

Exam Techniques for the ISTQB Advanced Qualifications

There are two parts to this exam

- Understanding the question & deciding what the right answer should be.
- Correctly communicating your answer on the answer grid by putting an X in the relevant box(es).

Useful Tips

- The ISTQB exam is about the theory of good practice, not what you typically do in practice.
- Read the questions carefully – make sure you understand the question before you decide on your answer. Words and phrases in the scenario and questions may be very significant.
- If a scenario is given then relate the answer to the scenario, it has been given for a reason. Annotate the scenario as you read – it will help when it comes to answering the question
- The same scenario may be used for several questions.
- If scenarios are very long consider leaving these, and the questions associated with them, to a later pass.
- If you are tempted to change your answer, do so only if you are quite sure – it is probably best to go with your first instinct if you are unsure.
- You are allowed to write on the question paper.
- There is no penalty for the wrong answer, therefore guess!
- If the question asks which is false (or true), mark them T or F first then it will be easier to see which is the odd one out.
- Use what you know to eliminate wrong answers (cross them out first).

Exam format

- There are 65 multi-choice questions to complete in 3 hours (an extra 45 minutes is awarded to those whose first language is not English)
- Total available marks is 100 and the pass mark is 65/100
 - 60% K2 (38 questions);
 - 25% K3/K4 standard (16 questions);
 - 15% K4 complex (10 questions).
- Standard multi-choice: select one answer from a, b, c, d
- Roman style: i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi answers: **a** = i, iii & v, **b** = ii, iii & iv, **c** = i, ii, iv, v & vi, **d** = i, ii & v
- Pick 'n' mix style; select 3 from the following a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h

The questions may have more than one correct answer

- All correct options must be chosen to gain full marks. If the question is worth 2 marks, 1 mark will be awarded for choosing 2 out of 3 correct options. If the question is worth 3 marks, 1 mark will be awarded for choosing 1 out of 2 correct options and for 2 out of 3 correct options.
- Example answer sheet:
 - Question 1: select 1 out of 4 (worth 1 mark)
 - Question 2: select 3 out of 7 (worth 3 marks)
 - Question 3: select 2 out of 6 (worth 2 marks)

#	Mark							
1	1	A	B	C	D			
2	3	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
3	2	A	B	C	D	E	F	

Pace yourself

- On your first pass, answer all questions you are sure of. Come back to the others later.
- Spend appropriate time for the K-level of the question:
 - K2 = 2 minutes
 - K3 = 3 minutes
 - K4 = 4 minutes
 } This will give you 20 minutes spare
- At the end please make sure that 65 questions have been answered and that each question has the appropriate number of answers.

