

The Professional Test Engineer Development Programme

Developing Apprentices & Experienced IT People into World-Class Test Engineering Experts

Prepared for: General Release

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Date: November 26th, 2019

Version: 2.0 Released

Our Ref: PTE/2019



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Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	May 23 rd , 2019	Bernard Melson	Revised following client workshop
1.1	Jun 13 th , 2019	Bernard Melson	Internal changes
1.2	Jul 17 th , 2019	Bernard Melson	Minor revision following market feedback
2.0	Nov 26 th , 2019	Bernard Melson	New Agile, Scrum and Accelerated learning



1 Executive Summary

Following extensive market research, this document sets out a vision for increasing the capability and competency of professional Test Engineers through a targeted learning and development programme. People passing through the programme will increase their own thinking, skills and competencies in multiple disciplines and, importantly, organisational capability to help deliver systems solutions that underpin day to day business operations.

The programme has been developed in concert with (and rolled out to) a major systems integration company that was prepared to invest significantly in learning and development to increase capability and extend its value proposition to new and existing clients alike.

The days of people having a single skill have long gone, so this cogent learning and development programme is predicated on building multi-skilled competencies within people and organisations. It will maximise staff capability and utilisation to help reduce operational costs and staff attrition rates. The basis of the programme is to provide a solid foundation from which professional testers can grow as they develop and specialise in key disciplines that both challenge and grow them.

The programme comprises five learning and development streams, each of which seeks to imbue people with multi-layered competencies that are relevant to their experience and which provide extended capability and thinking to develop cogent solutions to business problems – regardless of the development method they employ. The first stream defines a programme for apprentices and people new to testing, with the remaining four streams providing learning matched to career growth and the needs of a modern Test Practice. Each course and optional pathway within a stream has been mapped to SFIA, industry-accepted core principles, competencies and roles, as follows:

- 1. **Test Engineer** for apprentices and entry level staff joining the Test Practice. Courses in this stream are aligned with the Government's 'Apprenticeship Programme'
- 2. **Senior Test Engineers** with at least 2 years' experience who are keen to develop their test capability further by specialise in one or more test disciplines
- 3. **Lead Test Engineers** with at least 4 years' experience who are looking to become test managers with an additional specialism
- 4. **Test Architects and Consultants** with at least 5-years' experience who will be setting out the stall for major test programmes and influencing decision makers and stakeholders
- 5. **Test Experts** who will be driving top level strategy and methods for corporate improvement.

We recommend that each of the five streams be scheduled to run over 2 years, with each one being structured to provide staff with the right blend of practical and certificated learning to become multi-skilled, competency based testing professionals. Within each stream is:

- A series of courses that provide the necessary foundation for each person to take as part of building their general test capability and career growth;
- A series of optional courses and routes to allow an individual and Test Practice to fulfil its specialist technical needs by developing staff with cross-functional competencies
- Coaching and mentoring to help people implement and use skills learned.

To give the programme additional kudos within companies adopting the programme, we further recommend that students graduating each stream be awarded an appropriate certificate and that an overall 'Diploma of Testing Excellence' be awarded to all staff reaching streams 4 and 5.

In closing, the programme develops and prepares the professional test engineer for future roles with clients and stakeholders, each of whom can be confident in the engineer's ability to deliver for them.



2 Learning Modes

TSG Training offers learning in a number of different modes, each of which provides its own benefit:

- **Traditional Classroom**. Courses in this mode follow standard timetables at public and private events.
- Accelerated Classroom: Most ISTQB courses and some others are offered in 12-hour day
 format so that students can train in a shorter period of time and be available to return to
 normal office duties earlier. ISTQB Test Manager, for example, is offered in 3-days, rather
 than the 5-days in a Traditional Classroom event. These courses are intensive and people
 sitting them need to be prepared accordingly if they are to sit them.
- **Virtual Classroom**. Remote learning is offered to accommodate people who are distributed, either locally or globally, and who cannot attend a public course. This type of course is generally delivered to private customers and follows the Traditional Classroom format.
- Online Learning. A number of courses are offered online so that students can sit them
 where and when they want at a time of their own choosing. Access is provided to materials
 for 6-months

Section <u>A</u>, Training & SFIA Cross Reference, shows a complete list of courses within the programme and the different learning modes available for each.

Every course in the programme is provided with a lifetime's support from the tutor.



3 Principles and Competencies of the Programme

Following our experience of learning and development programmes and research into what companies require of testing in the future, we have defined a series of 'Principles and Competencies' that fit the gamut and need of corporate skills required to deliver first-class systems that help underpin business operations, ranging from the raw intake through to experienced Lead Engineers, Architects, and Experts as follows:

