

Sample Exam – Answers

Sample Exam set A
Version 1.3

ISTQB® Agile Tester Syllabus Foundation Level

Compatible with Syllabus version 2014

International Software Testing Qualifications Board



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Document Responsibility

This document is maintained by a core team from ISTQB® consisting of the Syllabus Working Group and Exam Working Group.

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Revision History

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1.2.2	May 12, 2021	Removed wrong, duplicate copyright notice
1.2.1	May 7, 2021	Update of copyright notice
1.2	August 5, 2019	Layout corrections
1.1	June 27, 2019	Minor updates
1.0	Maj 1, 2014	First version approved by GA

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Introduction

Purpose of this document

The sample questions and answers and associated justifications in this sample exam set have been created by a team of Subject Matter Experts and experienced question writers with the aim of assisting ISTQB® Member Boards and Exam Boards in their question writing activities.

These questions cannot be used as-is in any official examination, but they should serve as guidance for question writers. Given the wide variety of formats and subjects, these sample questions should offer many ideas for the individual Member Boards on how to create good questions and appropriate answer sets for their examinations.

Instructions

The answer set is organized in the following way:

- Correct answer – including justification of the answers
- Learning Objective and K-level of Questions
- Answer Key with Learning Objective and K-level for each question

- Questions are contained in a separate document

Answer Key

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
1	b	FA-1.1.1	K1	1
2	a	FA-1.1.1	K1	1
3	c, d	FA-1.1.2	K2	1
4	c	FA-1.1.2	K2	1
5	c	FA-1.1.3	K2	1
6	b	FA-1.1.3	K2	1
7	b	FA-1.2.1	K1	1
8	d	FA-1.2.2	K3	1
9	c	FA-1.2.3	K2	1
10	c	FA-1.2.3	K2	1
11	d	FA-1.2.4	K2	1
12	d	FA-1.2.5	K1	1
13	d	Keyword	K1	1
14	b	FA-2.1.1	K2	1
15	a	FA-2.1.2	K2	1
16	a, e	FA-2.1.3	K2	1
17	b	FA-2.1.3	K2	1
18	b	FA-2.2.1	K2	1
19	a	FA-2.2.1	K2	1
20	a	FA-2.2.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
21	b	FA-2.2.2	K2	1
22	d	FA-2.3.1	K2	1
23	c	FA-2.3.2	K2	1
24	c	FA-2.3.2	K2	1
25	c	Keyword	K1	1
26	d	FA-3.1.1	K1	1
27	c	FA-3.1.2	K1	1
28	a	FA-3.1.3	K2	1
29	c	FA-3.1.3	K2	1
30	b	FA-3.1.4	K3	1
31	a, d	FA-3.2.1	K3	1
32	b	FA-3.2.2	K3	1
33	c	FA-3.3.1	K3	1
34	c	FA-3.3.2	K2	1
35	b, c	FA-3.3.2	K2	1
36	d	FA-3.3.3	K3	1
37	c	FA-3.3.4	K3	1
38	a	FA-3.3.5	K3	1
39	c	FA-3.4.1	K1	1
40	b	Keyword	K1	1

