An overview

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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)
With the new Expert Level, ISTQB offers career paths for testers

Foundations

Advanced

Test Manager

Test Analyst, Technical Test Analyst

Test management path

Test Analyst path

Expert

Test Management

Improving the Test Process

Test Automation

Security Testing

More planned
Achieving Expert Level: Criteria

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

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

Exam passed (> 75%)

**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
- At least 1 published paper OR a testing conference presentation on Expert topic
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 75% 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 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
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
Elements required for Roll-Out.

- TP: Course Materials Created
- ISTQB: Syllabus Released
- NB / Certifier: Exams & Markers available
- ISTQB: Guidelines & Rules Released
- NB: Accreditations performed

Module available at Expert Level

Managed by Expert Level Working Group (ELWG)
Module available at Expert Level

- Improving the Test Process:
  - Test Management
  - Test Automation
  - Security Testing

- Released (June 2010)
  - Beta (possible release December 2011)
  - In development (Beta March 2012)
  - In development (Beta October 2012)
ISTQB: Syllabus Released

TP: Course Materials Created

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Module available at Expert Level

• Expert Overview
• General Structure & Rules
• EL Exam Rules & Recommendations
• Improving the Test Process:
• Test Management

• Released March 2011
• Released March 2011
• Release October 2011
• Exam Guidelines (October 2011)
• Exam Guidelines (October 2011)
- Improving the Test Process:
  - Test Management

- Work in progress
  - Work in progress
ISTQB: Syllabus Released

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ISTQB: Guidelines & Rules Released

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Module available at Expert Level

• International group being formed to cooperate on accrediting English language courses
• ISTQB: Practice exam for Test Management available November 2011
• ISTQB: Practice exam for Improving the Test Process planned June 2012
• Creation of exam questions is currently on the critical path
• Procedure for marking essay papers under design
Further Information from the ISTQB web-site [www.istqb.org](http://www.istqb.org)

- ISTQB Expert Level Modules Overview. This document provides a high level description of each Expert Level module, including the business outcomes.

- ISTQB Expert Level: Certification Extension Policy. This document describes how to renew Expert Level certification by obtaining Certification Extension Credits.


- ISTQB Expert Level Syllabus: Test Management.
ISTQB
Expert Level

Any questions?