Principles	Test Engineer	Senior Test Engineer	Lead Test Engineer	Test Architect	Test Expert
Engineering at the heart of designing IT solutions	Implements demonstrable and measurable, structured design techniques appropriate to the technology under Test	Responsible for Implementing demonstrable and measurable, structured design techniques appropriate to the technology under Test, aligned to the portfolio strategies	Responsible for the implementation of the test strategies within the scope of their portfolio / squad, aligned to the overarching Strategy.	Accountable for strategies to allow for demonstrable and measurable, implementation of structured design techniques across the estate	Accountable for defining and implementing methods and improvements to corporate level testing and major programmes
Execution excellence through engineering	Implement automation first approaches using industry best practices, targeting appropriate strategies for robust and repeatable automation and the appropriate exploratory / manual testing of change	Responsible for the Implementation of Right Testing approaches, utilising engineered design to enable automation first approaches using industry best practices leveraging test design approaches to maximise opportunity for automation	Responsible for the Implementation of Right Testing Approaches within Squad, including principles & patterns utilising automation first approaches using industry best practices	Responsible for the Implementation of Right Testing Approaches utilising automation first approaches using industry best practices Set Test Engineering principles & patterns	Provision and guidance for testing excellence that helps deliver programmes that meet business needs, on time and to budget
Velocity - Pinpoint accuracy at speed, enabled by technology	Is able to implement testing best practice methods specific to the technology under Test and aware of the benefits of using them. Has real world experience of implementing these practice	Is able to present testing best practice methods specific to the technology under Test and the benefits of using them, agnostic to specific toolsets. Has real world experience of implementing these practice	Is able to present testing best practice methods and the benefits of using them to a disparate audience of technical and non-technical stakeholders, agnostic to specific toolset. As well as experience of implementing these practice	Is able to present to all levels the benefits, both tangible & non-tangible, best practice methods and the benefits of using them, agnostic to toolset. As well as experience of leading teams, in implementing these best practices	Working at board level to define and present the business case for corporate improvement and rollout of methods and competencies to meet it
Culture, Collaboration and lifecycle continual improvement	Works within squad of multi skilled teams to discuss / challenge and inform approach for testable solutions and educating best practices in Testing and Quality	Leads a team within multi skilled teams to discuss / challenge and inform approach for testable solutions and educating best practices in Testing and Quality	Works across squads & within multi skilled teams to discuss / challenge and inform approach for testable solutions and educating best practices in Testing and Quality	Works across the organisation to influence strategy for engineering to challenge and inform approach for testable solutions and educating best practices in Testing and Quality	Works across the organisation to ensure the right process, methods and skills within people is in place to deliver value for money to internal and external clients commissioning new or changed systems that will underpin business operations

This programme isn't about certification alone, but is one that provides the right blend of theory and practical learning to develop consistently skilled professional test engineers who can deliver for their stakeholders.



4 The 5-Stream Programme

The professional Test Engineer career development programme contains five key streams, with each being rigorously designed and tested to reflect the principles and competencies that are key to success and growing capability within a Test Practice. Each stream interfaces seamlessly to the next to provide continuous investment in people and career growth:

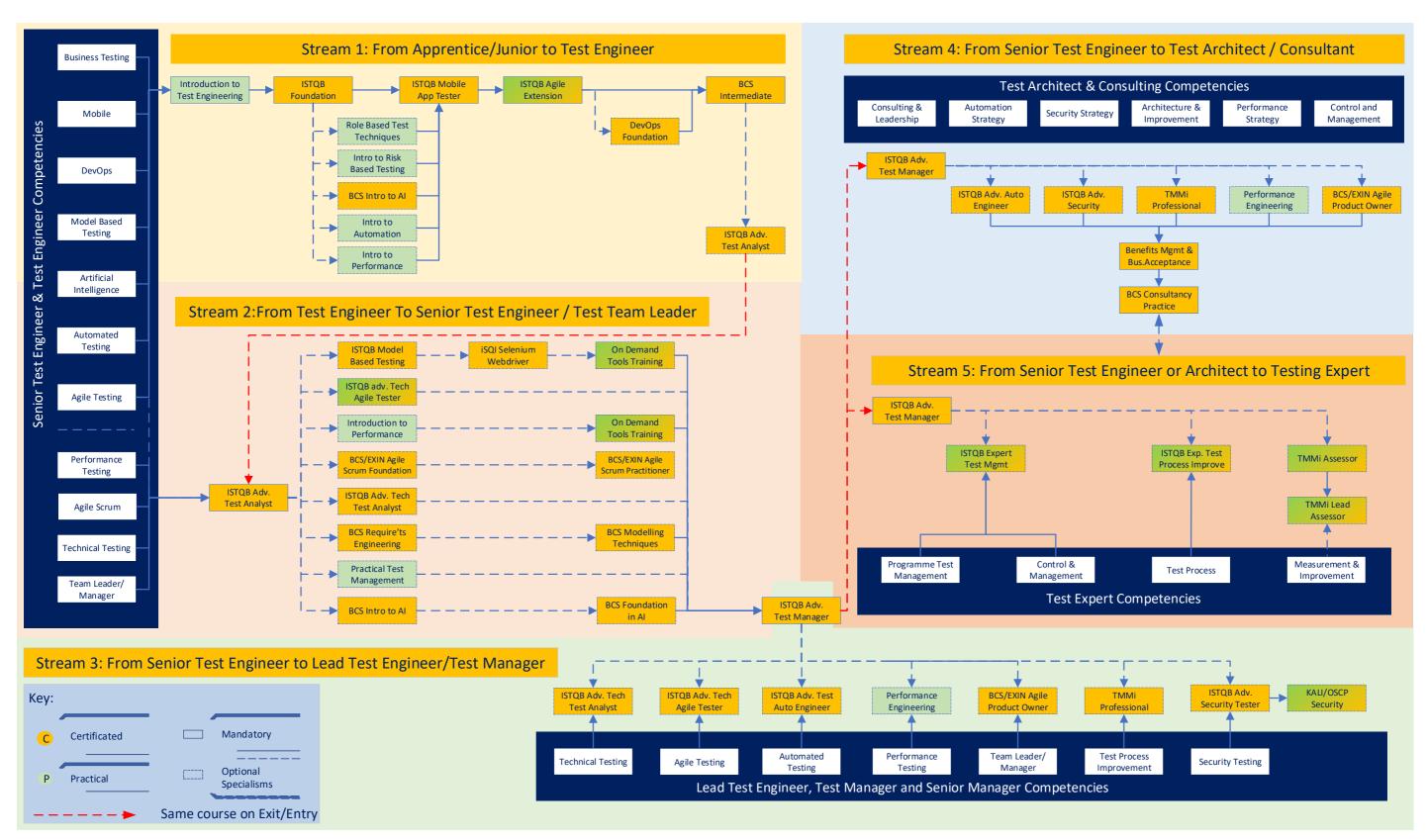


Figure 1 - The Long-Term Software Test Engineer Career Development Programme



4.1 The Five Key Streams

At the broadest level, each stream is designed to reflect modern test engineering principles, coupled with competencies that meet the needs of a Test Practice and varying development models, supported by capability from competent, multi-skilled individuals. The programme is designed for people to enter a learning stream that is relevant to their experience:

- 1. **The Test Engineer** is for apprentices and entry level staff embarking on a career in software testing, and for experienced staff from other disciplines who may be transferring in.
- 2. **The Senior Test Engineer** with at least two years' experience, who is ready to step up to using more advanced techniques, choosing to specialise or move to the early stages of team leadership.
- 3. **The Lead Test Engineer** with at least four years' experience, already specialising and needing to be ready for the demands of test management or increasingly complex technical roles
- 4. **The Test Architect** with at least five years' experience, ready to make the jump to the business-critical role of defining and building test architectures for major programmes.
- 5. **The Test Expert** who has at least 10-years' experience of leading major programme delivery and organisational change and benefit.

