

UK Testing Board Information Sheet



February 2011 – Mapping between the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level certifications and the ISEB Practitioner certificates

On the 5th March 2010 the UKTB (UK Testing Board) signed an exam delivery agreement with the BCS (The Chartered Institute for IT). The contract allows the BCS to:

1. Deliver ISTQB exams
2. Provide accreditation services for ISTQB Training Courses

It was also agreed that as a result of the above that by the end of March 2011 the ISEB Practitioner qualification scheme will be phased out.

What did the agreement cover?

ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level

Exam development and accreditation are now delivered by the UKTB

Exam and Accreditation administration is undertaken by the BCS

ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level

Exam development and accreditation are now delivered by the UKTB

For specified regions (countries) exam administration and Accreditation is undertaken by the BCS

BCS/ISEB Practitioner

This qualification was started in 2002 and was the second level qualification on Software testing produced by the BCS/ISEB. Until 1st April 2008 this was a single syllabus examined via an essay style exam. On the 1st April 2008 the BCS/ISEB split this syllabus into two – Test Management and Test Analysis, both examined by essay questions.

As part of the BCS/UKTB agreement the two ISEB Practitioner exams (Test Management and Test Analysis) have been withdrawn from the 1st February 2011 – so from 1st February 2011 no new Practitioner exams can be run only retakes for a limited period.

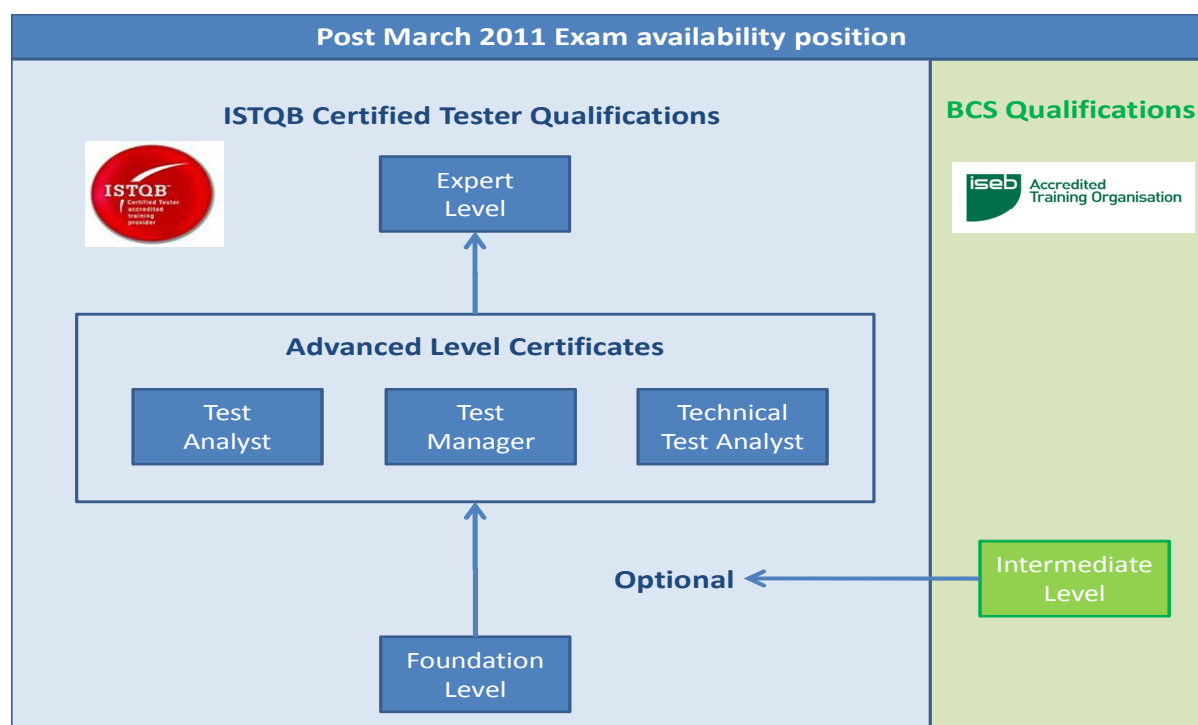
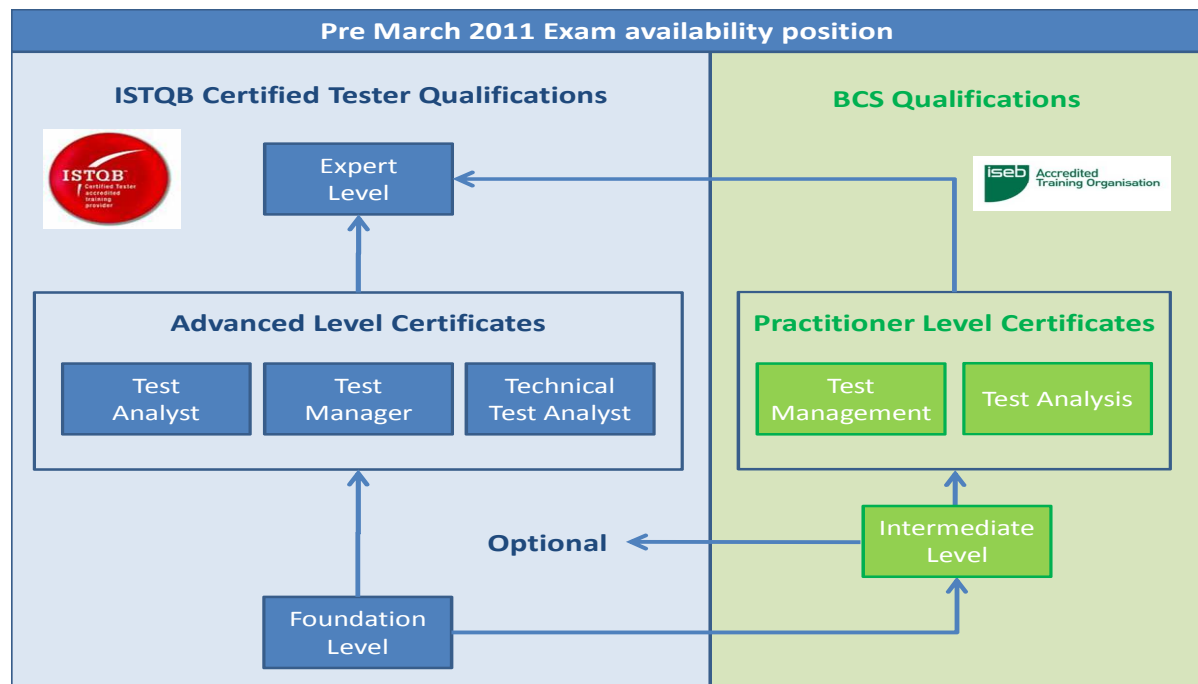
BCS/ISEB Intermediate

