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Foundation Level

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Foundation Level Sample Exam

SET F (v1.1) – GTB edition –

CTFL Syllabus Version v4.0

ISTQB® Certified Tester Foundation Level

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Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
		Note: The present sample exam was mainly derived from sample exam questions on the ISTQB® CTFL syllabus 2018 (v3.1), from questions on the appendix of the CTFL v4.0, SET A sample exam and other newly developed questions and further developed to close the gaps to a complete sample exam paper.
0.1	24.11.2023	Internal BETA 01 DRAFT version (for work review)
0.2	28.12.2023	Internal BETA 02 DRAFT version
0.3	27.03.2024	Internal BETA 03 DRAFT version for trial use
0 4	27.06.2024	Internal BETA 03 DRAFT version for trial use
1.0	29.06.2024	Final GTB edition
1.1	20.11.2024	Q6 corrected, Q26 (Justification reworked), Q28 (corrected question and justification reworked), Q29 (substituted), Q30 (Question improved),

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Introduction

This is a sample exam. It helps candidates to prepare for the actual certification exam. Questions are included whose structure, layout and format are like a regular ISTQB®/ GTB Certified Tester Foundation Level exam. It is strictly forbidden to use the exam questions as content of a certification exam.

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4) Exactly one correct solution is expected for almost every question. The exceptions explicitly mention the possibility of multiple answers.

Exam notes

Number of questions: 40

Duration of the exam: 60 minutes

Total score: 40 (one point per question)

Score to pass the exam: 26 (or more)

Percentage of passing the exam: 65% (or more)

Feedback on this sample exam as a whole (40 questions) or on individual questions was provided in the German-language BETA versions of SET F in the period November - January 2024 by:

Thorsten Geiselhart (GTB), Stephan Weißleder (GTB) und Joern Münzel (former GTB), Horst Pohlmann (GTB), Marc-Florian Wendland (GTB), Christian Odenthal (GTB WP EXAM), Joachim Schulz (sepp.med), Stephanie Ulrich (GTB), Paul Müller (Software Quality Lab), Christian Modjesch (CGI), Andre Baumann (imbus AG), Henry Belter (CGI), Klaus Erlenbach (imbus AG), Sabine Gschwandtner (imbus AG), Arnd Prehl (imbus AG) and Andre Baumann (imbus AG).

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Question 1	FL-1.1.1	K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements does NOT describe a typical test objective?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Detect defects and triggering failures	☐
b)	Create confidence in the quality level of the test object	☐
c)	Reduce the risk of an inadequate testing environment	☒ ✓
d)	Meet contractual, legal or regulatory requirements	☐

Question 2	FL-1.2.3	K2	Score	1.0

A phone ringing in a neighboring cubicle distracts a software developer causing him to improperly code the logic that checks the upper boundary of an input variable. Later, during system testing, a tester notices that this input field accepts invalid input values.

Which of the following terms accurately describes the incorrectly coded check of the upper boundary in this scenario?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	root cause	☐
b)	failure	☐
c)	error	☐
d)	defect	☒ ✓

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Question 3	FL-1.4.1	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following takes place during the "Test analysis" activity of the test process?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Identify the required infrastructure and tools	☐
b)	Creating test suites based on the test script	☐
c)	Analyze the "lessons learned" for process improvement	☐
d)	Evaluate the test basis in terms of testability	☑ ✓

Question 4	FL-1.3.1	K2	Score	1.0

In general according to the Pareto principle, an above-average number of defects are often found in a few areas of a system. The corresponding failures often result in the system being unusable.

Which of the following principles of testing does this describe?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Testing is context dependent.	☐
b)	Defects cluster together.	☑ ✓
c)	Tests wear out.	☐
d)	Absence of defects fallacy.	☐

Question 5	FL-1.5.1		K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following general competencies is particularly important for passing on discovered failures to the affected developers?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Test knowledge	☐
b)	Critical thinking	☐
c)	Care	☐
d)	Communication skills	☑

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Match the correct description from A to D:

A. A set of test cases or test scripts to be executed in a particular test cycle.

B. A sequence of instructions for the execution of a test.

C. Contains the expected results.

D. The documentation of a goal and the agenda of a test session.

to its corresponding test resource (test work results) 1 to 4:

1. test suite.

2. test case.

3. test script.

4. test charter.