Answers

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
1	b	a) Is not correct. See correct answer b) Is correct. The Manifesto consists of 4 key values: Individuals and Interactions over processes and tools; Working software over comprehensive documentation; Customer collaboration over contract negotiation; Responding to change over following a plan c) Is not correct. See correct answer d) Is not correct. See correct answer	FA-1.1.1	K1	1
2	a	a) Is correct. From a customer perspective, working software is much more useful and valuable than overly detailed documentation, and it provides an opportunity to provide the development team rapid feedback b) Is not correct. It is normal practice, especially in test driven development, but it is not one of the values in the agile Manifesto c) Is not correct. The value is: customer collaboration over contract negotiation d) Is not correct. The value is: responding to change over following a plan	FA-1.1.1	K1	1
3	c, d	a) Is not correct. This depends on the skillset of the team; developers may take on this task b) Is not correct. The team will work together to select tools that will enable them to be collaborative & efficient c) Is correct. Testers support & collaborate with business representatives to help them create suitable acceptance tests d) Is correct. In agile projects, quality is the responsibility of the whole team e) Is not correct. Developers may help with these tasks depending on the skillset of the team and individual workload	FA-1.1.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
4	c	a) Is not correct. Software testing skills should be transferred and extended to non-testing members of the team b) Is not correct. This depends on the skillset of the team and who is available; some testers may have a development background c) Is correct. Enables a variety of skillsets to be leveraged as needed for the project d) Is not correct. Specialized testers are still needed and are an important resource on agile projects	FA-1.1.2	K2	1
5	c	Consider the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early feedback ensures developers implement what is needed. 2. Is correct. 3. There may be more testing required due to frequent changes 4. Customers indicate if requirements are missed or misinterpreted, and modify functionality if they desire Thus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct b) Is not correct c) Is correct d) Is not correct 	FA-1.1.3	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
6	b	<p>a) Is not correct. The same number of defects may be found using any software development process. The benefit with agile is the ability to find and fix defects faster</p> <p>b) Is correct. Clarifying customer feature requests, early and regularly throughout development, making it more likely that key features will be available for customer use earlier and the product, will better reflect what the customer wants</p> <p>c) Is not correct. Agile does not single out individuals; it is about the whole team</p> <p>d) Is not correct. There may not be enough time to complete all features for a given iteration, but the agile process does allow the team to focus on those features that have the highest business value</p>	FA-1.1.3	K2	1
7	b	<p>a) Is not correct. See correct answer for mapping</p> <p>b) Is correct. Extreme Programming embraces 5 values to guide development: Communication, Simplicity, Feedback, Courage, and Respect. Scrum divides the project into short iterations called sprints. Kanban has no iterations or sprints; it is used to optimize continuous flow of tasks and minimize throughput time of each task</p> <p>c) Is not correct. See correct answer for mapping</p> <p>d) Is not correct. See correct answer for mapping</p>	FA-1.2.1	K1	1
8	d	<p>a) Is not correct. It is important to consider testability and automation, but designing the application based on limiting the testing effort may not result in a suitable solution for the end-user</p> <p>b) Is not correct. The product owner prioritizes the various quality characteristics</p> <p>c) Is not correct. The performance acceptance criteria would normally be determined by the product owner</p> <p>d) Is correct. The tester contributes by ensuring that the team creates acceptance criteria for the user story</p>	FA-1.2.2	K3	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
9	c	a) Is not correct. Testers should participate in all aspects of the retrospective meeting b) Is not correct. Testers should participate in all aspects of the retrospective meeting c) Is correct. All team members, both testers and non-testers, can provide input on both testing and non-testing activities d) Is not correct. Testers can learn valuable information from the retrospective meeting to apply in subsequent iterations	FA-1.2.3	K2	1
10	c	a) Is not correct. This should be raised in order to help find defects earlier in the process b) Is not correct. This should be raised as a process improvement c) Is correct. The retrospective meeting is not meant to single out individuals, but to focus on improvements of the process, and the team as a whole d) Is not correct. This should be raised as a process improvement	FA-1.2.3	K2	1
11	d	a) Is not correct. This is a principle of continuous integration; builds are done at least once per day with automatic deploy and execution of automated unit & integration tests b) Is not correct. Continuous integration allows for constant availability of an executable software at any time and any place, for testing, demonstration, or education purposes c) Is not correct. The Continuous Integration practice enables developers to integrate work constantly, and test constantly, so errors in code can be detected rapidly d) Is correct. Testing should be automated at the unit and integration level to allow for quick feedback on the quality of the build	FA-1.2.4	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
12	d	a) Is not correct. This is expected during iteration planning b) Is not correct. This is expected during iteration planning c) Is not correct. This is expected during iteration planning d) Is correct. This is expected during release planning	FA-1.2.5	K1	1
13	d	a) Is not correct. The tester participates in the creation of the user story b) Is not correct. The user story should include both functional and non-functional requirements c) Is not correct. The user story is written collaboratively by the developers, testers, and business representatives d) Is correct. In an Agile environment, user stories are written to capture requirements from the perspectives of developers, testers, and business representatives. The collaborative authorship of the user story can use techniques such as brainstorming and mind mapping	Keyword	K1	1
14	b	a) Is not correct. Agile testing promotes lightweight documentation b) Is correct. Test automation at all levels occurs in many agile teams. As the developers focus on automating tests on unit level, testers should focus on automating tests on integration, system, and acceptance level. In traditional projects it is not as common to have the same focus on automation. Sometimes automation is done once the system testing is completed in order to work with a stable system or just to automate regression tests for maintenance purposes after the system is deployed to production c) Is not correct. The team decides d) Is not correct. Tester interaction with other teams is a good practice in all development models	FA-2.1.1	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
15	a	<p>a) Is correct. These three perspectives (tester, developer, and business representative) are important to define when a feature is done</p> <p>b) Is not correct. Test level entry and exit criteria are more closely associated with traditional lifecycles</p> <p>c) Is not correct. Features should be verified in the same iteration in which they are developed</p> <p>d) Is not correct. Features should be verified in the same iteration in which they are developed</p>	FA-2.1.2	K2	1
