http://www.youtube.com/user/ISTQBORG](http://www.youtube.com/user/ISTQBORG)
- Slide Share presence: [http://www.slideshare.net/ISTQBORG](http://www.slideshare.net/ISTQBORG)
- Twitter Channel: [http://twitter.com/ISTQBORG](http://twitter.com/ISTQBORG)
- XING Community: [https://www.xing.com/net/istqb](https://www.xing.com/net/istqb)
- Facebook Page: [http://www.facebook.com/istqborg](http://www.facebook.com/istqborg)