Release Notes

Certified Tester Advanced Level Test Analyst

Syllabus Version v4.0

The Certified Tester Advanced Level Test Analyst (CTAL-TA) version v4.0 is a major update that replaces the previous version, v3.1. This new version represents a major change because over 20% of the Learning Objectives have been modified or updated with impact, as described in the ISTQB® Accreditation Process.

Due to the extent of these changes, re-accreditation of training providers and their materials is required. The accreditation body must review all content to ensure that training providers have appropriately adapted their materials to align with the new syllabus version. The generic ISTQB® Accreditation Guidelines will apply.

The updated version v4.0 of the syllabus comes into effect on the launch date May 30th, 2025.

All ISTQB® Member Boards currently providing the CTAL-TA Syllabus in English must decommission the previous version (3.1) within 12 months of the launch date and exclusively use the current version (4.0) in their market.

All ISTQB® Member Boards offering CTAL-TA exams in English must ensure that, within 12 months of the launch date, the examinations are valid according to version 4.0 of the CTAL-TA Syllabus and its Exam Structure and Rules.

All ISTQB® Member Boards providing the CTAL-TA Syllabus in their local language must decommission the previous version (3.1) in that language within 18 months of the launch date. They can provide their market with a translation of the new CTAL-TA Syllabus version 4.0 in their local language or refrain from using the syllabus in that language.

All ISTQB® Member Boards offering CTAL-TA exams in their local language must ensure that, within 18 months of the launch date, the examinations are valid according to version 4.0 of the CTAL-TA Syllabus and its Exam Structure and Rules.

As a result of this rule, there will be no further activity at any ISTQB® Member Board regarding previous versions of the Syllabus 12 months after the launch date in English, and 18 months after the launch date in non-English languages.

All ISTQB® Member Boards are required to inform their accredited training providers about this update.

What has been released?

1) The new major version v4.0 of the CTAL-TA Syllabus

2) A sample exam for the CTAL-TA Syllabus Version v4.0

3) A new exam structure table for CTAL-TA

4) Release Notes (this document).

Syllabus Change log

The syllabus has been completely rewritten to significantly improve its quality and timeliness. A summary of the changes in its scope is provided in the document: ISTQB_CTAL-TA_LO-new-vs-old-syllabus. In addition, the updates established consistency with the recent versions of the core syllabi CTFL v4.0 and CTAL-TM v3.0, as well as with the current versions of the referenced international standards. More detailed information can be found in Appendix C – Release Notes of the syllabus.

February 18, 2025

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