






# Everything You Wanted to Know About ISTQB Advanced Level Certification

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## Agenda

- Current state of the syllabus and ISTQB certifications (5 mins.)
- The value of advanced certification (5 mins.)
- Explaining each of the advanced certifications (10 mins.)
- More about the syllabus, topics and timings (10 mins.)
- About the exam (5 mins.)
- Going beyond advanced certification (5 mins.)
- Where to start (5 mins.)
- How to prepare (5 - 10 mins.)
- Your questions and comments (15 mins.)





## Current State Of The Syllabus And ISTQB Certifications

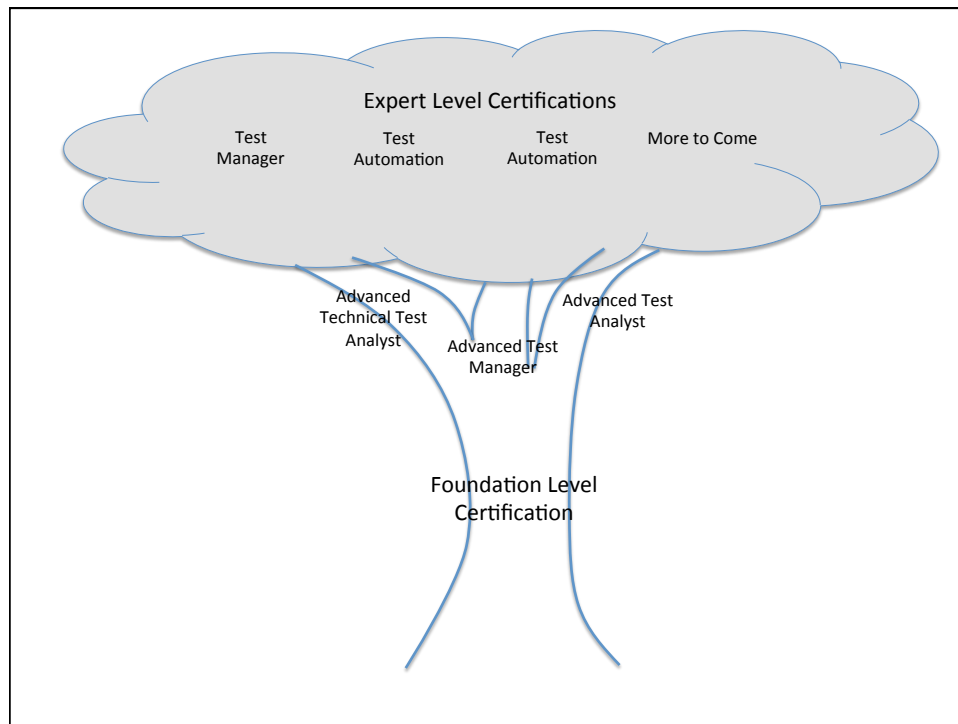
- Over 160,000 foundation levels testers worldwide!
  - Just passed the 10,000 mark in the USA.
- Advanced exams were introduced in 2004.
- Current syllabus is 2007 version.
- Approximately 450 advanced certified in the USA.
  - Only 27 full advanced certifications.
  - More Advance Test Manager holders than any other in the USA.



## The Value of Advanced Certification

- It is a further “setting apart” in the rather large and crowded field of software testing.
- Provides an in-depth framework for testing knowledge.
- Is a stepping stone for expert level certification.
- All of this contributes to learning our craft, profession or livelihood better.





## Explaining Each of the Advanced Certifications

- We'll look at each of the three:
  - Advanced Test Manager
  - Advanced Test Analyst
  - Advanced Technical Test Analyst



## Advanced Test Manager

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- Define the overall **testing goals and strategy** for the systems being tested
- **Plan, schedule and track** the tasks
- Describe and **organize** the necessary activities
- Select, acquire and assign the adequate **resources** to the tasks
- Select, organize and **lead testing teams**
- Organize the **communication** between the members of the testing teams, and between the testing teams and all the other stakeholders
- Justify the decisions and provide adequate **reporting** information where applicable



