

# FAQ for Paper-based Exam

## What is covered in an ISTQB® exam?

Each exam contains questions aimed at verifying a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the topics detailed in the learning objectives for the respective ISTQB® syllabus.

The [Certified Tester Foundation Level](#) (CTFL) exam only requires knowledge of the CTFL syllabus. All other exams (Foundation, Advanced, Specialist, and Expert) assume knowledge of the CTFL syllabus and may include questions related to this.

Advanced level Agile exams also assume knowledge from the [Agile Tester Foundation](#) (CTFL-AT) certification.

Expert level exams require knowledge of any Advanced level syllabi that have been defined as a prerequisite.

It is expected that the terms defined in the [ISTQB® Glossary](#) are also known for the certification exam being taken (and any pre-requisite certifications).

Browse ISTQB® certifications [here](#) or from the ISTQB® Certified Tester scheme diagram [here](#). Click on a certification to find details of the syllabus, sample exams, and the relevant exam structure and rules documents.

## What is the structure of an ISTQB® exam?

### ISTQB Foundation Level Exam(Core) :

The Foundation Level exam consists of 40 multiple choice questions designed to evaluate a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the entire Foundation syllabus. A grade of 65% or better must be attained in order to pass. The exam is a closed book exam. You have 60 minutes to finish. If English is not your native language, you may take the extended-time ISTQB exam which gives you 25% more time. *Note that ISTQB Foundation Level is a prerequisite for all other ISTQB certifications.*

### ISTQB Agile Exam:

The Agile exam consists of 40 multiple choice questions designed to evaluate a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the Agile syllabus. A grade of 65% or better must be attained in order to pass. The exam is a closed book exam. You have 60 minutes to finish. If English is not

your native language, you may take the extended-time ISTQB exam which gives you 25% more time.

### **ISTQB Advanced Exams:**

To achieve Advanced level certification in the Core stream, candidates must hold the ISTQB® Certified Tester Foundation Level (CTFL) certificate, pass the relevant Advanced Level exam, and have sufficient practical experience (where defined).

Each of the Advanced Level exams is composed of multiple-choice questions that vary in points awarded by knowledge level. They correspond to the three different subject areas: “Technical Test Analyst,” “Test Analyst,” and “Test Manager.” The times are shown below but if English is not your native language, you may take the extended-time ISTQB exam that gives you 25% more time.

- Advanced Level “Test Analyst” has 40 questions to be completed in two hours.
- Advanced Level “Test Manager” has 65 questions to be completed in three hours.
- Advanced Level “Technical Test Analyst” has 45 questions to be completed in two hours.

All three areas must be passed with a grade of 65% or better in order to receive the full Advanced Level certification. You may sit for only one Advanced Level Exam at a time.

To achieve an Advanced level certification in the Agile stream candidates must also hold the ISTQB® Certified Tester Foundation Level Agile Tester certification.

Each of the Agile Advanced Level exams is composed of multiple-choice questions that vary in points awarded by knowledge level. They correspond to the two different subject areas: “Agile Technical Tester” and “Agile Test Leadership at Scale” The times are shown below but if English is not your native language, you may take the extended-time ISTQB exam that gives you 25% more time.

- Advanced Level “Agile Technical Tester” has 40 questions to be completed in ninety minutes.
- Advanced Level “Agile Test Leadership at Scale” has 40 questions to be completed in ninety minutes.

### **ISTQB Testing Specialty Exams:**

Each ISTQB testing specialty exam consists of multiple-choice questions designed to evaluate a candidate’s knowledge and understanding of its syllabus. A grade of 65% or better must be attained in order to pass. The exam is a closed book exam. The times are shown below. Note: If

English is not your native language, you may take the extended-time ISTQB exam which gives you 25% more time.

- Certified Tester Acceptance Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- Certified Tester Usability Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- Certified Tester Model-Based Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- Certified Tester Automotive Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- Certified Tester Performance Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 90 minutes.
- Mobile Application Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- AI Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- Game Testing has 40 questions to be completed in 60 minutes.
- Certified Tester Advanced Level Security Tester has 45 questions to be completed in two hours.
- Certified Tester Advanced Level Test Automation Engineer has 40 questions to be completed in 1.5 hours (90 minutes).

