Sample Exam – Answers
Sample Exam set A
Version 1.0.2

ISTQB® Agile Technical Tester Syllabus Advanced Level
Compatible with Syllabus version 1.1

International Software Testing Qualifications Board

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Document Responsibility

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Acknowledgements

Revision History

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Version	Date	Remarks
1.0.2	May 12, 2021	Removed wrong, duplicate copyright notice
1.0.1	May 7, 2021	Update of copyright notice Cleanup of layout
1.0	November 14, 2019	First release

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Introduction

Purpose of this document

The sample questions and answers and associated justifications in this sample exam set have been created by a team of Subject Matter Experts and experienced question writers with the aim of assisting ISTQB® Member Boards and Exam Boards in their question writing activities.

These questions cannot be used as-is in any official examination, but they should serve as guidance for question writers. Given the wide variety of formats and subjects, these sample questions should offer many ideas for the individual Member Boards on how to create good questions and appropriate answer sets for their examinations.

Instructions

The answer set is organized in the following way:

- Is correct. Answer – including justification of the answers
- Learning Objective and K-level of Questions
- Answer Key with Learning Objective and K-level for each question

- Questions are contained in a separate document

Answer Key

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	LO	K-Level	Points	Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
1	a, b	ATT-1.1.1-1	K4	3	21	a	ATT-2.1.1.3	K1	1
2	b, d	ATT-1.1.1-2	K2	1	22	b	ATT-2.2.2-1	K1	1
3	a	ATT-1.1.2	K4	3	23	d	ATT-2.3.1-1	K4	3
4	c	ATT-1.x	K1	1	24	c	ATT-2.3.2-1	K2	1
5	a	ATT-2.1.1-2	K2	1	25	d	ATT-2.3.2-2	K4	3
6	d	ATT-2.1.1-1	K3	2	26	d	ATT-4.2.1-1	K4	3
7	b	ATT-2.1.1-3	K2	1	27	a	ATT-1.1.2-2	K2	1
8	a	ATT-2.1.2-1	K3	2	28	a	ATT-1.1.2.2	K2	1
9	b	ATT-2.2.1-1	K4	3	29	c, d	ATT-1.1.1-2	K2	1
10	a	ATT-2.2.1-2	K4	3	30	b, c	ATT-3.1.3-2	K2	1
11	a	ATT-2.2.2-2	K2	1	31	a	ATT-1.x	K2	1
12	a	ATT-2.3.1.2	K2	1	32	a, d	ATT-2.1.3	K1	1
13	b	ATT-2.3.2-1	K4	3	33	c	ATT-3.1.1	K4	3
14	a	ATT-2.x	K1	1	34	d	ATT-3.1.2	K3	2
15	a	ATT-3.1.3-1	K2	1	35	b	ATT-3.2.1-1	K2	1
16	a	ATT-3.1.3-2	K2	1	36	c	ATT-4.1.2	K2	1
17	a	ATT-3.2.1.2	K2	1	37	b	ATT-4.2.1-2	K2	1
18	a	ATT-3.x	K1	1	38	c, e	ATT-4.1.1	K2	1
19	a	ATT-4.1.1	K3	2	39	a, d	ATT-2.3.2-1	K3	2
20	c	ATT-2.3.1-1	K1	1	40	b, d	ATT-1.1.1-2	K1	1

Answers

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
1	a, b	a) Is correct. The Epic could be easily transferred to a storyboard as a visual representation of the system b) Is correct. The Epic could also be easily transferred to a story mapping c) Is not correct. There are not enough different users of the system to use personas to improve quality d) Is not correct. The epic is not big enough to use diagrams and there is nothing mentioned that diagrams are already in use e) Is not correct. The Epic is not big enough (e.g., number of stakeholders or interfaces, etc.)	ATT-1.1.1-1	K4	3
2	b, d	a) Is not correct. Because a 'Storyboard' is neither the 'Agile task board' nor the 'Agile user story board' b) Is correct. Because Syllabus says 'Visualize groups of user stories related to a common area of the system (Themes) which can be considered for inclusion in the same iteration, as they will likely be touching the same piece of code' c) Is not correct. Because fancy answer d) Is correct. Because Syllabus says 'Assist with identifying acceptance criteria for user stories and epics	ATT-1.1.1-2	K2	1
3	a	a) Is correct. The acceptance criteria are following the INVEST criteria b) Is not correct. The acceptance criteria are following the INVEST criteria c) Is not correct. The scope is not as big as the scope of an Epic could be d) Is not correct. As not always are non-functional acceptance criteria needed	ATT-1.1.2	K4	3
4	c	a) Is not correct. See correct answer b) Is not correct. See correct answer c) Is correct. See syllabus 2.1.2 d) Is not correct. See correct answer	ATT-1.x	K1	1