16	a, e	<p>a) Is correct. This is one of the hallmarks of agile projects</p> <p>b) Is not correct. Many agile project teams still have independent test teams with test managers</p> <p>c) Is not correct. Testing is still a specialized role in agile, when done properly</p> <p>d) Is not correct. Developers and testers work collaboratively to develop and test a feature</p> <p>e) Is correct. Agile teams can employ various forms of acceptance testing</p>	FA-2.1.3	K2	1
17	b	<p>a) Is not correct. This is a true statement. This can happen when testers and developers work closely together</p> <p>b) Correct. This is a false statement. Independent testers CAN find more defects than developers, but this is dependent on the level of testing being performed and also the expertise of the independent tester</p> <p>c) Is not correct. This is a true statement. This is an option which preserves a level of independence where there are separate test and development teams, and testers are assigned on-demand at the end of a sprint</p> <p>d) Is not correct. This is a true statement. This option is satisfied when there are some specialized testers working on non-sprint or long-term activities</p>	FA-2.1.3	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
18	b	<p>a) Is not correct. This may be an indicator of quality, but it assumes that sufficient testing has been conducted to identify all possible defects. Also, it does not identify if the system is considered to be “working software” at this point</p> <p>b) Is correct. Positive customer feedback and working software are key indicators to product quality</p> <p>c) Is not correct. This is a good indication of team velocity, but does not provide information on the quality of the product</p> <p>d) Is not correct. This is also a good indication of team velocity, but again does not provide information on the quality of the product</p>	FA-2.2.1	K2	1
19	a	<p>a) Is correct. Burndown charts show the planned progress and release date together with the actual progress of the user stories</p> <p>b) Is not correct. Automation logs show tests that have passed and failed and is not linked to any form of estimates</p> <p>c) Is not correct. While the agile task board shows progress, this information is then used in the burndown chart. But the task board showing the progress of the user stories and tasks do not have anything to do with estimates</p> <p>d) Is not correct. The defect tracking tool can show progress of defect reports and can be used to establish the quality level of the product. But it does not relate to the team’s progress against estimate</p>	FA-2.2.1	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
20	a	<p>a) Is correct. As this feature has previously been delivered, a review of all test assets is required, which should result in the updating of test cases to meet new acceptance criteria, to ensure false negatives (i.e., invalid failing tests) do not occur. This is the initial task to be performed before a decision about any other changes can be made</p> <p>b) Is not correct. This would not be the initial task to perform, as the tester would not know what new tests would be required for these changes without reviewing the current tests first. There may not be a need to add new tests – updates to existing tests may suffice</p> <p>c) Is not correct. While this is good practice, it does not address the specific regression risk identified in this scenario</p> <p>d) Is not correct. Same as with choice b). Without reviewing the current tests for this feature, it is unknown if additional automation is required</p>	FA-2.2.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
21	b	Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agile expects and manages change and each iteration will require more and more regression testing. If automation was not used, then the team's velocity would be reduced ii. This is not a reason to introduce automation on a project iii. We cannot retest/rerun all the test cases from a previous iteration. There are many test cases produced, with most being through manual exploratory testing, and it would not be feasible to automate everything iv. Automation will help avoid regression in the product due to the high number of changes. But it will not guarantee that defects have not been introduced v. Automation tools are linked to continuous integration tools that will execute and will highlight instantaneously if the new code breaks the build Thus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct b) Is correct c) Is not correct d) Is not correct 	FA-2.2.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
22	d	Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agile projects embrace and expect change; however, this does not mean it happens daily ii. This is true, the earlier the agile team gets feedback on quality, the better iii. Test first and continuous integration require tests to be automated and to provide feedback on build, as part of automated build process iv. Testing should be done throughout each iteration, not only at the end v. Agile projects require different levels of testing, such as unit, system, and acceptance testing Thus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct b) Is not correct c) Is not correct d) Is correct 	FA-2.3.1	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
23	c	Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. This task is a collaborative effort for the whole team ii. This activity is expected of the agile tester iii. In agile, defects are communicated regularly with stakeholders iv. This activity is typical for an agile tester v. Pair programming is typically done using two developers; testers are not expected to improve program logic although could review code for testability or maintainability Thus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct b) Is not correct c) Is correct d) Is not correct 	FA-2.3.2	K2	1
24	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct. This is true. Part of the tester's role is to produce automation scripts, run and maintain them b) Is not correct. This is true. The tester should coach all other team members in any testing related aspect c) Is correct. This is false. It is the Scrum Master's role (or what the equivalent role is called in other agile methodologies) to produce and update the burndown chart from the information supplied by the rest of the team d) Is not correct. Within agile, the tester will provide feedback on the product at all stages, which might include code analyzing activities 	FA-2.3.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
25	c	a) Is not correct. This explanation probably refers to “burnout” rather than “burndown” b) Is not correct. This definition is describing the agile task board c) Is correct. The burndown chart shows progress of the user stories that are complete (done), and an estimate of the remaining time to complete the rest of the user stories in the sprint d) Is not correct. Burndown charts do not have any reference to defects fixed or waiting to be fixed	Keyword	K1	1
26	d	a) Is not correct. Test-Driven Development (TDD) is a technique used to develop code guided by automated test cases. It is also known as test first programming since tests are written before the code. The tests are automated and are used in continuous integration b) Is not correct. The process for TDD is repeated for each small piece of code, running the previous tests as well as the added tests c) Is not correct. The tests serve as a form of executable design specification for future maintenance efforts d) Is correct. This is true of BDD – not TDD	FA-3.1.1	K1	1