4.2 The Test Engineer

The Test Engineer stream is designed for people with little or no software testing experience and for others with up to two years' experience who can join the stream at an appropriate point. The courses within the stream are mapped to the UK Government's Apprenticeship scheme and qualify for funding up to 90%

4.2.1 The Test Engineer Roadmap

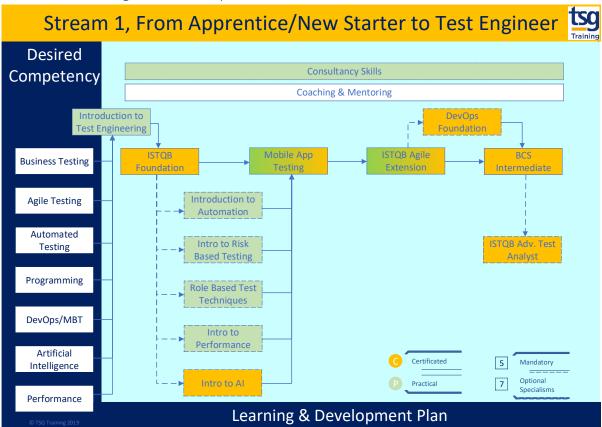


Figure 2 - The Test Engineer Capability Roadmap



The stream supports the key competencies of:

- Agile Testing
- Artificial Intelligence
- to Automated Testing
- Business Testing
- DevOps & Model Based Testing
- Performance Testing
- Programming

As can be seen in Figure 2 - The Test Engineer Capability Roadmap, there is:

- A series of mandatory courses to qualify for Government funding.
- Several optional courses to suit early specialisms.

People passing through the stream will have done so with the skills necessary to function as a Test Engineer who takes on and manages the tasks of:

- Requirements analysis and de-construction
- Test Analysis, Specification, Design, and Execution
- Test Reporting.

The skills learned are relevant and portable to all development methods.

Note: Unless someone is transferring into a Test Practice who has no software testing experience, we envisage the Test Engineer role being the only one of the five to be eligible for 'Government Apprenticeship Funding' in full.



4.2.2 Test Engineer Learning & Development Narrative

Test Engineer				Pre-Requisites		
Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days Months Exp.		Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
Introduction to Testing & Test Engineering	Y	2	0	None	Provides the basics of testing and model-based testing in traditional, Agile and DevOps environments. Prepares students for the ISTQB Foundation course.	
ISTQB Foundation, 2018 Syllabus and Exam	Y	3	0-6	Ability to absorb significant amounts of information in a short space of time; attention to detail; willingness to do homework.	This is the course that provides students with the common terms and processes they will need through their careers and which are industry-recognised as the de facto standard.	
BCS Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Optional	1	6-12	A basic understanding of testing and an interest in knowing more about AI	This introductory course addresses the potential benefits, types of Artificial Intelligence, the basic process of Machine Learning (ML), the challenges and risks associated with an AI project, and the future of AI and Humans in work.	
Introduction to Automation	Y	1	6-12	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation and an interest in specialising in or knowing more about test automation.	Modern Test Practices support automation as a key stream and deliverable, and this course provides students with their first 'hands-on' experience. It can also be supplemented with an optional Introduction to Python or other language	
Introduction to Python Programming	Optional	3	6-12	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation and an interest in specialising in or knowing more about technical script writing for automation and/or performance testing.	Provides Test Engineers with the basics of Python Programming, as may be used in automation and/or performance and/or other technologies they may be required to support.	



Test Engineer				Pre-Requisites		
Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days Months Exp.		Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
Introduction to Risk Based Testing	Y	2	18	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation and those who are aware of the need to understand, profile and prioritise risk on the projects.	Provides a practical approach to identifying, prioritising and managing risk.	
Role Based Techniques	Optional	1	12-18	Those needing more techniques but who are not ready for ISTQB Advanced Test Analyst.	The gap between Foundation and either BCS Intermediate or ISTQB Advanced can be too long for some, and this course bridges the gap.	
Introduction to Performance	Optional	1	6-24	No pre-requisites, although some testing experience and an ISTQB Foundation certificate would be beneficial to learning and outcomes	This hands-on course provides the basics of performance testing for those who wish to specialise in the subject and go on to specific tools-based training and strategy work	
ISTQB Mobile App Tester and Exam	Y	2	12	Ability to use a computer for basic functions such as accessing files and using the command line interface. Willingness to learn how to use virtual machines for testing. Dexterity with fingers to test functions on mobile devices.	With 'mobile' being increasingly used as a delivery platform, it is now accepted that Test Engineers must understand how to test applications on mobile devices. Note: The iSQI CMAP qualification was retired in October 2019 in favour of the ISTQB Mobile App Tester qualification.	
ISTQB Foundation – Agile Extension and Exam	Y	2	12-18	An ISTQB/ISEB Foundation Certificate is required for students to sit the exam, but not the course.	Agile is now mainstream, and students must be able to work within it. The course expands on the techniques and learning in the Foundation Course and the difference that Agile brings.	



