QA CERTIFICATIONS - WHY THEY'RE BENEFICIAL AND HOW TO GET THEM

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DISCLAIMER

- **The views expressed in this presentation are my own and are not an official representation of the ASTQB or ISTQB.**

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WHO IS THE ASTQB?

- **ASTQB, the American Software Testing Qualifications Board, is the U.S. board for the internationally recognized ISTQB software testing certification.**

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ASTQB MISSION

- **Our mission is to promote professionalism in Software Testing in the United States.**

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WHAT ASTQB DOES

- **We provide and administer quality exams for the ISTQB, ASTQB and IQBBA certifications**

- **We support and facilitate training providers in delivering high quality courses**

- **We actively engage in the ISTQB working groups and support efforts to develop and encourage people who are already in or are entering the software testing profession.**

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A FEW STATS

- **ASTQB started in 2003.**

- **To date, we have certified over 25,000 testers in the USA.**

- **ISTQB has over 500,000 certified testers, which makes it the 3rd largest certification program behind PMI and ITIL.**

- **ISTQB has boards in 57 countries.**

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ABOUT THE ISTQB

- **ISTQB is the International Software Testing Qualifications Board that is composed of representatives from each national board, such as the ASTQB.**

- **The ISTQB decides on the global standards for certification in the ISTQB program.**

- **The result is that you are able to earn a truly global software tester certification, but do so via a country board that understands the language and logistics needs of your country.**
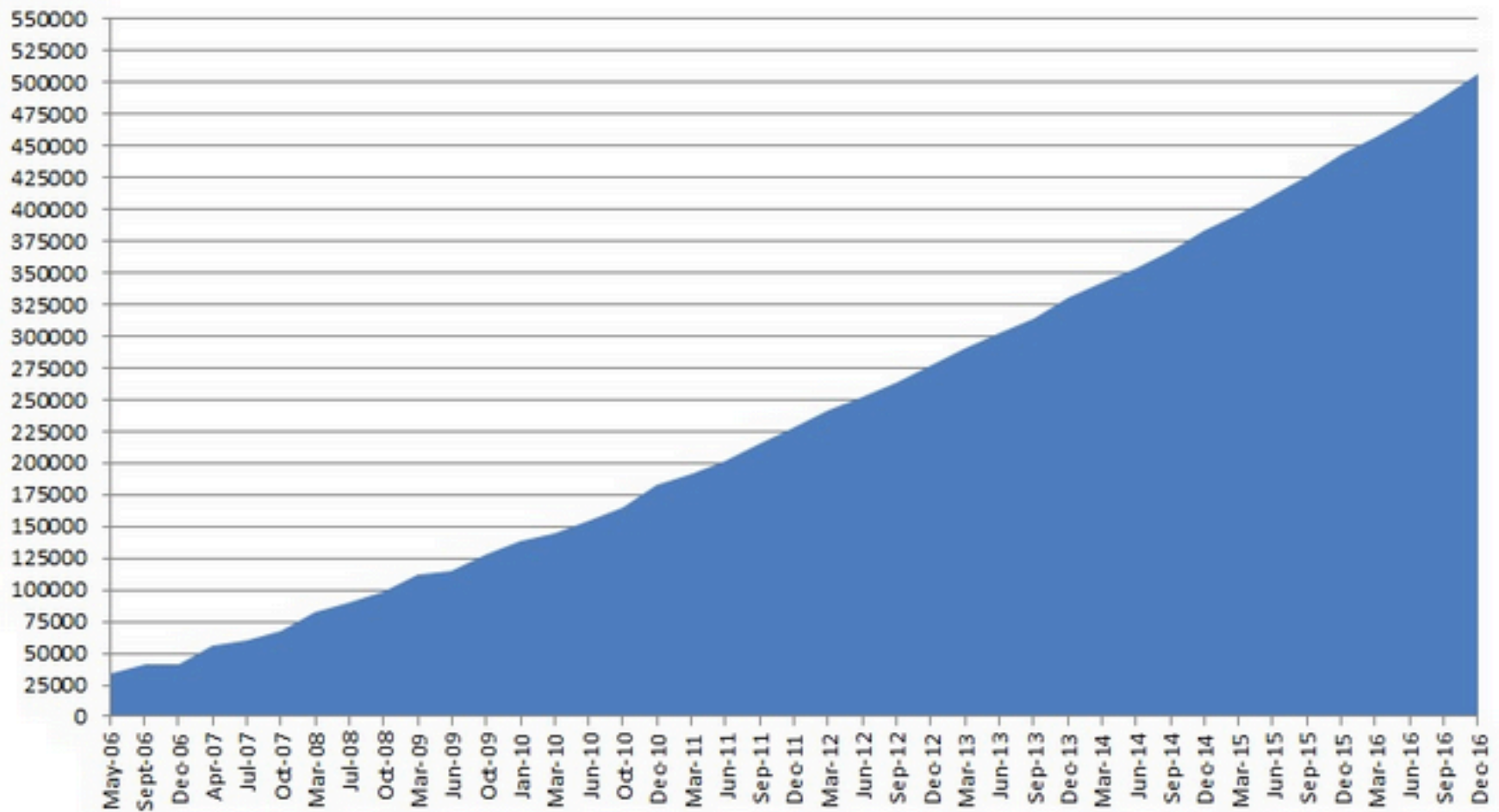
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ISTQB MISSION