As the name suggest this is an intermediate exam built to bridge the gap between Foundation level and Advanced level, examined by scenario based multi choice exams

Having run the ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level and ISEB Practitioner exams in the UK for over 10 years the BCS identified that some Practitioner level examinees found the technical gap between ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level and ISEB Practitioner far too large. The Intermediate aids this journey by adding to the knowledge gained at Foundation level, but not going into the detail required at Practitioner level.

This qualification still remains and is owned by the BCS NOT ISTQB. The agreement between the BCS and the UKTB states that this qualification is not part of the ISTQB scheme, but can be offered as an optional certification step between ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level and ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level.

The following diagrams present the BCS/ISTQB certification availability prior to the closure of the Practitioner scheme in March 2011 and the position after the end of March 2011.



To align with the agreement between the UKTB and the BCS, ISTQB agreed to update the equivalence mapping (Grandfathering) between the ISEB Practitioner certificates and the

ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level certifications. The agreed wording referencing the ISEB/BCS Practitioner certificate is:

- ISEB Practitioner certificates earned by passing an exam taken no later than March 31, 2008 [i.e., under the original Practitioner program] are treated as equivalent to the Certified Tester Advanced Test Manager, Advanced Test Analyst, and Advanced Technical Test Analyst (Full Advanced) certificates earned by passing exams against the Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 (Full).
- ISEB Test Management Practitioner certificates earned by passing exams against the new ISEB Test Management Practitioner Syllabus (since April 1st, 2008) are treated as equivalent to the Certified Tester Advanced Test Manager certificates earned by passing exams against the Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 – Test Manager.
- ISEB Test Analysis Practitioner certificates earned by passing exams against the new ISEB Practitioner Syllabus (since April 1st, 2008) are treated as equivalent to the Certified Tester Advanced Test Analyst certificates earned by passing exams against the Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 – Test Analyst

This treatment of equivalence has the following four consequences.