27	c	a) Is not correct. The workload for each sprint has nothing to do with the Test Pyramid concept b) Is not correct. The testing backlog and number of tests has nothing to do with the Test Pyramid concept c) Is correct. The test pyramid emphasizes having more tests at the lower levels and a decreasing number of tests at the higher levels d) Is not correct. The number of automated tests has nothing to do with the Test Pyramid concept	FA-3.1.2	K1	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
28	a	a) Is correct. The testing quadrants can be used as an aid to describe the types of tests to all stakeholders b) Is not correct. This is not a good metric since not all test levels/types are applicable for a given system c) Is not correct. The number of tests from each quadrant is dependent on the system under test and will rarely be equal for all quadrants. In some situations, there may not be any tests for a quadrant d) Is not correct. The testing quadrants have no correlation with risk level	FA-3.1.3	K2	1
29	c	a) Is not correct. These test cases are not unit tests or component tests b) Is not correct. Usability tests are part of the 3 rd and performance tests are part of the 4 th quadrant c) Is correct d) Is not correct. Usability tests are part of the 3 rd quadrant	FA-3.1.3	K2	1
30	b	a) Is not correct. Modifying the test automation framework and scripts to support the new type of browser may not be worth the effort if the risk is low that new defects will be found. A risk analysis should be done including the whole team and a collaborative decision should be made b) Is correct. The decision to modify the test automation framework and scripts should be done collaboratively with the whole team. The tester is then responsible to make changes to the iteration plan as required c) Is not correct. The tester must notify the team who will then together decide what to do with the issue d) Is not correct. It is not up to the tester alone to determine scope of work. This issue will be addressed by creating a new user story or modifying an existing user story, and will be addressed by the entire team during sprint planning	FA-3.1.4	K3	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
31	a, d	<p>a) Is correct. The information from the risk analysis is used during poker planning sessions to determine priorities of items to be completed in the iteration. Only after the poker planning sessions, would items be added to the backlog if it is determined that not all items can be completed in the iteration</p> <p>b) Is not correct. At this point, we do not know if we have time to complete all tasks in the iteration. Just because something is high risk does not mean it will take a lot of effort to complete. We would only know after poker planning sessions</p> <p>c) Is not correct. The iteration length of times is not extended. After the poker planning session, some items may be moved to backlog if determined there is not enough time to complete</p> <p>d) Is correct. Risk mitigation can be done before test execution occurs to reduce the level of risk</p> <p>e) Is not correct. A planning poker session should be held first to determine what can be accomplished in the given iteration. If it is determined that there is not enough time to complete all items, it is probable that the lower risk items will be added to the backlog for future sprints</p>	FA-3.2.1	K3	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
32	b	a) Is not correct. The customers and developers may have overlooked the difficulty of the test technique needed to validate the user story. Discussions must be held, and the entire team should agree on the estimate b) Is correct. Planning poker sessions should continue for the user story, until the entire team is satisfied with the estimated effort c) Is not correct. The entire team must agree on the estimate for the user story. The customer alone does not understand the complexity of developing or testing the functionality d) Is not correct. It is not necessary that they match, a rule could be made that the highest estimate is taken, or an average taken of all three estimates. This is up to the team to decide before the planning poker session	FA-3.2.2	K3	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
33	c	Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. This is helpful since we know there is a new version of the standard; existing test cases will need to be modified or new ones will need to be added ii. This is helpful during the risk analysis phase iii. This information is not helpful, since user access is changing with the new release of the device and new user stories have been documented iv. Because new technology is being introduced, baselines should be obtained using devices with similar technology or defined performance requirements for this type of technology v. This is helpful during the risk analysis phase Thus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct b) Is not correct c) Is correct d) Is not correct 	FA-3.3.1	K3	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
34	c	<p>a) Is not correct. Both test cases and test charters are used as a basis for what to test. The number of executed test cases does not give any information about what has been covered (The number of test charters do not give any valuable information about coverage, either)</p> <p>b) Is not correct. This statement in itself is insufficient. It needs to be backed up by supporting information regarding test coverage and risks involved</p> <p>c) Is correct. The obtained test coverage with supporting information makes it the best choice, even if more information would be needed. This includes information about found defects, their severity of occurrence, and taxonomy (how many serious problems in each area). This information gives a more complete basis for a release decision. You would also need information regarding the evaluated characteristics and how they affect the total picture regarding the completion of the system, and the related testing</p> <p>d) Is not correct. The finish of an iteration/sprint implies that you stop testing when there is no more time which is not the best criteria for when to stop testing</p>	FA-3.3.2	K2	1
35	b, c	<p>a) Is not correct. Not testable, there are no details on the type of white box testing, or the coverage expected</p> <p>b) Is correct. This is testable</p> <p>c) Is correct. This is testable</p> <p>d) Is not correct. Not testable, we do not know what a reasonable response time is</p> <p>e) Is not correct. Not testable, need to specify which browsers. One could make assumptions on what the major browsers are</p>	FA-3.3.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
36	d	Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. User story is specific to customers' transaction history ii. This test is specific to a bank teller role and results in viewing customer's bank transactions iii. This test is specific to a bank teller role and results in viewing customer's bank transactions iv. This test is specific to a bank teller role and results in viewing customer's bank transactions v. User story does not mention performance requirements Thus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct b) Is not correct c) Is not correct d) Is correct 	FA-3.3.3	K3	1
37	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is not correct. The focus of this user story is not on the state of the system; instead, the expectation is to test shipping costs b) Is not correct. The focus of this user story is not on whether the item is shipped as expected; the expectation is to test shipping costs c) Is correct. BVA is the best option when testing shipping costs d) Is not correct. The focus of this user story is not on whether the item is shipped as expected, the expectation is to test shipping costs 	FA-3.3.4	K3	1

