

ISTQB® Certified Tester

Advanced Level Syllabus
Exam Structure and Rules

Test Analyst
Technical Test Analyst

Version 2019

International Software Testing Qualifications Board



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The authors wish to thank the members of the Exam Working Group and the Advanced Level Working Group for their comments and suggestions.

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This document was formally released by the General Assembly of the ISTQB® on October 18, 2019.

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
2012	19 OCT2012	GA release for 2012 version
2019 Beta	22 JUL 2019	Beta Review
2019 V1.0	18 OCT 2019	GA release for 2019 version
2019 V1.1	19 DEC 2019	Launch version Typos corrected Headers and footers adjusted

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0. General

0.1 Validity

All ISTQB® 2019 Advanced Level examinations for the Test Analyst and Technical Test Analyst modules run after October 18· 2020 shall comply with the structure and rules described in this document, regardless of language and media.

Please refer to the 2012 version of the Advanced Level Exam Structure and Rules document for information concerning the Advanced Level Core Test Manager module.

0.2 Purpose

This document contains structure and rules for the setup of examinations related to the following ISTQB® 2019 Advanced Level syllabi:

- Test Analyst
- Technical Test Analyst

0.3 Scope

This document covers:

- the number of questions per examination;
- the length of the examination;
- the distribution of questions per topic (chapter); and
- the distribution of questions per cognitive level.

0.4 Document Responsibility

General responsibility for this document is under the ISTQB® Examination Working Group.

0.5 Definitions

- CTAL: Acronym for Certified Tester Advanced Level.
- 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.

1. Advanced Exam Rules

1.1 The 2019 Advanced Level Examinations

- Rule 1.1.1a The 2019 Advanced Level Test Analyst examinations shall be based on the 2019 Advanced Level Test Analyst syllabus [ISTQB_ALTA_SYL]. Answers to examination questions may require the use of material from more than one section of this syllabus.
- Rule 1.1.1b The 2019 Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst examinations shall be based on the 2019 Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst syllabus [ISTQB_ALTTA_SYL]. Answers to examination questions may require the use of material from more than one section of this syllabus.
- Rule 1.1.2 All learning objectives (on cognitive levels K2 to K4) in the syllabus are examinable.

1.2 General Advanced Level Exam Structure

- Rule 1.2.1 Each examination module (i.e. Test Analyst and Technical Test Analyst) 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 ISTQB®. Details on the structure for each examination module are provided in section 3.5 below.
- Rule 1.2.2 The points available for a question should reflect the difficulty of the question. A K2 question is to be allocated 1 point. In general, a K3 question should be allocated 2 points and a K4 question should be allocated 3 points. However, K3 questions may be set at 1, 2, or 3 points, and K4 questions may be set at 2 or 3 points at the discretion of the question author. A more difficult question may require the examinee to have a deeper or more nuanced understanding of the material. A less difficult question may be one where the answer is more straightforward.
- Rule 1.2.3 In general, K2 questions are expected to take 2 minutes to read and answer, 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.
- Rule 1.2.4 The time allowed for each examination is based on the number and K-level of questions required for that module. If the candidate's native language is not the examination language, the candidate is allowed an additional 25%.

Module	Number of questions	Exam Length (in minutes)	Exam Length + 25% (in minutes)
Advanced Test Analyst	40	120	150
Advanced Technical Test Analyst	45	120	150

1.3 Passing Score

- Rule 1.3.1 A score of at least 65% of the total points is required to pass.

1.4 Specific Rules

- Rule 1.4.1 For the rules and recommendations for writing multiple-choice questions see the ISTQB® - Question Writing Rules & Recommendations [QWRR 2017].
- Rule 1.4.2 All questions shall assess at least one Learning Objective from the Advanced Syllabus under examination. Questions may include supporting material at the K1 level from the rest of the syllabus, incorporate concepts from Foundation syllabus LOs and/or include other Foundation syllabus material at the K1 level. Where questions address more than one LO, then the question should primarily address the highest K-Level LO.

