Certified Agile Tester®

Examination regulation for the
iSQI® Certified Agile Tester Exam

1. Exam condition

A regular attendance and participation in the four day iSQI® Certified Agile Tester course is prerequisite before taking the CAT exam.

Prior foundation level in the theoretical and practical knowledge as a software tester is expected from the participants (E.g. ISTQB® Certified Tester Foundation level).

2. Examination outline

The exam for the Certified Agile Tester consists of two parts:

- Part 1: Practical Exam (see section 7)
  Maximum points achievable: **40**

- Part 2: Written exam (see section 8)
  Maximum points achievable: **100**

- Soft skills assessment will be carried out during the four-day training. For participation in soft skills assessment, the candidate receives 10 points.

The exam for the iSQI® Certified Agile Tester can be answered in the following languages German, English, Dutch and Spanish. Please note that the practical exam papers are available only in English. For the theoretical (written) exam you can choose between English and German language.

3. Conditions to pass the exam

The weighting of the individual parts of the exam is as follows:
- Practical part 45%
- Written part 45%
- Soft skills 10%

   Total 100%

The exam for the Certified Agile Tester is passed when the candidate reaches at least 65% of the total number of points and at least 50% of the maximum points must be achieved each in the practical as well as in the written part of the examination.

For participation in soft skills assessment (during the training) the candidate receives 10 points.

4. Examination duration and sequence

4.1.   The duration of the exam:

- Part 1, practical exam
  120 minutes, earlier submission is possible
- Part 2, written exam
  150 minutes, earlier submission is possible

4.2.   Examination sequence

An identity document with picture must be presented prior to the exam.

The invigilator creates a protocol about the start and end times, for any encountered errors and other events during the examination.

During the exam, any communication between the participants is prohibited. Going to the toilet is allowed, only one participant at the time may go to the toilet.

Visual Aids, writing utensils, a dictionary of English – native language, paper/book (see section 9) on the tables and drinks/snacks are allowed during the exam. Mobile phones/ wearables are not allowed on the tables, so they must be switched off or put mute.

After the beginning of the exam, no further participant can take part at the exam.

The examination responses have to be handwritten on the answer sheets provided by the Certification Authority (CA).

5. Time extension of the exam duration

5.1.   Request for time extension in practical and written part for non-native speaker participants

The candidates can request for a time extension (30 minutes per exam part: from 120 min. to 150 min. practical part; from 150min. to 180min. written part) if the answers of the exam cannot be given in their native language or their primary business language.

To request the extension candidates should mark this on the CAT registration form and provide a copy of their ID card. The invigilator has the right to control the data. I case of incorrect information the candidate will be excluded of the examination or the already awarded certificate can be withdrawn.

In case of health problems please contact the CA before.

6. Anonymization of the examination

The exam is evaluated anonymously. All examination papers are to be provided by the participant with a "candidate number" in the format "mmddiinn" ("mm" month, "dd" day, "ii" initials from the lecturer, "nn" current number). No name may be written. The candidates get their candidate number at the beginning of the exam and need to write it down on each answer sheet.

The candidate numbers are allocated by the invigilator.

7. Part 1 of the examination - practical exam

The questions to the practical exam have to be handwritten on the answer "session sheets" provided by the CA. The candidates will also be given extra copies of the user stories which can be annotated and should be handed in with the session sheets. The answer sheets may be written on one side only and must be numbered at the end of the examination. Each sheet is to be provided with the candidate number.

In the practical part of the exam Certified Agile Tester a laptop is required. Tablets are not allowed. The candidate will receive a USB stick or a DVD with a software application which has a number of different releases available. Based on the tasks requested in the examination paper, the candidate must provide proof of the use of the skills of testing in agile projects.

8. Part 2 of the exam- written (theoretical) exam

The questions of the theoretical exam have to be handwritten on the answer sheets provided by the CA. The sheets may be written on one side only and must be numbered at the end of the examination. Each sheet is to be provided with the candidate number.

Section 1: 10 questions

In the written examination 10 questions in K1 and K2 level must be answered. Each answer can be rated up to 4 points. The total score for section 1 is 40 points.

Section 2: 3 Scenarios

3 scenarios are described in the second part of the written examination, of which the candidate must answer all questions. Each scenario includes 3 to 5 questions.

The questions match the K-level K3 and K4. Each scenario is worth up to 20 points. The total score for section 2 is 60 points.

