BCS Intermediate Certificate in Software Testing
Specimen Questions

Record your surname/last/family name and initials on the answer sheet.

**Specimen questions only.** 8 scenario based multiple-choice questions selected randomly from the various scenarios available – 1 mark awarded to each question, but with no specific pass mark. Mark only one answer to each question. There are no trick questions.

The time allowed for this test is 20 minutes.

A mock, or **sample exam** is also available for purchase all answers, but no feedback.

The sample and full BCS Intermediate Certificate in Software Testing exams will be 25 scenario based multiple choice questions, with a pass mark of 15/25 (60%)
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# Answer sheet

Surname (last/family): ______________________ Initials: _______

Please add your answer to the table below, and at the end of the specimen questions test, check your answers against the answer key.

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Specimen questions

Scenarios and specimen questions have been randomly selected.

Scenario 1

A software supplier (A-SUP) has been engaged to provide an embedded component for monitoring the flow of liquid and temperature in a manufacturing process at your company (Pro-Flow). The component will connect to both control monitors, and other parts of the (automated) manufacturing process. The template for a specification of any interfaces to and from embedded components is defined by an international standard, although this does not govern the exact details in this situation. A-SUP uses the V-model for software development.

Pro-Flow has not engaged A-SUP before, although recommendations from other customers were obtained. The correct working of this component is seen as critical to the survival of Pro-Flow in a very competitive environment. Requirements have been defined, but the system design specification has not been signed off. Coding has not yet begun.

1. For which of the following would a technical review be recommended at this time?
   A. The international standard.
   B. The code for the component.
   C. The template for creating the interface specifications.
   D. The specification for the interface.

2. What test estimation technique would be appropriate at this time?
   A. Seek opinion from those who have tested in similar circumstances, both inside of Pro-flow and externally.
   B. Ask A-SUP for their estimate, and start with this.
   C. Use Function Point Analysis (FPA) to determine the complexity, and calculate testing accordingly.
   D. Make an estimate based upon a quick view of the partially completed documentation.
Scenario 2

A marketing company (MC) is replacing its current mainframe “Address Management System” (AMS) with a client/server system. The AMS is a commercial off the shelf (COTS) product provided by a third party. It will require some customisation, which will be specified by the marketing company and built and component tested by the AMS vendor. The AMS is not subject to any statutory regulations and there is no documented development methodology.

MC’s own development team will have responsibility for the design and build of a number of interfaces to ensure the system will integrate with other internal systems as well as some external applications.

You are the Test Manager employed by the marketing company for the project. You have decided to adopt a preventative approach to testing.

3 MC does NOT currently have access to an incident management tool.

A senior test analyst has created an incident reporting template which contains the following:

- Incident title and description.
- Date raised.
- Tester.
- Stages to reproduce.

What additional fields should be added to the incident reporting template?

A Severity, ID, Status, COTS software version.
B Severity, ID, Status, Version of customised software under test.
C Priority, ID, COTS software version, Date fixed.
D Priority, Status, Version of customised software under test, Date fixed.
Scenario 3

A construction company (Quick Build) has expanded quickly by purchasing other small companies. Currently, purchasing, accounts and management information are handled centrally, but other administrative functions are undertaken on a number of different systems, using old software and hardware.

Historically, the complex system interfaces have been a problem, with seemingly insignificant changes having far-reaching consequences.

A drive is under way to rationalise applications, taking advantage of the opportunity to move to a Client-Server architecture. This plan will take some time to complete. Meanwhile, the existing operations have to be supported, and business changes that save money, or are required for legal reasons need to be rolled out.

You are the test manager.

4 Existing systems are continually being amended as user Change Requests (CRs) and Problem Reports (PRs) are received, analysed and implemented.

How can testers BEST ensure that amendments to existing applications are reflected in the new applications being developed?

A Prevent changes being applied to existing systems until the new applications are delivered.
B Ensure that User Representatives who know of planned and recently implemented changes are involved in test design for the replacement applications.
C Build regression test packs of core functionality, and continually amend these as new features are added to existing applications.
D Design tests that will run on both the existing and the new application architecture and run these on the appropriate application.
Scenario 6

Your company, Southern Stone, is purchasing a software package which runs on a client server platform. The primary aim of purchasing this package is to launch a new product in the market ahead of your competition. However, significant customisation is required in order to accommodate your company’s unique business processes. The software will run on a new platform.

The software vendor, FinApps, is running the project on your company’s behalf, using their in-house iterative development methodology. In order to meet the tight business deadlines, customised functions will be released into production over a series of incremental releases. In addition to the need for the software to meet your company’s functional and operational requirements, it is important that the software meets financial regulatory requirements, which are well defined. Testing will be done by a combined team drawn from FinApps and Southern Stone.

5. Which of the following processes will be the MOST important for the project management process to interface with during the development?

A. Configuration and change management to ensure modifications are tracked.
B. Technical support to ensure the new platform does not cause system down time.
C. Technical writing to ensure user manuals are ready in time for system delivery.
D. Training to ensure users understand how the system works.

6. The financial regulatory requirements require traceability of requirements and evidence of adequate testing. Which of the following should be present in exit criteria to ensure these conditions are met?

a. Appropriate coverage measures defined and achieved.
b. All specifications reviewed.
c. All software defects resolved.
d. Requirements formally controlled.
e. Tests and requirements cross referenced.

A. b, c and d.
B. a, d and e.
C. a, c and e.
D. b, d, and e.
Scenario 7

A desktop application has been commissioned by the Oxfield and Bambridge examination body to be used by Examination Officers with limited IT knowledge.

The purpose of the application is to automatically create an exam paper of 50 questions from a database of 300 examination questions according to the rules set by a governing body. The rules specify how the 50 questions should be split by difficulty level and also according to the section of the syllabus they cover.

Questions are graded at 3 levels of difficulty and exams must include a fixed proportion of questions at each level. In addition, questions must achieve a defined balance between the 5 main topics in the syllabus. The application delivers an examination paper that meets the criteria, with questions distributed in a random way by level and topic.

The project team is small and they use an agile approach.

7 A new syllabus has been released and requires an examination to be developed urgently. The new examination requires more questions with a different breakdown. Questions will be scenario-based, so questions and scenarios need to be selected together. How will the approach to testing need to be changed?

A Change to a V life cycle to better manage the risks.
B Use the same approach as before with minor changes to test scripts.
C Use code inspections at each iteration to ensure correctness of the code.
D Introduce a walkthrough at the start to discuss the changes and agree an approach.
Scenario 8

A small software house, AirSoft, has been successful over a number of years with products aimed at the aviation industry. They now have an opportunity to contribute to a new project because of their unique skills in a particular operational area. Their processes mandate the use of the V life cycle and specifies coverage measures to be achieved for testing. You are AirSoft’s Test Manager and you will manage the new project.

8 Which of the following would you expect to see in AirSoft’s test policy?

a. Determining what will be tested, and what will not be tested.
b. The metrics to be collected to assist in process improvement.
c. Completion criteria to be used for safety critical projects.
d. The overall approach to testing to be employed.
e. Which test techniques are to be used in all testing.

A d and e.
B a and c.
C c and d.
D b and e.

- End of Specimen Questions Test –

The answer key (no feedback) commences on the next page – do not turn over this page until you have completed the answer sheet for these specimen questions.
**Answer key**

The table below shows the correct answers to the questions in this set of specimen questions.

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