2. Question Distribution

Rule 1.5.1 The exam structures for each of the three modules (i.e., Test Analyst and Technical Test Analyst) are provided in the following tables. Each of the exams requires mandatory questions targeted to specific Learning Objectives. In addition, there are certain additional questions based on “selectable” Learning Objectives.

2.1 Advanced Level Test Analyst Exam Structure

Chapter & LO	K-Level	Number of Questions per LO	Number of Questions per Chapter	
TA Chapter 1: 1. The Test Analyst's Activities in the Test Process				
TA-1.2.1	K2	1	Exactly THREE questions from TA-1.2.1, TA-1.3.1, and TA-1.4.1 are required for this chapter.	
TA-1.3.1	K2	1		
TA-1.4.1	K2	1		
TA-1.4.2	K4	2	Exactly TWO questions for TA-1.4.2 are required for this chapter.	
TA-1.4.3	K2	1	Exactly ONE question from TA-1.4.3, TA-1.5.1 and TA-1.6.1 are required for this chapter	
TA-1.5.1	K2			
TA-1.6.1	K2			
Chapter 1 TOTAL			6 mandatory questions	
TA Chapter 2: The Test Analyst's Tasks in Risk-Based Testing				
TA-2.1.1	K3	1	Exactly ONE question, as specified by LO, is required for this chapter.	
Chapter 2 TOTAL			1 mandatory question	
TA Chapter 3: Test Techniques				
TA-3.2.1	K4	1	Exactly SEVENTEEN questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.	
TA-3.2.2	K4	1		
TA-3.2.3	K4	2		
TA-3.2.4	K4	2		
TA-3.2.5	K2	1		
TA-3.2.6	K4	2		
TA-3.2.7	K4	2		
TA-3.2.8	K4	2		
TA-3.3.1	K2	1		
TA-3.3.2	K3	1		
TA-3.3.3	K2	1		
TA-3.4.1	K4	1		
Chapter 3 TOTAL				17 mandatory questions
TA Chapter 4: Testing Software Quality Characteristics				

TA-4.2.1	K2	3	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO
TA-4.2.2	K2		
TA-4.2.3	K2		
TA-4.2.4	K2	3	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO
TA-4.2.5	K2		
TA-4.2.6	K2	3	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO
TA-4.2.7	K4		
Chapter 4 TOTAL			11 mandatory questions
TA Chapter 5: Reviews			
TA-5.2.1	K3	3	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO
TA-5.2.2	K3		
Chapter 5 TOTAL			3 mandatory questions
TA Chapter 6: Test Tools & Automation			
TA-6.2.1	K3	1	Exactly TWO questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter
TA-6.3.1	K2	1	
Chapter 6 TOTAL			2 mandatory questions
TA TOTAL			40 mandatory questions

NOTES:

The time allocated for the exam shall be set at 120 minutes (+25% for non-native language examinees). The calculated time for the exam, based on the expected time per question as described in Rule 1.2.3, is 120 minutes.

The total number of points for this exam should be set at 80 points. Therefore, a minimum of 52 points is required to achieve a passing score.

2.2 Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst Exam Structure

Chapter & LO	K-Level	Number of Questions per LO	Number of Questions per Chapter
TTA Chapter 1: The Technical Test Analyst's Tasks in Risk-Based Testing			
TTA-1.2.1	K2	1	Exactly TWO questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.
TTA-1.2.2	K2	1	
Chapter 1 TOTAL			2 mandatory questions
TTA Chapter 2: White-box testing			
TTA-2.2.1	K3	1	Exactly EIGHT questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.
TTA-2.3.1	K3	1	
TTA-2.4.1	K3	1	
TTA-2.5.1	K3	1	