Test Engineer				Pre-Requisites		
Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days Months Exp.		Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
BCS Intermediate and Exam	Υ	4	18-24	A solid understanding and usage of the terms, processes and techniques gained on prior courses.	This course expands upon the skills taught by ISTQB Foundation. Passing the exam on this course is a prerequisite for students to graduate from the Apprenticeship Scheme and qualify for full Government funding.	
DevOps Foundation	Optional	2	24	None	Provides the basics of DevOps that Test Engineers must master to work in this environment.	
ISTQB Advanced Test Analyst with exam	Optional	4	24	Must hold an ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate (from either the 2011 syllabus or the more recent 2018 syllabus) to sit the exam. At least 24-months solid testing experience using test design techniques, self-motivated, ability to analyse requirements. Ability to sit a multiple-choice exam lasting 3 hours. This is an optional course that may be sat at 18-months for the high-flyer or those on accelerated learning programmes.	This course is the natural route and progression for those who want to move up the ladder. It will increase knowledge and understanding of industry standard functional techniques and imbue the students with additional skills to take on more complex work.	
Coaching and Mentoring	Optional	Ong	Ongoing	None	Optional for those not on a government sponsored Apprenticeship programme, but mandatory for those who are if full funding is to be secured	



Tost Engineer				Pre-Requisites		
Test Engineer Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
Consultancy Skills	Optional	1	0-24	0-2 years of testing experience for those expected to be deployed on client site as a fee-earning consultant.	Provides students with the behavioural and communication skills they will be expected to display to both internal and external stakeholders.	

Table 1 - Test Engineer Learning & Development, Pre-Requisites and Rationale



4.3 The Senior Test Engineer

The Senior Test Engineer stream is designed for people who have at least two-years' software testing on projects and have expressed a desire to make testing their career goal and move up the ladder of seniority within a Test Practice.

Students graduating The Test Engineer stream are expected to join this stream at the beginning, whereas others with relevant experience can join at any point.

4.3.1 The Senior Test Engineer Roadmap

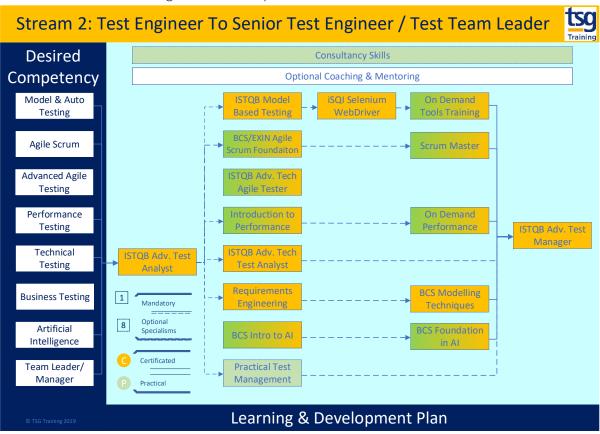


Figure 3 - The Senior Test Engineer Capability Roadmap

Some courses in Stream 2 are repeated from Stream 1. However, this is only to ensure that everyone has the full skill set. If a course has been taken in Stream 1 then it need not be taken again here.

The stream supports and enables people to acquire skill in the key competencies of:

- Advanced Agile Testing
- Agile Scrum
- Artificial Intelligence
- Automated Testing
- Business Testing
- Model Based
- Performance Testing
- Team Leaders and aspiring Test Managers
- Technical Testing, such as SI, Infrastructure, etc.

Supporting 9 key competencies, Stream 2 contains a mandatory course and 8-optional course paths that allow the Senior Test Engineer to specialise in key skills areas as they progress toward Lead Test



Engineer or Test Architect. Whilst the paths are optional, we recommend that at least one be completed to graduate. Staff not taking ISTQB Test Manager in this stream will face it in the next

It is not envisaged that any of the courses in this stream will be eligible for 'Government Apprenticeship Funding' unless someone is transferring into a role where there is a requirement to learn at least 51% of new skills to fulfil it.



4.3.2 Senior Test Engineer Courses Narrative

Carrier Test Freimann				Pre-Requisites		
Senior Test Engineer Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
ISTQB Advanced Test Analyst with exam	Y	4	24-30	Must hold an ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate (from either the 2011 syllabus or the more recent 2018 syllabus) to sit the exam. At least 24-months solid testing experience using test design techniques, self-motivated, ability to analyse requirements. Ability to sit a multiple-choice exam lasting 3 hours. The course may be sat at 18-months for the high-flyer or those on accelerated learning.	This course is the natural route and progression for those who want to move up the ladder. It will increase knowledge and understanding of industry standard functional techniques and imbue the students with additional skills to take on more complex work.	
ISTQB Model based Testing	Optional	2	24-36	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate and an interest in learning about the use of models in testing.	Useful predominantly in manufacturing and non-service-based industries to generate test cases from models. Also used more and more in Automation, where it sits at the topend of the approach.	
On-Demand Automation Tools and/or iSQI Selenium Foundation with WebDriver and Exam	Optional	3/ Variable	24-36	Attendees should have general knowledge of basic programming and some knowledge of Python and a desire to embark on automation at a practical level.	This leading shareware tool has now become accepted as mainstream and is being used by more and more companies. The course provides people with the skills to develop, run and maintain automated test packs with Selenium at the heart. Other specific tools-based training on request to meet client demand	



Coming Took Furnished				Pre-Requisites	Training
Senior Test Engineer Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
ISTQB Advanced Technical Agile Tester	Optional	3	36-42	ISTQB Foundation – Agile Extension would be beneficial (but not mandatory) as would 3-years of solid testing experience, 2 of which should have been spent testing on Agile Projects/Sprints.	This course is principally aimed at test practitioners who have achieved an advanced point in their careers in software testing and are expecting to be actively involved in the technical aspects of software testing using advanced techniques in an Agile Environment
Introduction to Performance	Optional	1	24	No pre-requisites, although some testing experience and an ISTQB Foundation certificate would be beneficial to learning and outcomes	This hands-on course provides the basics of performance testing for those who wish to specialise in the subject and go on to specific tools-based training and strategy work
On-Demand Performance Tools	Optional	Variable	24	Some hands-on experience of performance testing would most definitely benefit learning and help facilitate desired outcomes	Specific tools-based training on request to meet client demand
BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Foundation	Optional	3	30-36	3-years of solid testing experience, at least 1 of which should have been spent testing on Agile Projects and Sprints	This hands-on course provides the skills for a Lead Test Engineer to work effectively in Agile Scrum environments