First, the ISTQB, the National Boards, and the Exam Boards shall not take any action, impose any pre-requisites, or pass any rule or by-law, including at the ISTQB Certified Tester Expert Level, which would favour one equivalent certificate over another. For example, suppose that the ISTQB Certified Advanced Test Analyst certification is a pre-requisite to take a given ISTQB Certified Tester Expert exam. ISEB Test Analysis Practitioner certificate holders may also take the same ISTQB Certified Tester Expert exam, and no additional burden shall be placed on them to do so.

Second, equivalence does not mean substitution. The ISTQB, the National Boards, and the Exam Boards shall only issue certificates showing certification against the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 for candidates who have passed an exam run against the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007.

Third, treatment as equivalent does not mean that they are in fact identical in coverage. Specifically, the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 covers all the topics of the old ISEB Practitioner Syllabi as well as introducing new topics. Courseware accredited against the ISTQB Advanced Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 will cover all topics covered by courseware accredited against the old ISEB Practitioner Syllabi. Therefore, courseware accredited against the old ISEB Practitioner Syllabi will not cover all topics covered by courseware accredited against the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007. A candidate who attends a course accredited against the old ISEB Practitioner Syllabi, and then takes an exam against the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 will be under-prepared.

Finally candidates for certification who intend to take an exam against the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 are alerted to the following fact: If you have taken a training course accredited against the old ISEB Practitioner Syllabus, please be advised that new topics have been added to the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007. Additional preparation on your part is necessary prior to taking an exam against the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007.”

FAQ's

1. Q - I passed the ISEB Practitioner Certificate before the 1st April 2008, can I have a new certificate to show I am Full ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced?

A – No, as the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 contains additional material not covered in the ISEB Practitioner ISQTB has decided that it would be inappropriate to issue replacement certificates.

2. Q – I hold the ISEB Practitioner Certificate (pre 1st April 2008) can I take any of the ISTQB Certified Tester Expert exams?

A – Each ISTQB Certified Tester Expert exam will have specific entry criteria, which will include holding one or all of the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced exams, holding the pre 1st April 2008 ISEB Practitioner is equivalent to holding all ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced exams, so will ensure you comply with this requirement across all ISTQB Certified Tester Expert exams.

3. Q – I have recently attended the ISEB Practitioner Test Management training and failed the exam. I am now past the point when I can retake the exam. If I simply sit a public ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Test Management exam now will I have all of the required information from my ISEB Practitioner training?

A – There is additional content in the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus, so we recommend that you review the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Level Syllabus 2007 and do additional preparation before taking the exam.

4. Q – I hold the ISEB Test Management Practitioner certificate; can I take the ISTQB Certified Tester Expert level exams?

A – Each ISTQB Expert exam will have specific entry criteria, which will include specific ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced exams. Holding the ISEB Test Management Practitioner certificate will satisfy the requirement when it is for the ISTQB Certified Tester Advanced Test Manager certificate only.

About UKTB

The aims and objectives of the UKTB are:

- Provision of all UK ISTQB Software Testing exams
- Accreditation of all UK ISTQB Training organisations
- Input to the ISTQB exam scheme via working groups
- Representation for the UK to ISTQB
- Provide software testing thought leadership and networking opportunities to the UK Testing Community
- Involvement in developing Software Testing standards
- Work with education to embed Software Testing in the curriculum

- Encouraging greater participation from experienced testing professionals in the UK
- Provider of QAMP super certification in the UK

See www.uktb.org.uk
Enquires to info@uktb.org.uk

About ISTQB

The ISTQB is responsible for the international qualification scheme called "ISTQB Certified Tester". The qualifications are based on a syllabus, and there is a hierarchy of qualifications and guidelines for accreditation and examination. It is the ISTQB's role 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.

See www.istqb.org
Enquiries to info@istqb.org