Test Analyst, Advanced Level
Exam ID: A
Sample Exam – Answers

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ISTQB® Test Analyst Syllabus

Advanced Level

Exam ID: A

Version 1.3

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Exam Working Group 2019

Document Responsibility

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Acknowledgements

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Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
1.3	September 17, 2018	Sample Exam – Answers Template used
1.00	October 19, 2012	Version for voting
1.01	November 23, 2012	Version for release
1.2	December 5, 2018	Split of document into Questions and Answers Randomize answer order Refactor layout on Sample Exam Template Correcting of Pick-N type questions Correcting of question 16 and 17 Remove broken question 15 (and renumbering)
1.3	February 19, 2019	Minor correction of answer option labels Correcting of Pick-N type questions

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Introduction

Purpose of this document

The sample questions, answer sets and associated justifications in this document have been created by a team of Subject Matter Experts and experienced question writers with the aim of assisting ISTQB® Member Boards and Exam Boards in their question writing activities.

These questions cannot be used as-is in any official examination, but they should serve as guidance for question writers. Given the wide variety of formats and subjects, these sample questions should offer many ideas for the individual Member Boards on how to create good questions and appropriate answer sets for their examinations.

Instructions

The question and answer sets are organized in the following way:

- Learning Objective and K-level
- Question - including any scenario followed by the question stem (The question is contained in a separate document)
- Answer Set (The answer set is contained in the document)
- Correct answer – including justification of the answers

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Answer Key

Question Number	Correct Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
1	b	TA-1.2.1	K2	1
2	c	TA-1.3.1	K2	1
3	d	TA-1.4.1	K4	2
4	b	TA-1.5.1	K2	1
5	a, d	TA-1.5.2	K4	1
6	c	TA-1.6.1	K2	1
7	d	TA-1.7.1	K3	2
8	b	TA-1.8.1	K2	1
9	d	TA-1.9.1	K2	1
10	d	TA-2.2.1	K2	1
11	d	TA-2.3.1	K2	1
12	c	TA-2.4.1	K3	1
13	a	TA-3.2.1	K2	1
14	c	TA-3.2.2	K3	2
15	c, e	TA-3.2.4	K3	3
16	b, e	TA-3.2.5	K3	2
17	a	TA-3.2.6	K3	2
18	c	TA-3.2.7	K3	2
19	d	TA-3.2.8	K3	2
20	c	TA-3.2.9	K2	1
21	c	TA-3.2.10	K3	1

Question Number	Correct Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
22	b, c	TA-3.2.11	K4	2
23	a	TA-3.3.1	K2	1
24	c, e	TA-3.3.2	K4	3
25	a	TA-3.4.1	K2	1
26	a, d	TA-3.4.2	K3	2
27	B	TA-3.4.3	K4	2
28	b, d	TA-4.2.1	K2	1
29	d	TA-4.2.2	K2	1
30	d, e	TA-4.2.3	K2	1
31	a	TA-4.2.4	K4	3
32	a, b	TA-5.1.1	K2	1
33	a, c	TA-5.2.1	K4	2
34	b	TA-5.2.2	K4	2
35	d	TA-6.2.1	K2	1
36	a, d	TA-6.3.1	K2	1
37	c	TA-6.4.1	K4	1
38	c	TA-6.5.1	K2	1
39	a	TA-7.2.1	K2	1
40	c	TA-7.2.2	K2	1
41	b	TA-7.2.3	K2	1

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Answers

Question	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-level	Number of Points
1.	b	a) Incorrect: test analysis must start earlier, already during requirement specification in sequential lifecycle models. b) Correct: this is the correct option of how testing activities should be aligned to the sequential lifecycle model phases. c) Incorrect: as stated in the syllabus, there may be many differences in how the testing activities are aligned. d) Incorrect: As stated in the syllabus the analyst should be involved from the beginning of an agile project.	TA-1.2.1	K2	1
2.	c	a) Incorrect: this is the responsibility of the TTA. b) Incorrect: this is the responsibility of the TTA. c) Correct per the syllabus. d) Incorrect: this is the responsibility of the TTA.	TA-1.3.1	K2	1
3.	d	a) Incorrect: this option ignores test conditions for risk mitigation and goes straight to test cases, and it is not specific about the objectives of test conditions. b) Incorrect: this option ignores analysis of user stories and omits mention of desired coverage. c) Incorrect: this option ignores test conditions altogether and goes straight to test cases. d) Correct: with risk mitigation added on to user story test conditions.	TA-1.4.1	K4	2