**ISTQB Expert Exam:** The Expert Level is quickly evolving and adding new modules. See the [Expert Level Syllabi](#) for a full listing of available or upcoming Expert Level certifications. Expert Level Test Management consists of three exams:

- Expert Test Management – Strategic
- Expert Test Management – Operational
- Expert Test Management – Managing the Test Team

In order to achieve “CTEL-TM Full” (Certified Tester Expert Level – Test Management Full) all three exams must be passed with a 65% passing score. And one must first qualify by passing the CTAL-TM (Certified Tester Advanced Level – Test Manager) and submitting proof that you have five years of full-time experience in test management.

Each of the exams consists of multiple-choice and essay questions, and examinees must choose to answer two of the three essay questions provided.

Scoring: Your score is determined as follows:

- 35 points possible for multiple-choice questions
- 50 points possible for each of the two essay questions
- 135 total points

When you take any of the ISTQB Expert Level exams, you will not receive your score at the end, since your essays need to be graded by our team of experts. This can take three to four weeks.

See the [Expert Level Syllabi](#) for additional information.

## Registration

### **Are there any pre-requisites to take an ISTQB® exam?**

The Foundation Level Certified Tester (CTFL) exam has no pre-requisites. [Foundation Level Certified Tester \(CTFL\)](#) is a pre-requisite to all other certifications in the ISTQB® Certified Tester Scheme.

The ISTQB® Certified Tester scheme diagram [here](#) shows all of the dependencies between certifications, and pre-requisites are specified on individual certification pages.

### **Where and when can I take an exam?**

Exams are offered by Malaysian Software Testing Board. Please email [secretariat@mstb.org](mailto:secretariat@mstb.org) for information on exam dates, exam delivery options, applicable fees, and booking information.

### **Where can I get the exam dates/calendar/schedule?**

MSTB exam calendar can be downloaded from MSTB Website and you can schedule your exam according to the dates that works best for you. Learn more about the [MSTB exam calendar](#).

### **How much does the ISTQB software testing certification exam cost?**

ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level (CTFL) : RM750.

ISTQB Certified Agile Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified Usability Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified Performance Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified Model-Based Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified Mobile Application Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified Acceptance Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified AI Testing : RM1,050.

ISTQB Certified Game Testing : RM1,050.

Each of the **ISTQB Advanced Level exams** (Test Manager, Test Analyst, Technical Test Analyst, Test Automation Engineer, Security Testing) is RM1,050.

### **When is payment of the ISTQB exam fee due?**

Upon registration for a specific exam.

### **Where can I find sample exams?**

Each certification in the ISTQB® Certified Tester scheme has a sample exam that can be freely downloaded. Visit the individual certification page to access all of the corresponding download materials for a certification, including the sample exam.

Certification pages can be accessed from 'ISTQB Certifications' page [here](#) or from the ISTQB® Certified Tester scheme diagram [here](#).

### **I have scheduled an ISTQB® certification exam, but would like to reschedule it. How can I do that?**

Please email [secretariat@mstb.org](mailto:secretariat@mstb.org) who arranged your exam.

## **During Exam**

### **Can I have a break during the exam?**

For CTFL, CTFL specialist, CPRE, CMT

- No restroom breaks throughout the exam period, except for special cases or emergency.

For Advanced level

- Candidate may request a short restroom break throughout the exam period.

### **Is it allowed to use books, notes or other materials?**

MSTB's exam secretariat will email your certificate within **one week** from the date of the results notification, and upon clearance of any pending fee payments, where applicable.

## **After Exam**

### **When do I see my results?**

MSTB's exam secretariat will provide you with your result and answer any further questions related to your exam. Please email [secretariat@mstb.org](mailto:secretariat@mstb.org) if you have specific questions.

**When do I get my certificate?**

You will get your e- certificate within one week from the date of the results notification, and upon clearance of any pending fee payments, where applicable.

**How often can I take an ISTQB® certification exam? Do I have to pay for re-taking an exam?**

You can take the exams as many times as necessary to pass them. Please email [secretariat@mstb.org](mailto:secretariat@mstb.org) for the fees for re-taking the exams.