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
38	a	<p>a) Is correct. In exploratory testing documentation of test execution and actual results is necessary. It is not sufficient to log defects only.</p> <p>b) Is not correct. Exploratory testing is known as an experienced based approach to testing, which will be as effective as the tester running the tests. The benefit of this approach is that the tests that will be designed and executed will influence the next set of tests that are designed and executed</p> <p>c) Is not correct. Exploratory testing is not a technique but an approach to testing that can use other techniques such as pairwise, classification trees, boundary value analysis etc.</p> <p>d) Is not correct. It is recommended to limit the duration of exploratory testing sessions in the test charter. This answer implies that there should never be a time limit.</p>	FA-3.3.5	K3	1
39	c	<p>a) Is not correct. This would be one of the purposes of a wiki, not an ALM tool</p> <p>b) Is not correct. This would be one of the purposes of a Continuous Integration (CI) tool, not an ALM tool</p> <p>c) Is correct. This is one of many purposes of an ALM tool, but using the tool allows more collaboration with distributed teams than physical task boards</p> <p>d) Is not correct. This would be one of the purposes of a data generation and data load tool, not an ALM tool</p>	FA-3.4.1	K1	1
40	b	<p>a) Is not correct. This is true, see section 3.3.5 of syllabus</p> <p>b) Is correct. Test charters are created prior to execution which include test objectives and test ideas</p> <p>c) Is not correct. This is true, see section 3.3.4 of syllabus</p> <p>d) Is not correct. This is true; the tester needs good understanding of how the system is used and how to determine when it fails</p>	Keyword	K1	1