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
5	a	a) Is correct. According to Syllabus 2.1.1 b) Is not correct. Unit test cannot be derived from use cases c) Is not correct. During refactoring unit test must not change to ensure same system behavior d) Is not correct. Unit test should be written in an "atomic" manner	ATT-2.1.1-2	K2	1
6	d	Write additional test classes to test also other relevant aspects of the leap year calculation. Start to write code that covers other relevant aspects of the leap year calculation. Start to write code that makes fail this test case. Start to write code that makes pass this test case. In TDD you should write first test code for one special area, then write code that makes pass this test case. Then you should continue with the next small part. Therefore, D Is correct. And all other answers are wrong	ATT-2.1.1-1	K3	2
7	b	a) Is not correct. See correct answer b) Is correct. Because Syllabus says: 'FIRST = Fast, Isolated, Repeatable, Self-Validating, Thorough' c) Is not correct. See correct answer d) Is not correct. See correct answer	ATT-2.1.1-3	K2	1
8	a	a) Is correct. Right as it fulfills all requirements of the Gherkin language b) Is not correct. There is an else that is not Gherkin format c) Is not correct. There are not enough details to develop and test this spec d) Is not correct. The Given element of gherkin is missing	ATT-2.1.2-1	K3	2

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
9	b	a) Is not correct. Because related to (B) 'Automated Test Suites' are less used. But Automated Testing is key to get reliable feedback in each of the 4-week iterations b) Is correct. Because 'Automated Test Suites' are used to maximum degree, to generate reliable feedback in each of the 4-week iterations. Also 'Specification based manual testing' is used to maximum degree to cover critical features (not covered by automated tests). Manual Exploratory Testing is used in addition only c) Is not correct. Because related to (B) Manual Exploratory Testing d) dominates which is not adequate for testing a safety critical system e) Is not correct. Because related to (B) 'Automated Test Suites' are used less, so manual testing dominates, which is suboptimal for testing in an incremental-4-week iteration development approach	ATT-2.2.1-1	K4	3
10	a	a) Is correct. As mentioned in table 1 on page 17 of the syllabus b) Is not correct. As non-functional tests are not mentioned in the syllabus c) Is not correct. As we are in a mission and safety critical system and risk level is high (see syllabus page 17, table 1) d) Is not correct. As we are in a mission and safety critical system and risk level is high (see syllabus page 17, table 1)	ATT-2.2.1-2	K4	3
11	a	a) Is correct. According to Syllabus 2.2.2 b) Is not correct. Using test charters in exploratory testing is used when a heuristic approach for writing and performing test sessions is needed c) Is not correct. Exploratory testing shall also create insight into better test design, ideas for testing the product, ideas for improvement and so on d) Is not correct. A test basis to measure the coverage, does not exist in a quality good enough and a linkage between specification and test is hard to define	ATT-2.2.2-2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
12	a	a) Is correct b) Is not correct. Although the fact stated is (we are unable to maintain writing detailed test cases in short iterations), nor are the benefits listed c) Is not correct. Refactoring in general, is a way to clean up code in an efficient and controlled manner, by clarifying and simplifying the design of existing code, without changing its behavior. It is not specifically designed for test cases or testing but is used by testers on their test cases for similar reasons d) Is not correct. The process identified in the question is not correct. The correct process steps are: Identification, Analysis of impact, Refactor (Mutate), Re-Run, Evaluate	ATT-2.3.1.2	K2	1
13	b	a) Is not correct. As checkpoint 1 is ok b) Is correct. ToSort should be written as ToSort c) Is not correct. As checkpoint 3 is ok d) Is not correct. As checkpoint 2 is not ok	ATT-2.3.2-1	K4	3
14	a	a) Is correct. According to Syllabus 2.1.1 b) Is not correct. Because the execution of all existing tests is missing c) Is not correct. This true for behavior driven development d) Is not correct. TDD is developer focused and BDD is customer focused	ATT-2.x	K1	1
15	a	a) Is correct. According to Syllabus 3.1.3 b) Is not correct. The opposite is true c) Is not correct. According to Syllabus 3.1.3 d) Is not correct. It can be done in an external team	ATT-3.1.3-1	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
16	a	a) Is correct. Because Syllabus says: 'an increased proportion of automated test coverage often leads to a greater degree of manual testing that follows reactive strategies since many of the tests that can be prepared upfront will be automated' b) Is not correct. See correct answer c) Is not correct. See correct answer d) Is not correct. See correct answer	ATT-3.1.3-2	K2	1
17	a	a) Is correct b) Is not correct. UT automation is indeed critical but does not cover most of the code quality in agile projects. One must also include integration level test automation, and system level one and some manual tests has added value as well (done mainly as exploratory tests) c) Is not correct. Test Development time is the Is correct. Answer, and not Deployment time d) Is not correct. Test Execution Time is a challenge of course, as increasing the test suite volume every sprint, creates a load of tests needed to be run and tested	ATT-3.2.1.2	K2	1
18	a	a) Is correct. According to Syllabus 3.1.2 b) Is not correct. This is true for data driven testing c) Is not correct. The opposite is true d) Is not correct. The task should stay with one team member and not the entire team	ATT-3.x	K1	1
19	a	a) Is correct. This is a stable product, and the syllabus shows that on page b) Is not correct. There is no need to speed up test execution mentioned c) Is not correct. As prioritization should be used to improve the quality of the test object and not the CI d) Is not correct. There is no indication that there is not enough time to execute all test cases	ATT-4.1.1	K3	2