## Advanced Test Analyst

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- **Structure the tasks** defined in the test strategy in terms of business domain requirements
- **Analyze the system** in sufficient detail to meet the user quality expectations
- **Evaluate the system requirements** to determine domain validity
- **Prepare and execute** the adequate activities, and report on their progress
- **Provide the necessary evidence** to support evaluations
- **Implement the necessary tools and techniques** to achieve the defined goals





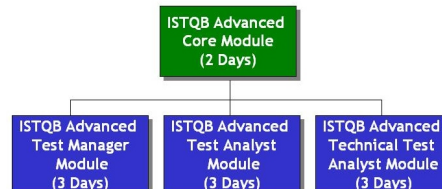
## Advanced Technical Test Analyst

- **Structure the tasks** defined in the test strategy in terms of technical requirements
- **Analyze the internal structure** of the system in sufficient detail to meet the expected quality level
- Evaluate the system in terms of **technical quality attributes such as performance, security, etc.**
- **Prepare and execute the adequate activities**, and report on their progress
- **Conduct technical testing activities**
- **Provide the necessary evidence** to support evaluations
- **Implement the necessary tools and techniques** to achieve the defined goals



## More About the Syllabus, Topics and Timings

- The 2007 syllabus is one document with learning objectives and content for all 3 certifications.
- The general timings for courses is 5 days for each certification.
  - However, there is redundancy between the three areas, so there is accommodation for a 2 day core, plus 3 days for each of the three certifications





## Prerequisites

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- Experience: 3 years of verifiable full-time experience in software or systems testing, development, quality assurance, engineering or a related field,
- Certification Prerequisite: ISTQB Certified Tester, Foundation Level (CTFL)



## About the Exam

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- 65 multiple-choice questions.
  - Some simple
  - Others based on a longer scenario
- 3 hours to take the exam.
- Score of 65% or more is passing at present
- Available as:
  - paper-based exam (public course or in-house)
  - electronic exam (at a Kryterion exam center.)
- \$200 for each advanced exam
- \$100 one-time qualification fee





## Going Beyond Advanced Certification

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- Expert certifications are being released:
  - Expert test manager
  - Improving the test process
- Others are in development:
  - Test automation
  - Security testing
- One or more advanced certifications are required, depending on the expert certification.



## Where to Start

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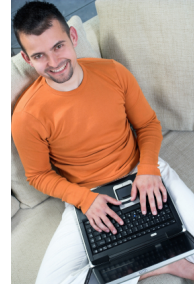
- It depends!
- Most people start with either Advanced Test Manager or Advanced Test Analyst.
- Few people hold (or need) all three.
- Pick the one that best aligns with your job or future goals.



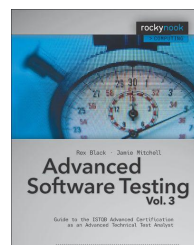
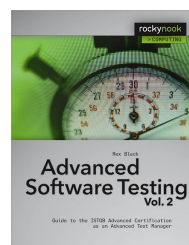
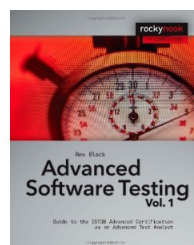


## How to Prepare

- Option 1 – No preparation
  - Not recommended
- Option 2 – Textbooks
  - Inexpensive
- Option 3 – Public and in-house courses
  - Intense courses of 5 days with a test at the end
  - Or, 2+3+3+3
- Option 4 – E-learning
  - At your own pace
- Option 5 – Self-study with mentoring
  - 12 weeks.
  - You prepare on your own with weekly expert guidance.
  - Saturation approach vs. rapid immersion



## Books







## Links

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- 2007 Advanced Syllabus
  - <http://www.astqb.org/documents/AdvancedSyllabus2007.pdf>
- RCS Advanced Study Groups
  - <http://riceconsulting.com/home/index.php/ISTQB-Software-Tester-Certification/istqb-advanced-study-groups-forming.html>
- RCS Advanced Courses
  - [http://www.mysoftwaretesting.com/ISTQB\\_Advanced\\_Test\\_Analyst\\_Course\\_Public\\_Course\\_p/ctaltapub.htm](http://www.mysoftwaretesting.com/ISTQB_Advanced_Test_Analyst_Course_Public_Course_p/ctaltapub.htm)



## Your Questions and Comments

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Thank You!

