

Certified Tester Foundation Level

Acceptance Testing

Exam Structure and Rules

Version 2019

International Software Testing Qualifications Board



Document Category: Regulatory
Document Number:
Release Date:
Effective Date:

Copyright © 2019 ISTQB®, all rights reserved.

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

The authors transfer the copyright to the International Software Testing Qualifications Board (hereinafter called ISTQB®). The authors (as current copyright holders) and ISTQB® (as the future copyright holder) have agreed to the following conditions of use:

- 1) Any internal ISTQB® recognized Member Board and ISTQB recognized Exam Provider shall use the information contained within this document when writing Foundation Level Acceptance Testing exam questions and setting Foundation Level Acceptance Testing exams.
- 2) Any ISTQB® - recognized Member Board may translate this document.

Table of contents

- 1. General..... 4
 - 1.1. Validity..... 4
 - 1.2. Purpose..... 4
 - 1.3. Scope..... 4
 - 1.4. References 4
 - 1.5. Document Responsibility..... 4
 - 1.6. Revision History..... 4
- 2. Definitions..... 4
- 3. Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Exam Rules..... 4
 - 3.1. The Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Examinations 4
 - 3.2. General Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Exam Structure..... 5
 - 3.3. Specific Rules 5
 - 3.4. Question Distribution 5
- 4. Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Exam Structure 5

1. General

1.1. Validity

All ISTQB Acceptance Testing Foundation Level examinations run after 3 May 2019 shall comply with the structure and rules described in this document, regardless of language and media.

1.2. Purpose

This document contains structure and rules for the setup of examinations related to the ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level – Acceptance Testing syllabus.

1.3. Scope

This document covers:

- a) the number of questions per examination;
- b) the length of the examination;
- c) the distribution of questions per topic (chapter); and
- d) the distribution of questions per learning objective.

1.4. References

[QWRR_2011] ISTQB - Question Writing Rules & Recommendations Version 2011-1

[CTFL_AcT_2019] ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing syllabus Version 2019

1.5. Document Responsibility

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

1.6. Revision History

| Date | Version | Name | Comment |
|------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| 2019/03/18 | GA | AcT team | Final version for GA vote |
| 2017/09/15 | V 1.0 ALPHA | D. Friedenberg | Initial draft for the Alpha Foundation Level syllabus |

2. Definitions

- CTFL_ACT Acronym for Certified Foundation Level Acceptance Testing.
- 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.

3. Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Exam Rules

3.1. The Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Examinations

3.1.1. The Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing examinations shall be based on the Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing syllabus [CTFL_AcT_2019]. Answers to examination questions may require the use of material from more than one section of the syllabus.

3.1.2. All learning objectives (on cognitive levels K1 to K3) in the syllabus are examinable.

3.2. General Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Exam Structure

3.2.1. Each Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing examination 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 4 below.

3.2.2. Each question is worth exactly ONE point.

3.2.3. In general, K1 and K2 questions are expected to take 1 minute to read and answer, K3 questions are expected to take 3 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

3.2.4. The time allowed for each examination is exactly 60 minutes. If the candidate’s native language is not the examination language, the candidate is allowed an additional 25%.

3.2.5. A score of at least 65% is required to pass.

| Module | Number of questions | Number of possible points | Passing score (65%) | Exam Length (in minutes) | Exam Length + 25% (in minutes) |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing | 40 | 40 | 26 | 60 | 75 |

3.3. Specific Rules

3.3.1. For the rules and recommendations for writing multiple-choice questions see the ISTQB - Question Writing Rules & Recommendations [QWRR_2011].

3.3.2. All questions shall assess at least one Learning Objective from the Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Syllabus under examination. Questions may include supporting material at the K1 level from any part of the syllabus, including terms. Where questions address more than one LO, then the question should primarily address the highest K-Level LO.

3.4. Question Distribution

3.4.1. The exam structure for the Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing examination is provided in the following table. Each of the exams requires mandatory questions targeted to specific Learning Objectives as well as a specified number of questions based on “selectable” Learning Objectives.

4. Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing Exam Structure

4.1.1. General Structure

Overview

| Module | Number of questions | Number of possible points | Passing score (65%) | Exam Length (in minutes) | Exam Length + 25% (in minutes) |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing | 40 | 40 | 26 | 60 | 75 |

4.1.2. Question and point distribution

Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing question distribution

| Chapter 1 Question Distribution | K- Level | Number of Questions per LO | Points per question | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| AcT-1.1.1 | K1 | 1 | 1 | <p>There is a total of 6 questions required for Chapter 1. K1 = 1 K2 = 5 K3 = 0</p> <p>Number of points for this chapter = 6</p> |
| AcT-1.1.2 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-1.1.3 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-1.2.1 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-1.2.2 | K1 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-1.2.3 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Chapter 2 Question Distribution | K- Level | Number of Questions per LO | Points per question | |
| AcT-2.1.1 | K3 | 2 | 1 | <p>There is a total of 10 questions required for Chapter 2. K1 = 0 K2 = 6 K3 = 4</p> <p>Number of points for this chapter = 10</p> |
| AcT-2.2.1 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-2.2.2 | K3 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-2.3.1 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-2.3.2 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |

| Chapter 3 Question Distribution | K- Level | Number of Questions per LO | Points per question | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| AcT-3.1.1 | K3 | 2 | 1 | <p>There is a total of 8 questions required for Chapter 3. K1 = 0 K2 = 4 K3 = 4</p> <p>Number of points for this chapter = 8</p> |
| AcT-3.2.1 | K3 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-3.3.1 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-3.3.1 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |
| Chapter 4 Question Distribution | K- Level | Number of Questions per LO | Points per question | |
| AcT-4.1.1 | K2 | 1 | 1 | <p>There is a total of 8 questions required for Chapter 4. K1 = 1 K2 = 7 K3 = 0</p> <p>Number of points for this chapter = 8</p> |
| AcT-4.1.2 | K1 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-4.2.1 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-4.2.2 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-4.3.1 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-4.3.2 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| AcT-4.4.1 | K2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Chapter 5 Question Distribution | K- Level | Number of Questions per LO | Points per question | |
| AcT-5.1.1 | K3 | 2 | 1 | <p>There is a total of 8 questions required for Chapter 5 K1 = 1 K2 = 5 K3 = 2</p> |
| AcT-5.2.1 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |

| | | | | |
|--|----|---|-------------------|--|
| AcT-5.2.2 | K2 | 1 | 1 | Number of points for this chapter = 8 |
| AcT-5.2.3 | K2 | 2 | 1 | |
| AcT-5.3.1 | K1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing TOTALS | | | 60 minutes | 40 questions TOTAL |