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
20	c	a) Is not correct. TDD is unit test driven and BDD is executable test scenario driven b) Is not correct. BDD relies on executable scenarios c) Is correct. According to the glossary d) Is not correct. Because I and II in options	ATT-2.3.1-1	K1	1
21	a	a) Is correct. According to the glossary b) Is not correct. Due to self-checking and testable c) Is not correct. Due to focused, stand-alone, timely d) Is not correct. Due to interactive, small-scope, test driven	ATT-2.1.1.3	K1	1
22	b	a) Is not correct. Due to II b) Is correct. According to the glossary c) Is not correct. Due to III and V. Granularity of set charter is important and should not be too small d) Is not correct. The tester mind should be in control, he should decide and structure what areas to test and prior experience is important otherwise tester may wander in unnecessary test areas	ATT-2.2.2-1	K4	3
23	d	a) Is not correct. See correct answer b) Is not correct. See correct answer c) Is not correct. See correct answer d) Is correct. According to the syllabus 2.3.1	ATT-2.3.1-1	K2	1
24	c	a) Is not correct. Temptation to save time and money may lead to easy rather than robust design b) Is not correct. Temptation to save time and money may lead to easy rather than robust design c) Is correct. According to the syllabus 2.3.2 d) Is not correct. Temptation to save time and money may lead to easy rather than robust design	ATT-2.3.2-1	K4	3

