



This 3-day course follows on from the ISTQB/BCS Foundation Certificate course. This course focuses on testing in different life cycles (such as sequential and agile), testing within different application domains. The course contains exercises, student notes, practice exams and learning aids designed to cover all areas of the BCS Intermediate Syllabus to assist the delegate in understanding and applying the concepts and techniques.

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BCS INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE IN SOFTWARE TESTING

Course Objectives

To provide an understanding of software testing that goes beyond the Foundation level. It provides both test managers and test analysts with a level of knowledge that enables them to analyse situations and apply good practical solutions. It gives test managers an understanding of the issues that most concern test analysts, and vice versa.

The course provides an opportunity to take the Intermediate exam as part of the course.

The Intermediate course covers Learning Objectives up to the Knowledge 4 level (analysis).

Who will benefit?

This 3-day course is appropriate for testers, test team leaders, developers, development managers, business analysts, and anyone wishing to gain the BCS Intermediate Certificate in Software Testing.

Prerequisites

To take the exam, you must hold the ISTQB/BCS Foundation Certificate in Software Testing, and have 18 months experience in software testing or have completed an accredited BCS Intermediate Certificate Course. However you may take the course even if you do not wish to sit the exam.

Skills Gained

- Understand how testing is different in different application domains
- Know how the fundamental test process fits into different software development life cycles
- Understand the principles of reviews in general, and how to choose a review type
- Experience the effectiveness of a formal review
- Understand risk management, particularly product risk which can be addressed by testing
- Familiarity with different test documents, including policy, strategy and test plans
- Be able to select appropriate entry and exit criteria for testing
- Understand how to estimate and monitor testing, and how incidents are managed
- Know how test analysis identifies test items and selects the best techniques to use
- Identify test environment requirements
- Understand the concept of coverage measurement – how thoroughly a set of tests has exercised the software.

Course Content

Testing Fundamentals

This section contains a review of the Foundation Syllabus, particularly test levels and test types. The testing challenges of different application domains such as mainframe, client-server, web-based and PC-based architectures will be discussed in detail. Traditional development life cycles such as waterfall and V-model will be presented together with iterative models such as RAD and the more recent Agile methodologies - showing how testing can be effective within that environment.

Reviews

There are basic principles that apply to all types of review, but different types vary in their objectives and formality. Different types of review, both formal and informal, are useful in different situations, but do not replace dynamic testing. Four types of review are described in detail: management review, walkthrough, technical review and inspection. Practical experience of a formal review is included in this session.

Testing and Risk

This section recalls the risk management activities of risk identification, risk analysis and risk mitigation. In this course, the emphasis is on product risk and its relationship to testing.

Test Management

The hierarchy of test documents include test policy, test strategies and test plans. Test entry and exit criteria are used to ensure that deliverables are ready for the next stage of testing. Action is needed if entry criteria are not met. Different estimation methods can be used to estimate testing, both top-down and bottom-up. Test targets are sometimes set according to deadlines or political factors, rather than estimates. A number of metrics can be used to quantify test progress, test quality and software quality. These are summarised in a test report. A good incident management process is important for control and decision making.

Test Analysis

This section describes the relationships between the test basis (e.g. requirements), test conditions, test cases and test procedures. It covers test environment requirements, and how to select test techniques (static and dynamic, scripted and unscripted). Different ways to measure and interpret coverage measures are explored.

The Exam

The BCS Intermediate Certificate exam is a 1-hour multiple choice exam.

There are 25 scenario-based questions testing the candidate up to a K4 (analysis) level. The exam can be taken at anytime, but is usually taken after the course on the 3rd day. A score of 60% (15/25) is required to pass this qualification.