- **To continually improve and advance the software testing profession by:**

- *Defining and maintaining a Body of Knowledge which allows testers to be certified based on best practices, connecting the international software testing community, and encouraging research.*

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OTHER CERTIFICATIONS

- **QAI (Quality Assurance Institute)**

  - CSTE – Certified Software Tester

  - CAST – Certified Associate in Software Testing

  - CMST – Certified Manager of Software Testing

- **IIST (International Institute of Software Testing)**

  - Too many to list here…

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ISTQB® Certifications Growth Trend

WHY GET CERTIFIED?

- **Many companies include ISTQB Certification in their job posting requirements.**

- **Many software testing managers are happy to see ISTQB Certification on a resume. Why?**

- **Because it shows your interest in software testing, dedication to the profession, and a desire to learn and grow.**

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WHAT DOES CERTIFICATION MEAN?

- **Certification is one way to demonstrate knowledge in software testing.**

- **Skills are demonstrated through practical experience.**

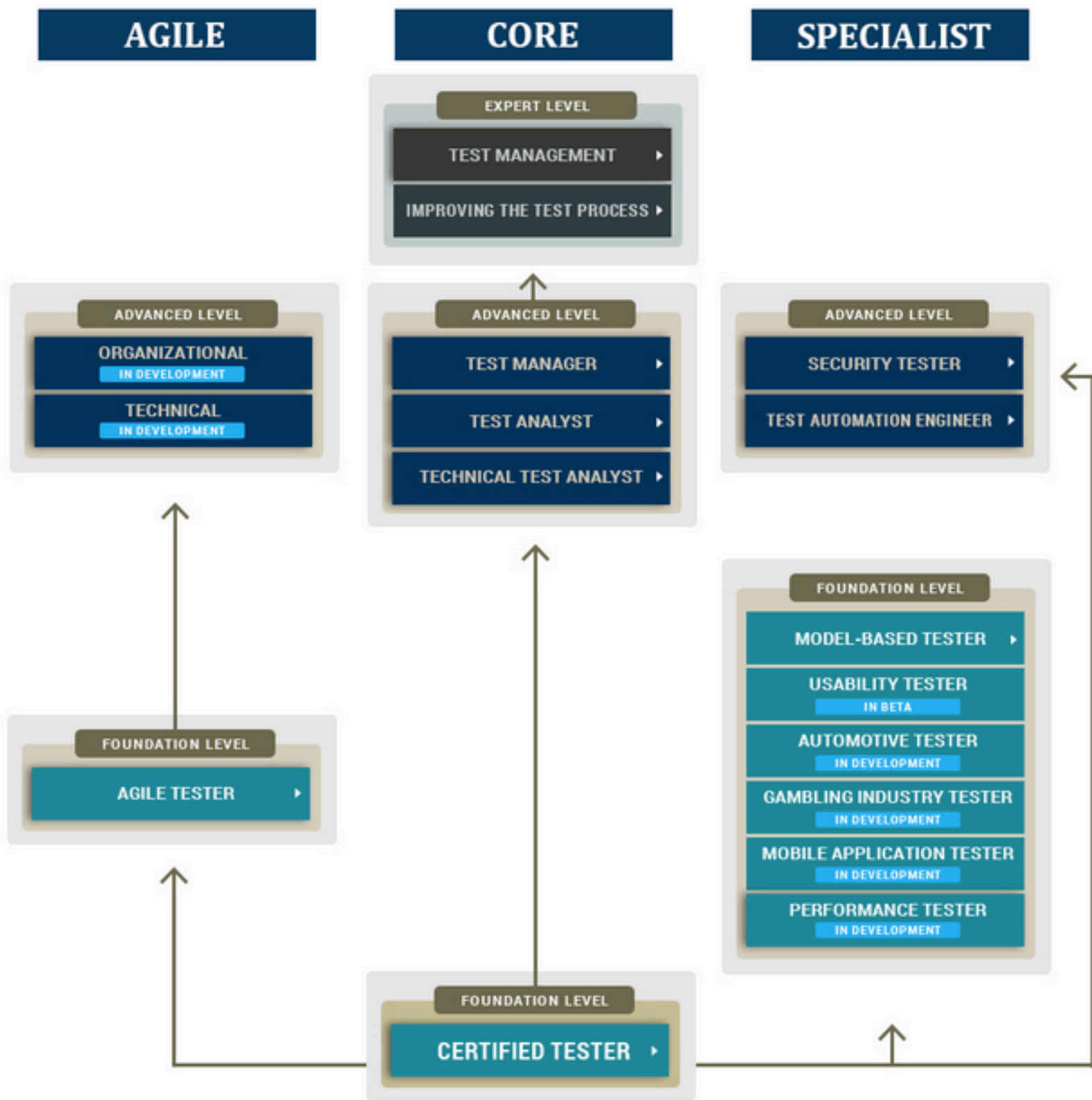RICECONSULTING

LEARNING OBJECTIVES IN ISTQB SYLLABI

- **K1 – Remember**
- **K2 – Understand**
- **K3 – Apply**
- **K4 - Analyze**

Note: Many times people have to "unlearn" things that may be in conflict with the information in the ISTQB syllabi and glossary.

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WHAT IS THE GOAL?

- **To pass the exam?**

- **To learn new approaches?**

- **To gain a common understanding across the team or organization?**

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Building Your Foundation

ISTQB and ASTQB certifications offer a road map to guide your career.

START HERE

ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL CAREERS

Whether you are looking for a software testing job, or already have a job as a tester, this is where you need to start. The Certified Tester, Foundation Level (CTFL) is the gateway certification for all the other ISTQB certifications.

ASTQB
Building Your Testing Career

I want to be part of an agile team.

This certification will increase your vocabulary, teach you the best approach to testing on an Agile project and will help you understand how you can be most effective in that environment.

FOUNDATION LEVEL
ISTQB Agile Tester

I want to stand out.

Build your career with in-demand testing & business analysis skills.
- ✓ ASTQB Mobile Tester
- ✓ ASTQB Performance Tester
- ✓ IQBBA Business Analyst

FOUNDATION LEVEL
Specialist

Advancing Your Career

Which of these best describes you?

