

FUTURE QUALIFICATIONS IN SOFTWARE TESTING

The current ISEB Practitioner exam will be phased out at the end of 2007, with the final (re-sit) exam in March 2008.

There are two options for future qualifications, based on different Syllabuses. Both will be available through ISEB.

New ISTQB Advanced Level qualification

Three exams, all multiple-choice with a certificate for each, and an additional 'Full Advanced Level Testing Professional' certificate awarded on gaining all 3.
One 100+ page Syllabus, covering the 3 Advanced Level qualifications, currently called:

- Test Manager
- Test Analyst
- Technical Test Analyst

New ISEB qualification

Three exams based on 3 Syllabuses with a certificate for each.

- Intermediate Certificate in Software Testing, (26-page Syllabus)
1-hour 25 question scenario-based multiple-choice exam
This is a pre-requisite for the other two certificates.
- Practitioner Certificate in Software Test Management (16-page Syllabus)
2-hour essay exam, choosing 4 half-hour questions out of 6
- Practitioner Certificate in Software Test Analysis (15-page Syllabus)
2-hour essay exam, choosing 4 half-hour questions out of 6

The two schemes are quite different, and it has not been possible to merge them.
We recommend supporting the ISTQB Syllabus for the following reasons:

- ISTQB is the international standard for software testing qualifications, and was developed by an international team of testing experts
- the ISTQB Syllabus aligns with the ISTQB Foundation Syllabus adopted by ISEB, all ISTQB Boards (33 to date) and supporting examination boards
- the ISTQB Syllabus, through Learning Objectives and detailed description, makes it clear what should be taught and what will be examined
- ISEB will support the ISTQB Syllabus, so accreditation and exams will be provided using their known expertise and reputation for high quality qualifications
- our international clients prefer an international qualification
- ISTQB recognise existing ISEB Practitioner Certificates as equivalent to the full Advanced Level Testing Professional certificate

27th June 2007