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Advanced Technical Test Analyst

ISTQB ATTA

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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, The Technical Test Analyst’s Tasks in the Risk-Based Testing Process	3
Topic 2, White-Box Test Techniques	21
Topic 3, Static and Dynamic Analysis	16
Topic 4, Testing Quality Characteristics	14
Topic 5, Reviews	9
Topic 6, Test Tools and Automation	11
Topic 7, Mix Questions	11
Total	85

QUESTION NO: 1

During recovery testing, an application server is stopped while an order transaction is being processed. After the server is restarted, which TWO results provide appropriate evidence of recoverability?

A. A committed order is retained exactly once after restart

B. An incomplete transaction is restored to a consistent state

C. Every external payment request is automatically submitted again

D. The application uses less CPU after restart

E. The response time is lower than before the interruption

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

The application should restore committed transactions without losing or duplicating the completed order. A committed order must remain available after recovery, and the system must not create an additional order merely because the restart occurred.

An incomplete transaction should be rolled back or recovered to a defined consistent state. This prevents partially written records, inconsistent stock levels, or incomplete financial information from remaining in the production data. These results demonstrate that the application can restore an acceptable state after an interruption, which is a key aspect of recoverability.

Automatically repeating an external payment request is not necessarily correct because it can produce duplicate charges. Response time and CPU utilization can be relevant to performance testing, but they do not by themselves demonstrate successful recovery. See the ISO/IEC 25010 quality model overview.

QUESTION NO: 2

Which of the following is an example of testing as part of the software design phase?

A. A design review meeting

B. An architect translating requirements into design

C. Performing unit tests against design

D. A test log showing code coverage achieved

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

A design review meeting is an example of testing performed during the software design phase because it is a static testing activity applied to a design work product before implementation and execution. During the meeting, relevant stakeholders examine design artefacts—such as architectural descriptions, interface specifications, data models, component designs, and detailed designs—to identify defects, ambiguities, omissions, inconsistencies, and non-compliance with requirements or standards. This provides early feedback while design decisions can still be changed relatively efficiently.

For a Technical Test Analyst, participation in design reviews is particularly valuable because testability and quality risks can be evaluated before code exists. The reviewer can ensure that the design supports appropriate test levels, provides controllable inputs and observable outputs, defines relevant interfaces and error handling, and allows the required non-functional characteristics to be verified. Review findings can then be recorded, actioned, and followed up according to the organization's review process. ISTQB classifies reviews as static testing: the work product is evaluated without executing software. This aligns with the early-test and shift-left principles emphasized in ISTQB syllabi. See the ISTQB Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst certification page and the ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level syllabus resources.

QUESTION NO: 3

A performance test shows that response times increase sharply when 500 concurrent users are reached. Monitoring data collected at the same time shows that the database connection pool has reached its configured maximum and application threads are waiting for connections. What is the most likely performance bottleneck?

A. The database connection pool

B. The browser cache

C. The test management repository

D. The requirements baseline

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The database connection pool is correct because the monitoring results show that all available connections are in use and application threads are waiting to obtain one. This produces queueing and increases end-to-end response time as concurrent workload rises.

A load-generation tool identifies the workload level at which the degradation occurs, while monitoring provides the evidence required to locate the constrained resource. The team can then investigate connection-pool sizing, connection leaks, database response times, and transaction design before rerunning the test. See the ISTQB Performance Testing certification page.

QUESTION NO: 4

Applying exploratory testing (ET) during unit testing is being considered. Which ET deliverable would be the primary candidate for informal reviews?

A. Test log & coverage outline

B. Test charter

C. Heuristics

D. Test case specification

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Test charter is correct because it is the key planning and guidance artifact in exploratory testing. A charter establishes the mission for a time-boxed exploratory testing session: it identifies the area or feature to investigate, the relevant test objectives, useful approaches or heuristics, risks, and any necessary test setup. Because it directs the tester's investigation before execution begins, an informal discussion or review with developers and other relevant team members can confirm that the intended unit-level scope is meaningful, technically feasible, and focused on important risks.

In unit testing, this early shared understanding is particularly valuable. A developer can help ensure that the charter addresses implementation-sensitive conditions, interfaces, error handling, boundary behavior, and assumptions that deserve exploration. The charter remains lightweight and adaptable, which is consistent with exploratory testing's simultaneous learning, test design, and test execution. Informal review therefore improves the quality and focus of the exploratory work without turning the activity into a heavily scripted test process.

ISTQB defines exploratory testing as an approach in which test design, execution, and learning occur concurrently; test charters provide a practical structure for that work. See the ISTQB Glossary entry for exploratory testing and the ISTQB Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst certification page.

QUESTION NO: 5

What are the TWO most significant pitfalls the organisation should be aware of?