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
25	d	a) Is not correct. As all mentioned approaches or processes support CI b) Is not correct. As all mentioned approaches or processes support CI c) Is not correct. As all mentioned approaches or processes support CI d) Is correct. According to the glossary	ATT-2.3.2-2	K4	3
26	d	a) Is not correct. Because interface to 3rd party software component is a good candidate for service virtualization b) Is not correct. As benefits of service virtualization includes II, III and IV c) Is not correct. See correct answer d) Is correct. According to the glossary	ATT-4.2.1-1	K2	1
27	a	a) Is correct b) Is not correct. This should be numerical data, from closed-ended questions c) Is not correct. This should be with Open-Ended questions and not Yes/No, which are Close-ended questions d) Is not correct. This should be that the Qualitative Interview is a lot more effective than a quantitative query	ATT-1.1.2-2	K2	1
28	a	a) Is correct b) Is not correct. Statement coverage and path coverage Analysis are incorrect c) Is not correct. Decision Coverage analysis are incorrect d) Is not correct. Path Coverage Analysis is incorrect	ATT-1.1.2.2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
29	c, d	a) Is not correct. The order of 'User Stories' within the 'Story Map' is only an indicator for test priorities but does not define test priorities b) Is not correct. Is just a fancy answer c) Is correct. Syllabus says: 'The horizontal axis of the map represents the order of priority of each of the user stories, whilst the vertical axis represents the sophistication of the implementation d) Is correct. Syllabus says: 'Determine the most basic functionalities of a system to distillate a smoke test' and in the same way all other levels of 'sophistication' can be checked by corresponding sets of acceptance test cases	ATT-1.1.1-2	K2	1
30	b, c	a) Is not correct. Not primary criteria b) Is correct. Syllabus says: ', a successful regression-averse approach focuses on continuous improvement and refactoring of created tests' c) Is correct. Syllabus says: '…maintainability, … are critical' d) Is not correct. Just a fancy answer	ATT-3.1.3-2	K2	1
31	a	a) Is correct. According to Syllabus 1 b) Is not correct. This is true for use cases c) Is not correct. This true for storyboards d) Is not correct. This is true for personas	ATT-1.x	K1	1
32	a, d	a) Is correct. See Syllabus 2.1.3 b) Is not correct. Customer oriented c) Is not correct. TDD is development oriented d) Is correct. See Syllabus 2.1.3 e) Is not correct. TDD is development focused	ATT-2.1.3	K4	3

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
33	c	a) Is not correct. Creation of several TCs to cover several scenarios not the real and best solution b) Is not correct. Adapting existing TC is not the good solution, a TDD based TC should be prepared looking at the flow keeping is as general as possible c) Is correct. The TDD is trying to use as few as possible etc. and get data d) Is not correct. Execute some TC is not the goal to check the TDD feasibility	ATT-3.1.1	K3	2
34	d	a) Is not correct. Keyword-driven does not check for data as main task b) Is not correct. An interpreter can understand the language, but no external app should be executed, focus should remain within the TC (framework) c) Is not correct. No specific data should be used d) Is correct	ATT-3.1.2	K2	1
35	b	a) Is not correct. In unit test no full regression test possible to be executed b) Is correct. See syllabus 3.2.1 c) Is not correct. In unit test no full regression test possible to be executed d) Is not correct. In a smoke test a full test cases execution is meaningless as it should check the main functionalities in a short time, after e.g., a new software installation	ATT-3.2.1-1	K2	1
36	c	a) Is not correct. Execute on 7:00 in the morning is not exactly continuous testing b) Is not correct. Replacing the new software, without new build c) Is correct. See syllabus 4.1 d) Is not correct. Replacing the new software, without new build	ATT-4.1.2	K2	1
37	b	a) Is not correct. It is not a closed system b) Is correct. See syllabus 4.2 c) Is not correct. A virtual service is not a physical system d) Is not correct. It is not a one-to-one replication of a server	ATT-4.2.1-2	K2	1

Question Number (#)	Is correct. Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
38	c, e	a) Is not correct. This is a negating question so c) and e) which are wrong w.r.t. CI definition, are correct for this answer b) Is not correct. Choice 1 in syllabus 4.1.1 c) Is correct. Choice 2 in syllabus d) Is not correct. There is no predefined time, only constraint is to complete before a new CI would start 4.1.1 e) Is correct. Choice 3 in syllabus 4.1.1	ATT-4.1.1	K3	2
39	a, d	a) Is correct. According to the glossary b) Is not correct. Because when code with defects and technical debt spreads, it becomes difficult, costly and time consuming to correct without negatively affecting other parts of the system c) Is not correct. Because it is costly and time consuming to correct without negatively affecting other parts of the system d) Is correct. According to the glossary	ATT-2.3.2-1	K1	1
40	b, d	a) Is not correct. Because a 'Storyboard' is not the 'Agile task board' nor the 'Agile user story board' b) Is correct. Syllabus says 'Visualize groups of user stories related to a common area of the system (Themes) which can be considered for inclusion in the same iteration, as they will likely be touching the same piece of code' c) Is not correct. Is just fancy answer d) Is correct. syllabus says: 'Assist with identifying acceptance criteria for user stories and epics	ATT-1.1.1-2	K2	1