I want to work with customers.

This certification is designed for the strong tester who has a deep understanding of the business domain and the needs of the user.

ADVANCED LEVEL
ISTQB Test Analyst

I want to work with code.

This certification is designed for the technically minded individual who wants to and is capable of programming, both in scripting languages (e.g., python) as well as standard programming languages (e.g., java).

ADVANCED LEVEL
ISTQB Technical Test Analyst

I want to lead the team.

You will learn all about test planning, monitoring and controlling for projects but you will also learn about establishing test strategies and policies that can change the course of testing for the organization.

ADVANCED LEVEL
ISTQB Test Manager

EXPERT LEVEL
ISTQB Test Management

As the name implies, Expert Level truly establishes your expertise in one or more areas, and could be very important for key corporate and consulting jobs.

I want to focus on agile.

You're ready to be a leader in the agile environment, and ISTQB Advanced Agile Technical gives you the knowledge and skills to step into that role.

ADVANCED LEVEL
ISTQB Agile Technical

I want to specialize.

Build in-depth knowledge & skills for high-profile advanced testing.
- ✓ ISTQB Test Automation Engineer
- ✓ ISTQB Security Tester

ADVANCED LEVEL
Specialist

Learn more at: **www.astqb.org**

ASTQB CERTIFICATION

- **The ASTQB has its own certification for mobile testing – the Certified Mobile Tester (CMT) designation.**

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THE VALUE OF CERTIFICATION

- **Forms a baseline of knowledge in an organization.**

- **This is contained in what we call "syllabi".**

- **However, the syllabi do not prescribe practice – that is up to each organization.**

- **Is a framework for building knowledge**

- **Helps individual testers stand out from the crowd.**

- **If you *really* want to stand out, get all three advanced certifications!**

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THE VALUE OF CERTIFICATION (2)

- **Builds Credibility and Professionalism for Your Team**

- **Has International Recognition and Consistency**

- **Transfers Practical Knowledge for Software Testing**

- **Demonstrates Investment in People and the Testing Process**

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HIGHER TEST EFFECTIVENESS PLUS TIME AND COST SAVINGS

- **Capers Jones has conducted research that spans thousands of software projects and organizations. His findings indicate that "*A synergistic combination of defect prevention, pre-test defect removal, and formal testing by certified personnel can top 99% in defect removal efficiency while simultaneously lowering costs and shortening schedules.*"**

- **http://www.ifpug.org/Documents/Jones-SoftwareDefectOriginsAndRemovalMethodsDraft5.pdf**

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FOUNDATION LEVEL IS JUST THE STARTING POINT!

- **While getting the CTFL is a valuable accomplishment, the deeper understanding is gained through the advanced and expert certifications:**

  - Advanced Test Manager
  - Advanced Test Analyst
  - Advanced Technical Test Analyst
  - Advanced Security Tester
  - Advanced Test Automation Engineer

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FOR MORE INFORMATION…

- **www.astqb.org**

- **www.istab.org**

- **White Paper on "The Value of ISTQB Certification" – http://www.riceconsulting.com/library/Value_ISTQB_Certification_v3.pdf**

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BIO - RANDALL W. RICE

- **Over 40 years experience in building and testing information systems in a variety of industries and technical environments**

- **ISTQB Certified Tester – Foundation level (CTFL), Advanced Level (CTAL) Full, Advanced Security Tester (CTAL-SEC)**

- **ASTQB Certified Mobile Tester (CMT)**

- **ISTQB Foundation Level Agile Tester (CTFL-AT)**

- **Director, American Software Testing Qualification Board (ASTQB)**

- **Chairperson, 1995 - 2000 QAI's annual software testing conference**

- **Co-author with William E. Perry, *Surviving the Top Ten Challenges of Software Testing* and *Testing Dirty Systems***

- **Principal Consultant and Trainer, Rice Consulting Services, Inc.**

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