Canion Took Engineer				Pre-Requisites	
Senior Test Engineer Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Practitioner	Optional	3	36-48	A BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Foundation certificate must be held before sitting this exam for this course 3-years of solid testing experience, at least 2 of which should have been spent testing on Agile Projects and Sprints	This hands-on course provides the skills for a Lead Test Engineer to advance to Scrum Mater, lead sprints and run agile teams
ISTQB Advanced Technical Test Analyst	Options	3	36	3-years of solid testing experience across different life cycle stages.	The ISTQB Certified Technical Test Analyst Advanced Level is principally aimed at test practitioners who have achieved an advanced point in their careers in software testing and are expecting to be actively involved in the technical aspects of software testing using advanced techniques
BCS Requirements Engineering and Exam	Optional	3	24-36	Some practical experience of working with requirements or use cases would be beneficial, although not mandatory.	The course teaches the business Test Engineer how to ensure that requirements are correct and complete to fulfil the needs of the business and other stakeholders.
BCS Modelling Techniques and Exam	Optional	3	30-48	None	Teaches students how to work with systems modelling, static modelling, dynamic modelling and modelling in context in order to provide the right models on client programmes.



Source Took Fusings				Pre-Requisites		
Senior Test Engineer Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
Practical Test Management	Optional	4	30-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate and the will to learn the techniques and behavioural characteristics of a Team Leader or aspiring Test Manager. Note: This course was originally commissioned by IBM to help their team leaders and test managers to develop the consultancy skill necessary to manage client projects.	This course is based around a detailed and realistic case study and follows this 'virtual' project from inception, risk analysis and the generation of the test plan, the application of this plan to perform the testing, and then considers the testing that needs to be performed once the application goes 'live' by reviewing the appropriate responses to both ongoing and new risks.	
BCS Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Optional	1	6-12	A basic understanding of testing and an interest in knowing more about AI	This introductory course addresses the potential benefits, types of Artificial Intelligence, the basic process of Machine Learning (ML), the challenges and risks associated with an AI project, and the future of AI and Humans in work.	
BCS Foundation in Artificial Intelligence	Optional	2	24-36	A basic understanding of testing and an interest in establishing a strong foundation in AI from which a student can advance	Anyone with an interest in (or need to implement) artificial intelligence in an organisation, especially those working in areas such as science, engineering, knowledge engineering, finance, education or IT services.	



Canian Tast Engineer				Pre-Requisites		
Senior Test Engineer Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale	
ISTQB Advanced Test Manager and Exam	Yes	5	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate and at least 36 months testing experience. Some team management experience helpful. Interest in setting the direction of testing. Familiarity with the challenges facing test teams in projects. Willingness to sit a multiple-choice exam lasting 3 hours. High flyers or those on accelerated learning may be ready to take this course at 24-months.	To provide the industry view of test management practices and principles to set test policy, strategy and plans. This course is the last in the stream, but may optionally be sat at the beginning of Stream 3, The Lead Test Engineer	
Coaching and Mentoring	Y	Ongoing	Ongoing	None	Floor walking, telephone or mail support to help apply skills learned and with solution developed to solve client requirements.	
Consultancy Skills	Optional	1	None	2-4 years testing experience for those expected to be deployed on client site as a fee-earning consultant.	Provides students with the behavioural and communication skills they will be expected to display to both internal and external stakeholders.	

Table 2 - Senior Test Engineer Learning & Development, Pre-Requisites and Rationale



4.4 The Lead Test Engineer

The Lead Test Engineer stream is designed for people who have already gained a good deal of testing experience, but who are beginning to think about specialising, either in leadership and management or more technical disciplines. It is recommended that people embarking on or entering this stream have a minimum of 4-years' experience.

4.4.1 The Lead Test Engineer Roadmap

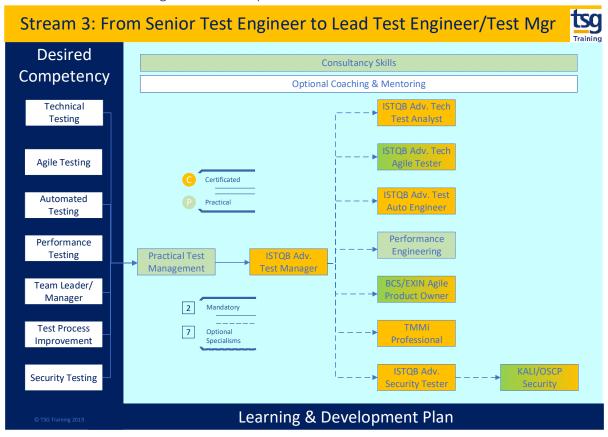


Figure 4 - The Lead Test Engineer Capability Roadmap

The stream supports the key competencies of:

- Technical Testing
- Agile Testing
- Advanced Automated Testing
- Performance Testing
- Test Team Leader or Test Manager or Product Owner
- Test Process Improvement
- Security Testing

As can be seen in Figure 4 - The Lead Test Engineer Capability Roadmap, there is a series of mandatory courses and optional paths for Advanced Test Automation, Test Process Improvement and other key competencies. Whilst the paths are optional, we recommend at least one be completed to graduate from the stream and attain an 'Test Practice Diploma'.

Note: It is not envisaged that any of the courses in this stream will be eligible for 'Government Apprenticeship Funding' unless someone is transferring into a role where there is a requirement to learn at least 51% of new skills to fulfil it.



