As for the QA team organizational structure, it can either follow one of the classic patterns ― functional, divisional, product- or processed-based ― or be unique to your corporate culture. No matter what way would you go with your testing team, here the roles you will most likely have in it:

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| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Duties** |
| QA Lead | Supervises the team and controls all the software testing operations. Namely, he/she is in charge of testing strategy, resource planning, internal team communication, testing process estimation, and quality control of the work delivered by the teammates. Also, executes external communication with a client or product owner to gather requirements for the future product, forward them to the testing team, and make sure everybody fully complies with them. |
| Test Architect | Analyzes project requirements and creates a suitable test framework. Has both automation and [**manual testing**](https://testfort.com/manual-testing) experience as well as deep understanding of software architecture and system design. Provides technical support to the QA team at all stages, from scripts and cases creation to retested error fixes. Also takes part in high-level service improvements. |
| QA Analyst | Combines software testing expertise with an industry-specific background that he/she applies to make a particular product a better fit for the market. This position focuses on business logic and correspondence to the needs of the target audience rather than on technical details of software testing. Works closely with product owners, software engineers, and team managers to ensure the future product’s functionality is able to meet industry standards. |
| Automation Tester | A test engineer that relies on automated tools like Selenium framework, HP Unified Functional Testing, etc. This position requires strong programming skills, as automation QA engineers check not just how a certain feature performs, but an isolated piece of code it is implemented in. Works by coding test scripts that compare the expected software outcome with the real one. Automated QA also includes [**unit testing**](https://testfort.com/blog/software-unit-testing-what-is-that-why-is-it-important) that can be performed directly by developers. |
| Manual Tester | Checks product performance by hand. Mostly focuses on the client-facing (frontend) side of the software, meaning checks it like if it was given to the real end-users. Manual testers utilize bug tracking and test management tools like Airbrake, Backlog, and ReQtest to ensure the app works as required. |
| UI/UX Tester | Companies that truly strive for best-in-class user experience divide [**UI/UX testing**](https://testfort.com/blog/why-your-project-needs-ui-ux-testing) in a separate stage within the software development life cycle. The thing is, with every new issue found and fixed, both product performance and outlook might change, and not always for the better. That’s why QA teams hire UI/UX testers ― people with a web design background able to keep the initially developed system design as polished and smoothly performing in reality as it was on paper. |

**Key QA Roles and Responsibilities**

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| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Responsibilities** |
| **QA Engineer** | Tests software to detect bugs and errors. Checks whether a product complies with the requirements. A detective who knows where the bugs can hide, even where no one expects them to. Tests the system using attention, deduction, and sometimes special software. |
| **Test Analyst** | Guru of project documentation. The first one to decide what to test and how. Knows exactly what the product should do. Systemizes the information to ease the QA engineer’s life. |
| **Test Architect** | Looks for ultimate solutions that will meet the client’s demands and align with the team’s resources. Has a complete vision of the software system. Knows every little feature and how it interacts with other features. |
| **Test Manager** | Takes full responsibility for the project’s success (or fail). Prepares test strategy, defines the scope of work for other members, controls test execution. |
| **QA Team Lead** | The Supervisor. May take part in any process mentioned above, but usually just checks the status and manages the team. Conducts interviews. Hires and mentors new members. Deals mostly with managerial tasks rather than tech tasks. |

Now, let’s take a closer look at each role and its key areas of responsibility.