TTA-2.6.1	K3	1	
TTA-2.7.1	K2	1	
TTA-2.8.1	K4	2	
Chapter 2 TOTAL			8 mandatory questions
TTA Chapter 3: Analytical Techniques			
TTA-3.2.1	K3	2	Exactly SEVEN questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.
TTA-3.2.2	K2	1	
TTA-3.2.3	K3	2	
TTA-3.2.4	K2	1	
TTA-3.3.1	K3	1	
Chapter 3 TOTAL			7 mandatory questions
TTA Chapter 4: Quality Characteristics for Technical Testing			
TTA-4.2.1	K4	2	Exactly EIGHT questions for the four LOs
TTA-4.2.2	K3	2	
TTA-4.2.3	K2	2	
TTA-4.2.4	K3	2	
TTA-4.3.1	K2	1	Either LO TTA-4.3.1 or TTA-4.3.2
TTA-4.3.2	K2		
TTA-4.4.1	K2	1	Either LO TTA-4.4.1 or TTA-4.4.2
TTA-4.4.2	K2		
TTA-4.5.1	K2	1	Either LO TTA-4.5.1 or TTA-4.5.2
TTA-4.5.2	K2		
TTA-4.6.1	K2	2	Exactly TWO from TTA-4.6.1, TTA-4.7.1, TTA-4.8.1
TTA-4.7.1	K2		
TTA-4.8.1	K2		
Chapter 4 TOTAL			13 mandatory questions
TTA Chapter 5: Reviews			
TTA-5.1.1	K2	1	Exactly FIVE questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.
TTA-5.2.1	K4	2	
TTA-5.2.2	K4	2	
Chapter 5 TOTAL			5 mandatory questions
TTA Chapter 6: Test Tools & Automation			
TTA-6.1.1	K2	1	Exactly TEN questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter
TTA-6.1.2	K2	1	
TTA-6.1.3	K2	1	
TTA-6.1.4	K3	1	
TTA-6.2.1	K2	1	
TTA-6.2.2	K2	1	
TTA-6.2.3	K2	1	
TTA-6.2.4	K2	1	
TTA-6.2.5	K2	1	
TTA-6.2.6	K2	1	

	Chapter 6 TOTAL	10 mandatory questions
	TTA TOTAL	45 mandatory questions

NOTES:

The time allocated for the exam shall be set at 120 minutes (+25% for non-native language examinees). The calculated time for the exam, based on the expected time per question as described in Rule 1.2.3, is 120 minutes.

The total number of points for this exam should be set at 76 points. Therefore, a minimum of 49 points is required to achieve a passing score.

3. Appendix A: Example Examination Structures

3.1 Example Advanced Level Test Analyst Exam Structure

The table below shows an example of how a valid Advanced Test Analyst examination could be constructed by following the rules listed in section 2.2.

Chapter & LO	K-Level	Points	Mins	Rule	Question Number
TA-1.2.1	K2	1	2	Exactly THREE questions from TA-1.2.1, TA-1.3.1, and TA-1.4.1 are required for this chapter.	1
TA-1.3.1	K2	1	2		2
TA-1.4.1	K2	1	2		3
TA-1.4.2	K4	3	4	Exactly TWO questions for TA-1.4.2 are required for this chapter.	4
	K4	3	4		5
TA-1.4.3	K2	1	2	Exactly ONE question from TA-1.4.3, TA-1.5.1 and TA-1.6.1 is required for this chapter	6
TA-1.5.1	K2				
TA-1.6.1	K2				
TA-2.1.1	K3	2	3	Exactly ONE question, as specified by LO, is required for this chapter.	7
TA-3.2.1	K4	3	4	Exactly SEVENTEEN questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.	8
TA-3.2.2	K4	3	4		9
TA-3.2.3	K4	3	4		10
	K4	3	4		11
TA-3.2.4	K4	3	4		12
	K4	3	4		13
TA-3.2.5	K2	1	2		14
TA-3.2.6	K4	3	4		15
	K4	3	4		16
TA-3.2.7	K4	3	4		17
	K4	3	4		18
TA-3.2.8	K4	3	4		19
	K4	3	4		20
TA-3.3.1	K2	1	2		21
TA-3.3.2	K3	2	3		22
TA-3.3.3	K2	1	2		23
TA-3.4.1	K4	3	4		24
TA-4.2.1	K2	1	2	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO	25
	K2	1	2		26
TA-4.2.2	K2	1	2		27
TA-4.2.3	K2	1	2	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO	28
	K2	1	2		29
TA-4.2.4	K2	1	2	30	
TA-4.2.5	K2	1	2	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO	31
	K2	1	2		32
TA-4.2.6	K2	1	2	33	
TA-4.2.7	K4	3	4	Exactly TWO questions, as specified by the LO	34
	K4	3	4		35
TA-5.2.1	K3	2	3	Exactly THREE questions for the two LOs. At least ONE question per LO	36
	K3	2	3		37
TA-5.2.2	K3	2	3		38
TA-6.2.1	K3	2	3	Exactly TWO questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter	39
TA-6.3.1	K2	1	2		40
		80	120	40 mandatory questions	