4.4.2 Lead Test Engineer Learning & Development Narrative

				Pre-Requisites	
Lead Test Engineer Course	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
Practical Test Management	Optional	4	30-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate and the will to learn the techniques and behavioural characteristics of a Team Leader or aspiring Test Manager. Note: This course was originally commissioned by IBM to help their team leaders and test managers to develop the consultancy skill necessary to manage client projects.	This course is based around a detailed and realistic case study and follows this 'virtual' project from inception, risk analysis and the generation of the test plan, the application of this plan to perform the testing, and then considers the testing that needs to be performed once the application goes 'live' by reviewing the appropriate responses to both ongoing and new risks. The course may have been taken as an option in Stream 2, and in such a case it need not be taken here.
ISTQB Advanced Test Manager and Exam	Yes	5	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate and at least 36 months testing experience. Some team management experience helpful. Interest in setting the direction of testing. Familiarity with the challenges facing test teams in projects. Willingness to sit a multiple-choice exam lasting 3 hours. High flyers or those on accelerated learning may be ready to take this course at 24-months.	To provide the industry view of test management practices and principles to set test policy, strategy and plans.



				Pre-Requisites	
Lead Test Engineer Course	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
ISTQB Advanced Technical Test Analyst	Optional	3	36	3-years of solid testing experience across different life cycle stages.	The ISTQB Certified Technical Test Analyst Advanced Level is principally aimed at test practitioners who have achieved an advanced point in their careers in software testing and are expecting to be actively involved in the technical aspects of software testing using advanced techniques
ISTQB Advanced Technical Agile Tester	Optional	3	36-42	ISTQB Foundation – Agile Extension would be beneficial (but not mandatory) as would 3-years of solid testing experience, 2 of which should have been spent testing on Agile Projects/Sprints.	This course is principally aimed at test practitioners who are expecting to be actively involved in the technical aspects of software testing using advanced techniques in an Agile Environment
ISTQB Advanced Test Automation Engineer and Exam	Optional	3	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate, Introduction to Automation and, ideally, the Selenium Foundation course, at least 36 months testing experience or some real hands-on experience of the different test models that can be applied to reusable frameworks. Interest in test automation practices and procedures. Leadership skills needed to influence the test automation strategy and approaches for programmes. Significant analysis and evaluation and skills in a technical setting.	To develop a deeper understanding of designing, developing, and maintaining the correct frameworks and techniques for test automation solutions



Lead Test Engineer Course	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
Performance Engineering	Optional	5	36-48	Experience of performance tools-based training is required to further learning through tools specific courses	To enable effective performance engineering that goes beyond simple testing. Provides for strategy and plan development, profiling processes and analysis and usage of outputs to identify problems and correct them across the life cycle
BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Product Owner	Optional	3	36-48	2-years agile testing and test management are recommended to step up to the role of Product Owner in an agile environment	When an organization makes the decision to adopt agile, it takes much more than pulling together a development team and allowing them to work in an iterative manner. Agile is a true shift in how individuals collaborate, communicate and operate. Agile requires an "all in" mindset from both business and technology where all individuals work together to deliver business value in the form of working software.
TMMi Professional and Exam	Optional	2	36-48	No qualifications are required to embark on the TMMi Professional course. However, it is thoroughly recommended that students have some good test management and 'lessons learned' experience.	This course teaches people to assess the test maturity of organisations and to put in place plans and actions to increase it. TMMi is now the most widely used test improvement model worldwide.



				Pre-Requisites	
Lead Test Engineer Course	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
ISTQB Advanced Security Tester and Exam	Optional	4	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate, at least 36 months testing experience Interest in security practices and procedures. Leadership skills needed to influence the security testing strategy and approaches for programmes. Significant analysis and evaluation and skills in a technical setting.	To develop a deeper understanding of issues and how to build in security to systems and complex solutions that risk being compromised, either internally or from external threats.
KALI/OSCP Advanced and Certificated Security Testing	Optional	Online	36-48	An ISTQB Advanced Security Tester certificate is a pre-requisite of this course, as is 1-years actual security testing	To develop ethical hackers who can build in security measures and protect client systems.



4.5 The Test Architect

The Test Architect stream is designed for people who want to drive technology solutions, set strategy, influence the business and operate as an experienced consultant on behalf of both internal and external stakeholders. It is recommended that people embarking on or joining this stream have at least 6-years of relevance experience and hold an ISTQB Foundation Level certificate.

4.5.1 The Test Architect Roadmap

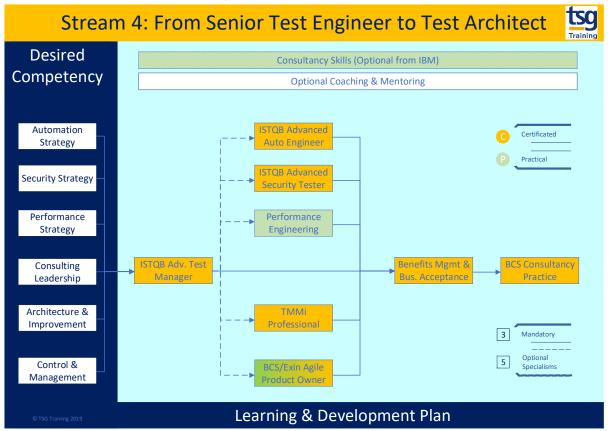


Figure 5 - The Test Architect Capability Roadmap

The stream supports the key competencies of:

- Automation Strategies
- Security strategy
- Performance Strategy
- Test Management and Architecture
- Architecture and Process Improvement
- Control & Management for Consulting Leadership & Business Management

As can be seen in Figure 5 - The Test Architect Capability Roadmap, there are three mandatory courses, interspersed with five optional paths within the stream. Whist the paths are optional, they link back to mandatory courses that a student must pass if they are to graduate the stream and achieve A 'Test Practice Diploma'.

Note: It is not envisaged that any of the courses in this stream will be eligible for 'Government Apprenticeship Funding' unless someone is transferring into a role where there is a requirement to learn at least 51% of new skills to fulfil it.