A. Lack of good process as a baseline

B. Cost of maintenance of test scripts

C. Test management will become more time-consuming

D. Need to train testers and gain skills

E. Coverage measurements are often difficult

ANSWER: B D

Explanation:

Cost of maintenance of test scripts is a significant pitfall because automated testware is software that must be maintained as the system under test, interfaces, test data, environments, and expected results change. An automation initiative can lose much of its expected value if the organisation underestimates this continuing engineering effort. Maintainability must therefore be considered when selecting tools, designing automation architecture, and budgeting for the automation lifecycle.

Need to train testers and gain skills is also a major concern. Effective automation requires capabilities beyond manual test execution, including programming or scripting, tool use, testware design, version control, environment and test-data management, and diagnosis of automation failures. The organisation must allocate sufficient time and resources to develop or acquire these skills; otherwise, automation may be unreliable, difficult to maintain, and unable to deliver its intended benefits. These are recognized risks and implementation considerations for test automation in the Advanced Technical Test Analyst syllabus. See the ISTQB Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst certification page and the ISTQB Test Automation Engineer certification page.

QUESTION NO: 6

Consider the following decision:

```
if (A AND B) OR C then action endif
```

Which pair of test cases demonstrates that condition C can independently affect the outcome of the decision?

A. (A = False, B = True, C = False) and (A = False, B = True, C = True)

B. (A = True, B = True, C = False) and (A = False, B = True, C = True)

C. (A = False, B = False, C = False) and (A = True, B = True, C = True)

D. (A = True, B = False, C = False) and (A = True, B = True, C = True)

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The pair **(A = False, B = True, C = False) and (A = False, B = True, C = True)** is correct. In both tests, A and B remain unchanged. Because A is false, the expression `A AND B` is false in both cases. Changing only C from false to true changes the overall decision from false to true, demonstrating C's independent effect on the decision outcome.

This is the principle used in modified condition/decision coverage: each atomic condition must be shown to independently affect the decision outcome while the other conditions are held fixed. Pairs that change A or B as well as C do not provide this evidence for C. See the ISTQB Glossary search for modified condition/decision testing.

QUESTION NO: 7

Select TWO solutions how the team could achieve significant benefits in the use of this tool within the next 6 months?

A. Introduce data-driven or keyword driven scripting techniques

B. Change the development process

C. Select and implement a test management tool to complement the test suite

D. Identify critical parts of the system and concentrate on automating some of those tests for that particular area

E. Get business testers involved in the automation process

ANSWER: A D

Explanation:

Introducing data-driven or keyword driven scripting techniques is an effective near-term way to increase the value obtained from a test-automation tool. Data-driven automation separates test data from test logic, allowing the same automated workflow to cover many input combinations with less duplicated scripting. Keyword-driven techniques provide a structured business-process layer that improves consistency and enables reusable automated actions. Both approaches help make the existing automated test suite easier to extend and maintain within a short improvement period.

Identifying critical parts of the system and concentrating on automating tests for that particular area is also appropriate because automation should be prioritized according to risk, business value, and the expected frequency of execution. Focusing the team's limited six-month capacity on stable, high-value, repeatedly executed regression checks delivers useful feedback sooner and produces measurable benefits from the tool. This reflects the ISTQB emphasis on selecting automation candidates strategically and designing automation for maintainability and repeatable execution. See the ISTQB Advanced Test Automation Engineer certification overview and the ISTQB glossary definition of keyword-driven testing.

QUESTION NO: 8

The development manager asks you to identify suitable test coverage entry criteria for a component test. Which TWO of the following would you recommend as appropriate for entry criteria to a component testing phase?

A. 100% statement coverage

B. No critical outstanding defects

C. Test log available

D. Code review completed

E. Static analysis shows no major violations

ANSWER: D E

Explanation:

Code review completed and **Static analysis shows no major violations** are appropriate entry criteria because component testing should begin only after the code has passed key early quality checks. A completed code review provides evidence that peers have examined the implementation for defects, maintainability concerns, and compliance with agreed development practices. This reduces avoidable disruption during dynamic testing and gives the tester a more stable component baseline.

Likewise, static analysis should have been performed and should not report major violations before component testing starts. Static analysis can identify serious structural and coding issues without executing the software, including potentially unsafe constructs, violations of coding standards, and certain data-flow or control-flow anomalies. Resolving major findings first prevents dynamic component testing effort from being spent on issues that can be detected more efficiently earlier in the lifecycle. These criteria are practical readiness gates: they establish that implementation-level verification activities have been completed to an acceptable quality level before execution-based component tests proceed. ISTQB describes static testing and static analysis as important early quality activities, while component testing focuses on verifying individual software components. See the ISTQB Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst certification page and the ISTQB standards and syllabus resources.