
International Software Testing Qualifications Board



Certified Tester Foundation Level
Performance Testing
Exam Structure and Rules

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and

German Testing Board



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This document forms the basis for examinations on the Performance Testing at Foundation Level.

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1. To National Boards, to translate into their local language and to accredit training providers. National Boards may adapt the syllabus to their particular language needs and modify the references to adapt to their local publications.
2. To Exam Boards, to derive examination questions in their local language adapted to the learning objectives for each syllabus.
3. To training providers, to produce courseware and determine appropriate teaching methods.
4. To certification candidates, to prepare for the exam (as part of a training course or independently).
5. To the international software and systems engineering community, to advance the profession of software and systems testing, and as a basis for books and articles.

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1. General

1.1. Validity

All Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing examinations shall comply with the structure and rules described in this document, regardless of language and media.

1.2. Purpose

This document contains structure and rules for the setup of examinations related to the Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing syllabus.

1.3. Scope

This document covers:

- a) the number of questions per examination;
- b) the length of the examination;
- c) the distribution of questions per topic (chapter); and
- d) the distribution of questions per learning objective.

1.4. References

[QWRR_2011] ISTQB - Question Writing Rules & Recommendations Version 2011-1
 [PTFL] Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing syllabus

1.5. Document Responsibility

General responsibility for this document is under the ASTQB and GTB.

1.6. Revision History

Date	Version	Name	Comment
2017/07/01	V 1.0 BETA	D. Friedenberg	Initial draft for the Beta Foundation Level syllabus
2018/03/01	V 1.0 FINAL	D. Friedenberg	Initial draft for the Beta Foundation Level syllabus
2018/12/09	V 1.0 FINAL	D. Friedenberg	Final for GA

2. Definitions

- PTFL: Acronym for Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing.
- LEARNING OBJECTIVE (LO): Learning objectives describe the gain on cognitive competence to be achieved in relation to given content.
- MC: Multiple-Choice is a form of assessment in which respondents are asked to select the best possible answer (or answers) from the options in a list.

3. Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing Exam Rules

3.1. The Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing Examinations

3.1.1. The Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing examinations shall be based on the Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing syllabus [PTFL]. Answers to examination questions may require the use of material from more than one section of the syllabus.

3.1.2. All learning objectives (on cognitive levels K1 to K4) in the syllabus are examinable.

3.2. General Foundation Level Exam Structure

- 3.2.1. Each Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing examination shall comprise a set of multiple-choice questions based on the Learning Objectives for that specific syllabus. The level of coverage and distribution of questions has been based on the Learning Objectives, their K-levels, and their level of importance as evaluated by the ASTQB and GTB. Details on the structure for each examination module are provided in section 4 below.
- 3.2.2. Each question is worth exactly ONE point.
- 3.2.3. In general, K1 questions are expected to take 1 minute to read and answer, K2 questions are expected to take 1.5 minutes, K3 questions are expected to take 3 minutes, and K4 questions are expected to take 4 minutes. The exam setter should keep in mind that this is only a guideline for an average time, and that it is likely that some questions will take longer and others will take less time for examinees to complete
- 3.2.4. The time allowed for each examination is exactly 90 minutes. If the candidate's native language is not the examination language, the candidate is allowed an additional 25%.
- 3.2.5. A score of at least 65% is required to pass.

Module	Number of questions	Number of possible points	Passing score (65%)	Exam Length (in minutes)	Exam Length + 25% (in minutes)
Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing	40	40	26	90	113

3.3. Specific Rules

- 3.3.1. For the rules and recommendations for writing multiple-choice questions see the ISTQB - Question Writing Rules & Recommendations [QWRR_2011].
- 3.3.2. All questions shall assess at least one Learning Objective from the Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing Syllabus under examination. Questions may include supporting material at the K1 level from any part of the syllabus, including terms. Where questions address more than one LO, then the question should primarily address the highest K-Level LO.

3.4. Question Distribution

- 3.4.1. The exam structure for the Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing examination is provided in the following table. Each of the exams requires mandatory questions targeted to specific Learning Objectives as well as a specified number of questions based on “selectable” Learning Objectives.

4. Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing Exam Structure

4.1.1. General Structure

Overview

Module	Number of questions	Number of possible points	Passing score (65%)	Exam Length (in minutes)	Exam Length + 25% (in minutes)
Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing	40	40	26	90	113

4.1.2. Question and point distribution

Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing question distribution

Chapter 1 Question Distribution	K- Level	Number of Questions per LO	Points per question	
PTFL-1.1	K2	1	1	There are a total of 6 questions required for Chapter 1. K1 = 1 K2 = 5 K3 = 0 K4 = 0 Number of points for this chapter = 6
PTFL-1.2	K2	2	1	
PTFL-1.3	K1	1	1	
PTFL-1.4	K2	1	1	
PTFL-1.5	K2	1	1	
Chapter 2 Question Distribution	K- Level	Number of Questions per LO	Points per question	
PTFL-2.1	K2	1	1	There are a total of 4 questions required for Chapter 2. K1 = 1 K2 = 3 K3 = 0 K4 = 0 Number of points for this chapter = 4
PTFL-2.2	K2	1	1	
PTFL-2.3	K2	1	1	
PTFL-2.4	K1	1	1	
Chapter 3 Question Distribution	K- Level	Number of Questions per LO	Points per question	
PTFL-3.1	K2	2	1	There are a total of 7 questions required for Chapter 3. K1 = 0 K2 = 5 K3 = 0 K4 = 2 Number of points for this chapter = 7
PTFL-3.2	K2	3	1	
PTFL-3.3	K4	1	1	
PTFL-3.4	K4	1	1	
Chapter 4 Question Distribution	K- Level	Number of Questions per LO	Points per question	
PTFL-4.1.1	K4	1	1	There are a total of 20 questions required for Chapter 4. K1 = 0
PTFL-4.1.2	K4	1	1	

PTFL-4.1.3	K3	2	1	K2 = 12 K3 = 4 K4 = 6 Number of points for this chapter = 20
PTFL-4.2.1	K2	2	1	
PTFL-4.2.2	K2	2	1	
PTFL-4.2.3	K4	1	1	
PTFL-4.2.4	K4	1	1	
PTFL-4.2.5	K4	1	1	
PTFL-4.2.6	K2	2	1	
PTFL-4.2.7	K3	2	1	
PTFL-4.2.8	K2	2	1	
PTFL-4.3.1	K2	2	1	
PTFL-4.4.1	K4	1	1	
Chapter 5 Question Distribution	K-Level	Number of Questions per LO	Points per question	
PTFL-5.1.1	K2	2	1	There are a total of 3 questions required for Chapter 5 K1 = 0 K2 = 2 K3 = 0 K4 = 1 z Number of points for this chapter = 3
PTFL-5.2.1	K4	1	1	
Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing TOTALS			90 minutes	40 questions TOTAL