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Question	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-level	Number of Points
4.	b	a) Incorrect: yes, this is one of the good reasons, that is to verify that the test cases match the business processes and rules. b) Correct: test cases should be created to comply with the test policy, not the other way around. c) Incorrect: yes, this is another good reason, namely that other testers should be able to understand and execute test cases. d) Incorrect: yes, developers need to be sure that they have the same understanding of the requirements as the testers in order to catch misunderstandings and also to participate in the optimization of tests.	TA-1.5.1	K2	1
5.	a, d	a) Correct: this is the best recommendation for project HIPPOS, the team has experience in testing and in Agile development and the application is an online marketing application where experience-based testing at a logical level makes a lot of sense. b) Incorrect: the scenario states that there are demands for traceability for project IQ, so this is not a good recommendation. Also, testers do not have much testing experience, so logical level is not good. c) Incorrect: not a good recommendation. There are no arguments that support the same detailed level of documentation for project HIPPOS; it is a marketing application they are building. d) Correct: this is a good recommendation because there are demands for traceability, and the testers do not have much test experience. e) Incorrect: there are no arguments that support the same detailed level of documentation for project HIPPOS; it is a marketing application they are building.	TA-1.5.2	K4	2
6.	c	a) Incorrect: creating test cases is part of Test Design. b) Incorrect: test cases should be reviewed and approved prior to execution or the process is not likely to help the schedule. c) Correct: per the syllabus as an example of a task that should be completed during this activity and will accomplish the stated purpose. d) Incorrect: executing tests is part of Test Execution.	TA-.1.6.1	K2	1

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Question	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-level	Number of Points
7.	d	a) Incorrect: this option rechecks steps 2 and 4 but raise an incident report for step 5 without checking that the test was correct. b) Incorrect: this raises incident reports for steps 4 and 5 without checking test documentation or waiting for the outcome of the repeat step 4 test. c) Incorrect: this adds an incident report for the 'false positive' step as well as steps 4 and 5 and does not check test documentation. d) Correct: checking that tests were correct in every case before raising an incident report.	TA-1.7.1	K3	2
8.	b	a) Incorrect: test case execution status could have a bearing on the ordering of which defects to fix, but there are other items, such as defect severity, which are more important. b) Correct: from the syllabus: "From the point of view of the test process, test progress monitoring entails ensuring the collection of proper information to support the reporting requirements. This includes measuring progress towards completion". c) Incorrect: test case status information just has to do with status. The validation of test case coverage should be done earlier. d) Incorrect: test case execution status information should not be used to evaluate efficiency of individuals. It can give an idea of how quickly team members are working through test cases, but status alone does not allow a manager to decide whether or not a team member is efficiently using their time.	TA-1.8.1	K2	1
9.	d	a) Incorrect: this item is part of the test summary report. b) Incorrect: this item is part of the test summary report. c) Incorrect: this item is part of the test summary report. d) Correct: only the deferred defects are of interest to the people who will be maintaining and supporting the software, so this is the list that should be supplied at closure.	TA-1.9.1	K2	1