3.2 Example Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst Exam Structure

The table below shows an example of how a valid Advanced Technical Test Analyst examination could be constructed by following the rules listed in section 2.3.

LO	K-level	Points	Mins	Rule	Question Nr
TTA-1.2.1	K2	1	2	Exactly TWO questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.	1
TTA-1.2.2	K2	1	2		2
TTA-2.2.1	K3	2	3	Exactly EIGHT questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.	3
TTA-2.3.1	K3	2	3		4
TTA-2.4.1	K3	2	3		5
TTA-2.5.1	K3	2	3		6
TTA-2.6.1	K3	2	3		7
TTA-2.7.1	K2	1	2		8
TTA-2.8.1	K4	3	4		9
		3	4		10
TTA-3.2.1	K3	2	3	Exactly SEVEN questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.	11
		2	3		12
TTA-3.2.2	K2	1	2		13
TTA-3.2.3	K3	2	3		14
	K3	2	3		15
TTA-3.2.4	K2	1	2		16
TTA-3.3.1	K3	2	3		17
TTA-4.2.1	K4	3	4	Exactly EIGHT questions for the four LOs	18
	K4	3	4		19
TTA-4.2.2	K3	2	3		20
	K3	2	3		21
TTA-4.2.3	K2	1	2		22
	K2	1	2		23
TTA-4.2.4	K3	2	3		24
	K3	2	3		25
TTA-4.3.1	K2	1	2	Either LO TTA-4.3.1 or TTA-4.3.2	26
TTA-4.3.2	K2				
TTA-4.4.1	K2	1	2	Either LO TTA-4.4.1 or TTA-4.4.2	27
TTA-4.4.2	K2				
TTA-4.5.1	K2	1	2	Either LO TTA-4.5.1 or TTA-4.5.2	28
TTA-4.5.2	K2				
TTA-4.6.1	K2	1	2	Exactly TWO from TTA-4.6.1, TTA-4.7.1, TTA-4.8.1	29
TTA-4.7.1	K2	1	2		30
TTA-4.8.1	K2				
TTA-5.1.1	K2	1	2	Exactly FIVE questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter.	31
TTA-5.2.1	K4	3	4		32
	K4	3	4		33
TTA-5.2.2	K4	3	4		34
	K4	3	4		35
TTA-6.1.1	K2	1	2	Exactly TEN questions, as specified by LO, are required for this chapter	36
TTA-6.1.2	K2	1	2		37
TTA-6.1.3	K2	1	2		38
TTA-6.1.4	K3	2	2		39
TTA-6.2.1	K2	1	2		40
TTA-6.2.2	K2	1	2		41
TTA-6.2.3	K2	1	2		42

TTA-6.2.4	K2	1	2		43
TTA-6.2.5	K2	1	2		44
TTA-6.2.6	K2	1	2		45
		76	120	40 mandatory questions	

3.3 ISTQB® Documents

[ISTQB_ALTA_SYL] ISTQB® Advanced Level Test Analyst Syllabus, Version 2019

[ISTQB_ALTTA_SYL] ISTQB® Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst Syllabus, Version 2019

[QWRR_2017] ISTQB® - Question Writing Rules & Recommendations Version 2017