9. Aids

During the examination no aids are allowed (handouts, books, electronic tools, etc.).If a linguistic tool is required it cannot be an electronic dictionary but must be a paper format in the mother-tongue – English.

The dictionary is examined by the invigilator prior to the examination to check for notes and comments.

10. Disturbances during the examination

10.1. General disturbances

Disturbances which occur during the exam, which interrupt the general conduct of the examination or interfere with, have to be eradicated by the invigilator immediately. If necessary, this time can be granted after the examination as an extension for the duration of the interruption.

10.2. Technical disturbances during the practical examination

If problems occur during the practical exam to a candidate when working on the computer/laptop, the candidate has to be given a note to restart his computer. If the problem persists, the replacement of USB sticks / the DVD is necessary under certain circumstances.

The candidate receives an examination time extension equal to the duration of the disturbance due to the delay.

11. Completion of the examination

After the time given for each exam has completed all exam documentation and answer sheets, as well as the USB-sticks / DVDs must be completely returned to the invigilator.

12. Notification of the results of the examination

Notification of the results of the examination, as well as the shipping of the certificate documents, will be sent by CA to the address specified by the candidates when registering.

The training provider receives an anonymous summary of exam results. Exceptions can be made if all candidates give their permission in advance in written consent, that the training provider receives the results of the participants with their names.

The exam results will be sent by email. The certificate documents will be available as pdf files or shipped, depending on the arrangement, to the participants or the address of the training provider.

13. Re-sit of the exam in case of fail

The candidate must re-sit the part of the exam in which s/he had less than 50%. Both the practical and the written exam can be repeated up to two times each without a waiting period. The entire training and the exam must be repeated with a third failure.

If the candidate has reached less than 50% in both parts of the examination, he must re-sit the complete exam. Should a candidate have passed each of the two parts of the exam but not reached the 65% of total points, he can re-sit only one part of the examination. The candidate can choose the part which s/he wants to re-sit.

14. Certification

14.1.   Certification for training participants

The certification authority will award the iSQI® Certified Agile Tester certificate when the candidate has successfully passed the examination for the certified Agile Tester. With the certification of iSQI® Certified Agile Tester the candidate receives a document, which indicates the name of the participant and the date of the certification. The certificate is signed by the CA.

The certificate is valid indefinitely.

14.2.   Certification for trainers

The certification authority will award the iSQI® Certified Agile Tester trainer certificate when the candidate has successfully participated in a Train the Trainer course and has successfully passed the examination for the Certified Agile Tester. For the successful participation of the Train the Trainer course the trainer must also receive from the CAT Master Trainer a 'pass' in the trainer assessment evaluation.

With the certification of iSQI® Certified Agile Tester the trainer receives a document, which indicates the name of the trainer and the date of the certification. The certificate is signed by the CA.

The certificate is valid for two years.

14.3. Trainer re-certification

Due to the fast successive technological changes in the environment of modern information and communications technology, sustainable employment with the methods and technologies of testing in agile projects is essential. For this reason a recertification of Certified Agile Tester trainers is offered. A recertification by the CAT trainer can be requested every two years at CA.

For more information please contact agile@isqi.org

15. Fees

Following fees from the 1st January 2011 are set for the testing and certification to the Certified Agile Tester.

Subject	Fee
Examination fee	400,00 €
Examination fee for re-sit	400,00 €
Examination fee to re-sit one part	250,00 €
Objection	150,00 €
Reissue of a certificate	30,00 €

16. Objection

Those who want to raise an objection can do so to the certification authority. Reasons may be challenged are:

- No issuance of the certificate due to grading one or both parts of the exam as a "fail".
- No issuance of the certificate due to grading the whole exam under 65%.
- The subsequent withdrawal of the certificate if there is a case of fraud.

The raise of an objection is associated with fees which will be refunded if it is decided in favor of the person concerned. An objection will be processed only after payment of the fee.

In case of no issuance of the certificate the participant can challenge the grading of the exam. The objection must be explained in a written form. The certification authority forwards the justification on the assessor, who checks on the objection and the justification and gives its opinion. The statement of the assessor includes the current or a new assessment which is binding and can no longer be challenged.

17. Data protection

With the registration to the iSQI® Certified Agile Tester training and exam candidates give their consent to storage, handling and processing their personal and personal-related data. Only data which are necessary for unique identification of the applicant in the context of certification and re-certification will be collected. The accredited training providers, as well as the CA of iSQI GmbH and their agents may share the personal and personal-related data with each other to allow a regulated flow of the certification process.

18. Contact

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