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Question	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-level	Number of Points
10.	d	a) Incorrect: seen from a test monitoring and control perspective the performance of individual developers is not in scope. b) Incorrect: it is one-sided, beyond the control of the testers and influenced by other factors, how many test cases pass and how many fails. c) Incorrect: to get the right picture of progress both dimensions passed/failed executed/non-executed is important. d) Correct: these are 4 of the 5 dimensions mentioned in the syllabus.	TA-2.2.1	K2	1
11.	d	a) Incorrect: any of the meeting options might work, but it depends on the time zones and availability. The defect tracking system will always work. b) Incorrect: if anything, this would make it worse as the frequent loading of new software would make it more difficult to keep everyone on the same versions and unblocked. c) Incorrect: any of the meeting options might work, but it depends on the time zones and availability. The defect tracking system will always work. d) Correct: accurate information in the defect tracking system enables everyone to work efficiently with less follow up needed. Any of the meeting options might work, but it depends on the time zones and availability. The defect tracking system will always work.	TA-2.3.1	K2	1
12.	c	a) Incorrect: is a good suggestion but is a lower priority because the risk is lower. b) Incorrect: is a good suggestion but will not mitigate risk as well the correct answer. It could be done as well as the correct answer, but this should not override the correct answer as the highest priority. c) Correct. d) Incorrect: is a good suggestion but is a lower priority.	TA-2.4.1	K3	1

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13.	a	a) Correct: cause-effect graphs show condition combinations that cause results, exclude results, multiple conditions that must be true to cause a result and alternative conditions that can be true to cause a particular result. Therefore, this option is NOT true. b) Incorrect: this is true. c) Incorrect: this is true. d) Incorrect: this is true.	TA-3.2.1	K2	1
14.	c	a) Incorrect: see justification for correct answer. b) Incorrect: see justification for correct answer. c) Correct: parameter 1) and 2) getting the 10 % reduction for signing pledge of honor and filling out a detailed assessment and both have 2 partitions either the do it or they don't. Parameters 3) The smoking and the BMI parameter each have 3 partitions, so 3 test cases will be sufficient to hit all of the partitions. As for the maximum premium: An employee not signing the pledge of honor, and not filling out the detailed assessment being a smoker and having a BMI of 30 or more will have to pay the full standard premium + extra $75. On the other hand, an employee, signing the pledge of honor filling out the detailed assessment, being a nonsmoker and having a low BMI of less than 27,5 will get deductions of: 40 + 25 + 50 + 50 = 165 leaving $235 in premium. d) Incorrect: see justification for correct answer.	TA-3.2.2	K3	2

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15.	c, e	a) Incorrect: see explanation for correct answers. b) Incorrect: see explanation for correct answers. c) Correct: not accepting to participate = 500 in premium, accepting to participate but failing to show up for some reason = (500 − 25) = 475. Participating with any combination of 1, 2, 3, or 4 tests will add 4 more test cases with different outcomes. See attached decision table. d) Incorrect: see explanation for correct answers. e) Correct: 1 test case for not accepting to participate at all + 2*2*2*2 to cover the possibilities of yes and no in participating in the 4 tests, see decision table also in spreadsheet. (It makes no sense to do 15 more tests for people not accepting to participate since they will all result in the same negative result of not participating in any test, so they are not done due to the restriction. If this restriction had not been introduced, then the result would be 32 test cases).	TA-3.2.4	K3	3

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| 16. | b, e | a) Incorrect: 4 transitions for Switch 0, see justification under correct answers.
b) Correct: 4 transitions for Switch 0, Switch 0 from Activated there are 4 transitions: To Activated itself, to Accepted, to Closed and to Disputed.
c) Incorrect: 4 transitions for Switch 0. see justification under correct answers.
d) Incorrect: 11 valid for Switch 1 see justification under correct answers.
e) Correct: switch 1 from Activated there are 11 valid transitions:
  1. Activated via Activated to Activated
  2. Activated via Activated to Closed
  3. Activated via Activated to Disputed
  4. Activated via Activated to Accepted
  5. Activated via Closed to Activated
  6. Activated via Closed to Disputed
  7. Activated via Closed to Removed
  8. Activated via Disputed to Activated
  9. Activated via Disputed to Closed
  10. Activated via Accepted to Activated
  11. Activated via Accepted to Closed
Note Activated via Closed to Accepted is not an allowed transition. | TA-3.2.5 | K3 | 2 |