4.5.2 Test Architect Courses Narrative

Test Architect				Pre-Requisites	
Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
ISTQB Advanced Test Manager and Exam	Yes	5	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation Certificate and at least 36 months testing experience. Some team management experience helpful. Interest in setting the direction of testing. Familiarity with the challenges facing test teams in projects. Willingness to sit a multiple-choice exam lasting 3 hours. High flyers or those on accelerated learning may be ready to take this course at 24-months.	To provide the industry view of test management practices and principles to set tests policy, strategy and plans.
ISTQB Advanced Test Automation Engineer and Exam	Optional	3	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate, introduction to automation and, ideally, the Selenium Foundation course, at least 36 months testing experience or some real hands-on experience of the different test models that can be applied to reusable frameworks. Interest in test automation practices and procedures. Leadership skills needed to influence the test automation strategy and approaches for programmes. Significant analysis and evaluation and skills in a technical setting.	To develop a deeper understanding of designing, developing, and maintaining the correct frameworks and techniques for test automation solutions.



Test Architect				Pre-Requisites									
Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale								
Performance Engineering	Optional	5	36-48	Experience of performance tools-based training is required to attend this proprietary, practical and non-certificated IBM course.	To enable effective performance engineering that goes beyond simple testing. Provides for strategy and plan development, profiling processes and analysis and usage of outputs to identify problems and correct them across the life cycle								
BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Product Owner	Optional	3	36-48	2-years agile testing and test management are recommended to step up to the role of Product Owner in an agile environment	When an organization makes the decision to adopt agile, it takes much more than pulling together a development team and allowing them to work in an iterative manner. Agile is a true shift in how individuals collaborate, communicate and operate. Agile requires an "all in" mindset from both business and technology where all individuals work together to deliver business value in the form of working software.								
ISTQB Advanced Security Tester and Exam	Optional	4	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation certificate, at least 36 months testing experience Interest in security practices and procedures. Leadership skills needed to influence the security testing strategy and approaches for programmes. Significant analysis and evaluation and skills in a technical setting.	To develop a deeper understanding of issues and how to build in security to systems and complex solutions that risk being compromised, either internally or from external threats.								



				Pre-Requisites	Training
Test Architect Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale
TMMi Professional and Exam	Optional	2	36-48	No qualifications are required to embark on the TMMi Professional course. However, it is recommended that students have some good test management and 'lessons learned' experience.	This course teaches people to assess the test maturity of organisations and to put in place plans and actions to increase it. TMMi is now the most used improvement method worldwide.
BCS Benefits Management & Business Acceptance and Exam	Yes	3	36-48	The are no qualifications as pre-requisites to take this course. However, it is strongly recommended that delegates have a good understanding of business analysis, have led major programmes and want to provide additional benefits to help drive projects forward from inception.	The course explores how systems are tested for business acceptance and cover other areas such as user acceptance testing, test design and planning, and delivery of business benefits. The course reinforces theoretical concepts by using realistic, practical case studies, to gain experience of applying benefits management and business acceptance techniques.
BCS Consultancy Practice and Exam	Yes	5	42-48	The are no qualifications as pre-requisites to take this course. However, it is strongly recommended that delegates can demonstrate good consultancy practices, have led major programmes and are interested in business environment analysis, defining cogent solutions to tricky problems, writing bids and proposals, measuring and managing solutions and change.	This provides consultants with the skills beyond testing to help them become more rounded individuals who can lead programmes effectively from a business and management perspective.



4.6 The Test Expert

The Test Expert stream is designed for the people who are moving to the very top of their career to the point where they can lead major programmes, such as business critical integration, drive technology solutions, set organisational strategy, lead the business and operate as an experienced consultant on behalf of both internal and external stakeholders.

4.6.1 The Test Expert Roadmap

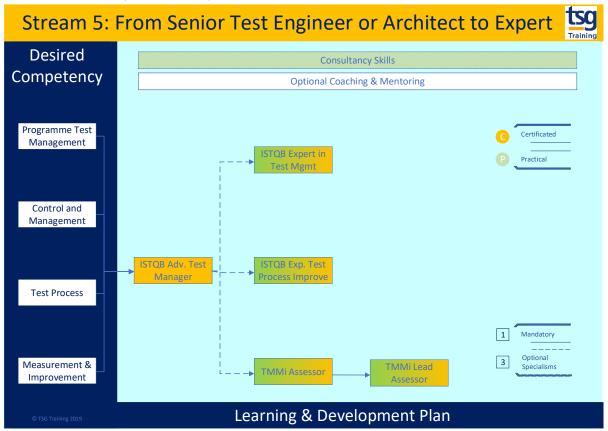


Figure 6 - The Test Expert Capability Roadmap

The stream supports the key competencies of:

- Programme Test Management for large scale programmes
- Control and Management
- Test Process Development and Improvement
- Measurement and Improvement

As can be seen in Figure 6 - The Test Expert Capability Roadmap, there is one mandatory course, ISTQB Test Manager (which is more of a requirement that should have been fulfilled previously), interspersed with three optional paths within the stream that are targeted to achieving excellence in key areas of developmental quality and delivery. Whist the paths are optional, they link back to mandatory courses that a student must pass if they are to graduate the stream and be awarded a 'Test Practice Diploma'.

Note: It is not envisaged that any of the courses in this stream will be eligible for 'Government Apprenticeship Funding' unless someone is transferring into a role where there is a requirement to learn at least 51% of new skills to fulfil it.



4.6.2 Test Expert Learning & Development Narrative

Test Expert				Pre-Requisites						
Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale					
ISTQB Advanced Test Manager and Exam	Yes	5	36-48	ISTQB/ISEB Foundation Certificate and at least 36 months testing experience. Some team management experience helpful. Interest in setting the direction of testing. Familiarity with the challenges facing test teams in projects. Willingness to sit a multiple-choice exam lasting 3 hours. High flyers or those on accelerated learning may be ready to take this course at 24-months. It is expected, however, that people entering this stream will have previously completed this course and passed the exam	To provide the industry view of test management practices and principles to set tests policy, strategy and plans.					
ISTQB Expert Test Management	Optional	8	60+	This course, delivered over three separate sessions of 3+3+2 days, represents the pinnacle in test management and requires and ISTQB Advanced Test Manager Certificate and significant experience and dedication to the cause before it is attempted.	This course is taken only by the few who seek further industry acceptance above and beyond their already significant experience as a Test Manager. It is likely that people taking this course are those who possess the capability to lead large teams on major programmes, such as integration following a merger.					