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17.	a	a) Correct: this can be seen from the following table: (see table below) b) Incorrect: this is the result of the number of parameters multiplied by the choices (3 * 4). c) Incorrect: this is the result of 4 to the power of 4. d) Incorrect: this is 1-wise coverage.	TA-3.2.6	K3	2
18.	c	a) Incorrect: this is the minimum number of options in a branch (show balance - either on screen or on paper). b) Incorrect: this is the figure you get when you count all the options together (6 + 4 + 2). c) Correct: in 1-wise coverage, each value of every parameter must be at least once included. The maximum number of values is in the parameter "amount", 6. d) Incorrect: this is the number of branches (amount, payment method, show balance).	TA-3.2.7	K3	2

Table for Question 17a:

case #	Value 1	Value 2	Value 3
1	house	wood	city
2	house	concrete	suburb
3	house	brick	countryside
4	house	mixed	wilderness
5	semi-det	wood	suburb
6	semi-det	concrete	countryside
7	semi-det	brick	wilderness
8	semi-det	mixed	city
9	apt	wood	countryside
10	apt	concrete	wilderness
11	apt	brick	city
12	apt	mixed	suburb
13	cottage	wood	wilderness
14	cottage	concrete	city
15	cottage	brick	suburb
16	cottage	mixed	countryside

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19.	d	a) Incorrect: this is a situation with a test case for main stream and one test case for the exceptions. b) Incorrect: 1 is the minimum for main stream but does not take into account the alternatives nor the exceptions. c) Incorrect: the figure is calculated by adding test cases for the options with separate use cases to the correct number. d) Correct: the correct number has one test case for the main stream plus all the exception paths of which there are 4 E1's and 1 E2.	TA-3.2.8	K3	2
20.	c	a) Incorrect: user stories are part or requirements documentation and created before or at the same time as the system is developed. b) Incorrect: user story describes the requirements and what is expected from a system, not specific activities related to those expectations. c) Correct: as per definition of a user story in section 3.2.8 in Syllabus. d) Incorrect: user stories are not related to use cases; nor are they used only in acceptance testing but they can be used at all test levels.	TA-3.2.9	K2	1
21.	c	a) Incorrect: test 1 is on the lower boundary for weight and for capacity Test 2 is on both upper boundaries Test 3 is outside both boundaries and test 4 is outside both boundaries. There is duplication of the outside test. b) Incorrect: test 1 is inside both boundaries, Test 2 is on the lower boundary of weight and the upper boundary of capacity Test 3 is inside both boundaries Test 4 is outside both boundaries. There is duplication of the inside test. c) Correct: test 1 inside the domain, Test 2 on the weight boundary, Test 3 on the capacity boundary and Test 4 outside both boundaries. d) Incorrect: test 1 is inside both boundaries, Test 2 is outside both boundaries, Test 3 is inside both boundaries and Test 4 is on the upper weight boundary. The set is missing a test at the capacity boundary.	TA-3.2.10	K3	1

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22.	b, e	a) Incorrect: although the system may be state-based there is no information about this in the scenario and the approach of building from an existing system suggests there may be minimal definition of state changes. b) Correct: classification trees offer the opportunity to manage combinations of inputs effectively. c) Incorrect: Some of the inputs are likely to be in partitions (e.g. colors) but these are unlikely to be ordered partitions because they identify alternatives, so boundary value analysis is not appropriate. d) Incorrect: user story testing is appropriate to the likely development approach but would be based more on overall functional flow than on detailed combinations of inputs. e) Correct: the inputs exist in partitions (options) that are combined, so the combination of Classification Tree with Equivalence Partitioning would be an ideal choice.	TA-3.2.11	K4	2
23.	a	a) Correct: defect-based technique uses the typical defects identified for different types of software and programs as the source of test cases in order to find those specific type defects in the software under test. b) Incorrect: defect-based techniques are mainly used in system testing, not in component testing. c) Incorrect: test cases are created by analyzing the defects typical for the system under test, not by analyzing the documentation of the system. d) Incorrect: defect-based testing is not a sub-category of specification-based testing, since the specifications are not the basis of the test cases.	TA-3.3.1	K2	1

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24.	c, e	a) Incorrect: this is a functional item and should not be on a user interface checklist. b) Incorrect: load testing is not part of usability testing. c) Correct: tab order is an item you should expect to see on a user interface. checklist. d) Incorrect: this is a security item and should not be on a user interface checklist. e) Correct: rules checking for valid date fields should be on a user interface checklist.	TA-3.3.2	K4	3
25.	a	a) Correct: experience-based techniques can be used as an option of more formal techniques, if the testers have enough experience and information about the system under test. Typically, this can happen in situations when there is time pressure, or the quality of documentation is poor or there is no documentation available. b) Incorrect: experience-based techniques can be used if no formal techniques can be used, but it is not the only situation – they should be used to complement formal testing whenever it's possible. c) Incorrect: experience helps the tester to decide where to test more, but experience-based techniques do not necessarily improve the test coverage since they are informal and coverage measurement is not always possible while using these techniques. d) Incorrect: with the use of checklists, experience-based testing can be made more systematic and efficient, but if there is a requirement for the use of specification-based techniques, experience-based techniques can't replace them. Even though this is partially correct, the question asks for the BEST option and thus this is not the correct answer.	TA-3.4.1	K2	1

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26.	a, d	a) Correct: per the syllabus as a way to record results. b) Incorrect: the pass/fail status of the session per the charter should also be recorded. c) Incorrect: test cases are not normally defined for exploratory sessions. d) Correct: per the syllabus as you will need this knowledge to figure out what to test since the problem is not defined. e) Incorrect: this is likely to lead to lost results and no overall tracking.	TA-3.4.2	K3	2
27.	b	a) Incorrect: exploratory testing is not mentioned at all. It ought to be part of the techniques used by this Agile team. For no 1 EP and BVA are mentioned while decision table would be more likely. Further specification-based techniques are proposed for security testing in no 4 where attack based, or error-based techniques would be more suitable based on the scenario. b) Correct: this is the most likely proposal blending a number of techniques: It mentions both exploratory and defect-based testing, the latter of which is directly supported by the scenario, that states "the team …has as part of their retrospectives built check lists of common defects…" and because the organization should have experience with the types of defects this type of application will exhibit. Further decision table testing is proposed which matches what is written in the scenario for no 1. Automated configuration testing is supported by the scenario for no 3 and so is checklist-based attacks for security testing in no 4. c) Incorrect: it is primarily wrong because decision and branch testing are not specification-based techniques, but it could also have mentioned defect-based testing, since the scenario explicitly mentioned that the team has built a list of common defects. d) Incorrect: it is not likely that specification-based testing is applicable for no 1-4 in the scenario further there is nothing in no 1 that supports the use of state transition testing, instead decision table testing ought to have been mentioned.	TA-3.4.3	K4	2

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28.	b, d, f	a) Incorrect b) Correct c) Incorrect d) Correct e) Incorrect Accuracy, interoperability, and compliance are areas which should be detected from the scenario for special attention. The MOST suitable techniques of this group for testing these are decision table and state transition testing.	TA-4.2.1	K2	1
29.	d	a) Incorrect: this is an interoperability issue with some websites. b) Incorrect: this is an interoperability issue with a specific OS. c) Incorrect: this is an interoperability issue with some browsers. d) Correct: this is a usability defect, not an interoperability defect.	TA-4.2.2	K2	1
30.	d, e	a) Incorrect: this can first be testing during integration testing. b) Incorrect: since the ease of use of the component should be tested before acceptance testing. c) Incorrect: it would be better to test the component on all browsers during component testing. d) Correct: testing that the main functionality still works should be tested at a component test level. e) Correct: the new functionality must be tested first during component testing.	TA-4.2.3	K2	1