Total Support				Pre-Requisites			
Test Expert Learning & Development	Mandatory	Days	Months Exp.	Experience and Qualifications	Rationale		
ISTQB Expert in Test Process Improvement	Optional	7	This course, delivered over three separar sessions of 3+2+2 days, is for those who seek to develop and define test process the corporate level and who will then provide guidance to teams on further development and capture of metrics and measures. An ISTQB Advanced Test Manager and significant experience of lessons learned and implementing improvement over several years is mandatory.		sessions of 3+2+2 days, is for seek to develop and define te the corporate level and who we provide guidance to teams on development and capture of measures. An ISTQB Advanced Manager and significant expellessons learned and implement improvement over several years.		This course is aimed at those taking an holistic view of test and operational processes who are tasked with: • Developing new ones • Improving existing ones • Managing metrics and measures for organisational excellence • Alignment of processes and metrics with corporate strategy and goals
TMMi Assessor	Optional	5	60+	Good experience of test process definition and improvement, coupled with an ISTQB Advanced Test Manager certificate.	This course is aimed at those who expect to assess and report on test process and measurements within a contained project		
TMMi Lead Assessor	Optional	5	60+	24+ months of activity and 7 assessments as a TMMi Assessor	This course is aimed at those who expect to assess and report on organisational test policy, strategy, plans and measurement and how can lead teams of assessors		



5 Benefits of the Approach

In helping to meet the requirements of building capability within a modern Test Practice we have clearly delineated the roles and mapped them to training functions to be supported, aligned with stated principles and competencies:

- Courses will be delivered by experienced staff who have at least 20-years' experience gained from training and programme delivery at the sharp-end.
- The experience the trainers bring will allow them to offer the ever-important analogies and war-stories to make training relevant and accessible.
- All courses are ready to go, except for ISTQB Certified Mobile App Tester.
- Courses can be tailored to meet specific requirements; although for ISTQB courses we are limited to 10% variation without having to reaccredit.
- We can provide private training courses anywhere or staff can attend any of the courses that we run on our public schedule.
- We will agree and put in place a monitoring and measurement system to make sure that:
 - o The delegate experience is rich.
 - People are passing exams at the expected rate.
 - o The overall programme is delivering against its aims.



A. Training & SFIA Cross Reference

The following table identifies:

- The Knowledge Levels (K) that each course and exam is aimed at:
- The SFIA Levels and the suitability of courses by the identified role types.

						Stre	eam :	1:												S	trea	m 2:										Str	eam3	3:						St	rean	ո 4։				Str	eam	5:	
					T	est E	ngin	eer											Se	nior	Test	Engi	ineer	r							Lea	d Te	st En	gine	er					Test	Arch	nitect				Tes	t Exp	ert	
Courses & SFIA Levels	Introduction to Test Engineering	ISTQB Foundation		Introduction to Risk-Based Testing	Role Based Test Techniques	Introduction to Programming	Intro to Artificial Intelligence	intro to Performance	ISTQB Mobile App Testing	ISTQB Foundation Level Agile Extension	BCS Intermediate	DevOps Foundation	ISTQB Advanced Test Analyst	ISTQB Advanced Test Analyst	B Model k	iSQI Selenium WebDriver	On Demand Automation Tools Training	ISTQB Advanced Technical Agile Tester	Introduction to Performance	On Demand Performance Tools Training	BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Foundation	BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Practitioner		BCS Requirements Engineering	BCS Modeling Lechniques	Practical Test Management	to Artificial In	BCS Foundation in Artificial Intelligence ISTOB Advanced Test manager	ISTQB Advanced Test Manager		ISTQB Advanced Technical Test Analyst	ISTQB Advanced Test Automation Engineer	Performance Engineering	BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Product Owner	TMMi Professional		KALI/OSCP Security		Security Lester	ISTQB Advanced Test Automation Engineer	ormance Engineering	BCS Benefits Management & Business Acceptance	IMMi Professional	BCS/EXIN Agile Scrum Product Owner	d Test Manage	ISTQB Expert in Test Management	ISTQB Expert in Test Process Improvement	TMMi Assessor	TMMi Lead Assessor
Mandatory or Optional	М	М	0	0	0	0	0	0	М	М	0		_		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 () (0 0		0 0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		M () (0 (v N	1 0			0	0		0
Training Mode																																																	
Classroom Days	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	4	2	4	4	2	3	4	3	1	5	2	3	3	3	3 4	4 1	1 :	2 5	5	3	3	3	5	2	2	4	N	5 4	4 3	3	5	3 5	2	2	5	8	7	5	5
Accelerated Days	N	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	3	N	N	N	2	N	N	N	N	2	N I	I V	N I	N I	N 3	3	2	2	2	N	N	N	N	N	3 4	4 2	2	N I	N N	l N	N	3	N	N	N	N
Virtual Classroom	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	4	2	4	4	2	3	4	3	1	5	2	3	3	3	3 4	4 1	1 :	2 5	5	3	3	3	5	2	2	4	N	5 4	4 3	3	5	3 5	2	2	5	8	7	5	5
Online	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	N I	I V	N I	N I	N Y	Y	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	1 Y	1 /	N	N I	N N	l N	l N	Υ	N	N	N	N
Blooms Taxonomy 6: Evaluate 5: Synthesis 4: Analyse 3: Apply 2: Understand 1: Remember Strategy/Inspire Head of Testing 7																																																	
Initiate/Influence Test Architect Ensure/Advise Lead Test Engineer Enable Senior Test Engineer Apply Assist 2/3																																																	

Table 3 - SFIA Levels by Course and Role Type