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31.	a	a) Correct: the usability should be verified against the requirements and validated by the real users. b) Incorrect: validation should be done before release and by real users. c) Incorrect: formative should have been done before summative and the second test described is a load test, not a usability test. d) Incorrect: usability can't be verified by running a comparison with the existing unacceptable product. Also, there's no reason to develop a prototype - you have the real product.	TA-4.2.4	K4	3
32.	a, b	a) Correct: see syllabus (5.1). b) Correct: see syllabus (5.1). c) Incorrect: at the stage the system test plan is being created, no component defects have yet been found. d) Incorrect: user stories represent small units of demonstrable functionality (in the Agile methodology). They are not relevant for the system test review phase and wouldn't be created in a V-model project. e) Incorrect: the design document is read, but there probably isn't much code to be reviewed at the stage of component test design review. Even if there were, the TA would probably not read it (this would more correctly be the job of the TTA).	TA-5.1.1	K2	1
33.	a, c	a) Correct: only one main path exists in the use case. b) Incorrect: there are no descriptions of user messages in the use case. c) Correct: the main path can be defined from the use case. d) Incorrect: there are apparent alternative options which are not defined in the use case. e) Incorrect: there are parts in the use case where the outcome is not clear and thus it is not testable.	TA-5.2.1	K4	2

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34.	b	a) Incorrect: there are no acceptance criteria. b) Correct: there are multiple requirements in this specification and they are not individually numbered or versioned, there is no traceability back to the business requirements and there are no use cases provided. c) Incorrect: traceability is missing. d) Incorrect: there are no acceptance criteria.	TA-5.2.2	K4	2
35.	d	a) Incorrect: this response sounds like a form of containment but actually restricts testing arbitrarily. b) Incorrect: this response also sounds like a form of phase-centric testing, making the erroneous assumption that certain techniques will be best in certain phases. c) Incorrect: this response is the reverse of the correct one in that it defers testing until defects have become as expensive as they can get (almost). d) Correct: defect tracking can identify where a defect was introduced and where it was eliminated. Defects not eliminated may give rise to failures and also generate further defects.	TA-6.2.1	K2	1
36.	a, d	a) Correct b) Incorrect: will be required for all defect reports c) Incorrect: will be required for all defect reports d) Correct e) Incorrect: will be required for all defect reports	TA-6.3.1	K2	1

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Question	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-level	Number of Points
37.	c	a) Incorrect: tracks symptoms (useful for identifying user interface defects), outstanding defects by priority (not severity), and suspected cause (useful for process improvement). b) Incorrect: tracks defects by priority (not directly related to the acceptance criteria), phase in which the defect was detected (less useful than phase in which it was introduced in terms of phase containment), and suspected cause (which would be useful for process improvement but less useful for driving the project). c) Correct: because it counts outstanding defects by severity (which relates directly to the acceptance criteria), phase in which the defect was introduced (which is the basis of phase containment to save cost and time in the project), symptom (because user interface defects are of particular concern). d) Incorrect: tracks how the defect was discovered (useful for process improvement but not directly relevant for this project), total defects (rather than those outstanding at any time), and the work product in which the mistake was made (useful for process improvement).	TA-6.4.1	K4	1
38.	c	a) Incorrect: this is just one example of what root cause analysis may discover. b) Incorrect: this is part of how root cause analysis is done. c) Correct: per syllabus (6.5.1). d) Incorrect: this may be a positive by-product of root cause analysis but is not why it is important.	TA-6.5.1	K2	1
39.	a	a) Correct: this is what classification tree tools do. b) Incorrect: this is a loose description of a decision table. Definitely not a classification tree. c) Incorrect: classification trees do not generate tables that will guarantee 100% coverage. d) Incorrect: this is a record/playback tool or some other type of test generation tool.	TA-7.2.1	K2	1

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40.	c	a) Incorrect: this is usability testing. b) Incorrect: manual tests are not written for the business processes - code is written by the TTA for the processes identified by the TA. c) Correct: per the syllabus. d) Incorrect: this is the TTA 's job.	TA-7.2.2	K2	1
41.	b	a) Incorrect: the problem might not be due to a defect, so writing a defect report would be premature at this point. b) Correct. c) Incorrect: troubleshooting should be done before calling the TTA. d) Incorrect: the TA probably can't alter the data of an automated test. It would be better to run the same test manually to determine if the issue is with the automation or the code being tested.	TA-7.2.3	K2	1