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	1A, 2C, 3B, 4D	
b)	1D, 2B, 3A, 4C	
c)	1A, 2C, 3D, 4B	
d)	1D, 2C, 3B, 4A	

Question 7	FL-1.4.4		K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following is the BEST example of how traceability between test basis, test assets, test results and defects supports testing?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Conducting an impact analysis provides information about the quality of the system under test.	☐
b)	The analysis of traceability between test cases and test results provides information about the completeness of test cases.	☐
c)	The analysis of traceability by conducting an impact analysis helps in selecting appropriate test cases for regression testing.	☐
d)	Analyzing the traceability between the requirements and the test cases helps in analyzing the residual risks.	☑

Question 8	FL-1.5.2		K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements is an advantage of the whole-team approach?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Each team member can take on any task they wish.	☐
b)	Every team member is responsible for quality.	☑
c)	Each team member works separately on their own task.	☐
d)	Each team member has a fixed role and a defined responsibility.	☐

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Question 9	FL-2.1.1		K2	Score	1.0

You are working as a tester on a team that follows a sequential software development lifecycle (SDLC = Software Development Lifecycle).

How does the choice of this SDLC model impact the timing of testing?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Dynamic tests (unit tests) cannot be carried out in the early phases of the SDLC	☐
b)	Static testing cannot be performed early phases in this SDLC	☐
c)	Test planning cannot be performed early phases in this SDLC	⬛
d)	Acceptance testing can be performed early phases in this SDLC	☐

Question 10	FL-2.1.2		K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following is a good testing practice that applies to all software development life cycles (SDLC)?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Testers must accompany developers, especially in software development activities for which there are no associated testing activities.	☐
b)	Testers should define different test objectives for each test level to customize the scope and depth of testing.	⬛
c)	Testers should only start the test analysis and test design once the requirements and specifications are completely implemented.	☐
d)	Testers should not perform reviews of work results in order to focus on test execution.	☐

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Question 11	FL-2.1.3	K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following test-first approaches uses the given/if/then format to express the desired response of an application?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Test-driven application (TDD)	☐
b)	Acceptance test-driven development (ATDD)	☐
c)	Behavior-driven development (BDD)	☑
d)	Continuous Integration / Continuous Delivery (CI/CD)	☐

✓

Question 12	FL-2.1.4	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following are benefits of DevOps?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Faster product release and faster time to market	☑
b)	Fast feedback by focusing exclusively on functional testing	☐
c)	Shift-Left can minimize the number of regression tests	☐
d)	Cost-effective implementation of the test automation framework.	☐

✓

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Question 13	FL-2.2.2		K2	Score	1.0

You work as a tester on a project on a mobile application for ordering food. A high priority client requirement states:

"The order must be processed in less than 10 seconds 95% of the time."

You created a set of test cases in which a number of random orders were made, the processing time measured, and the test results were checked against the requirements.

What test type did you perform?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Functional, because the test cases cover the user's business requirements for the system.	☐
b)	Non-functional, because the test cases measure the system's performance.	☒
c)	Exploratory because the exact processing time has not been defined	☐
d)	Structural, because we need to know the internal structure of the program to measure the order processing time.	☐

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Question 14	FL-2.2.3	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements related to confirmation and regression test is CORRECT?

Select one Option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Regression tests increase in number as the project progresses, whereas the number of confirmation tests decreases as the project progresses.	☐
b)	Regression tests are created and run when the test object is fixed, whereas confirmation tests are run whenever the test object is enhanced.	☐
c)	Regression testing is concerned with checking that the operational environment remains unchanged, whereas confirmation testing is concerned with testing changes to the test object.	☒ ✗
d)	Regression testing is concerned with possible adverse effects in unchanged code, whereas confirmation testing is concerned with the positive effects of corrective changes.	☐

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Question 15	FL-3.1.1	K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following list of work products can NOT be checked with a static testing technique?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Test cases and executable test scripts	☐
b)	Requirements specification and acceptance criteria	☐
c)	Proprietary third-party executable code	☑ ✓
d)	Project documentation and models	☐

Question 16	FL-3.1.3	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements applies to the differences between static and dynamic testing?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	During static testing, failures are found	☐
b)	Static testing measures inadequate software performance	☐
c)	The exclusive goal of static testing is to detect defects as early as possible	☑ ✗
d)	A lack of coverage of critical safety requirements can be revealed during static testing	☐

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Question 17	FL-3.2.2		K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements about formal reviews (e.g. inspections) is TRUE?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	The technical review is led by the author	🔊
b)	The review process consists of several activities, such as planning, communication and analysis, troubleshooting and reporting.	☐
c)	Work products to be reviewed are distributed during the review meeting	☐
d)	Defects found during the review are not reported since they are found during dynamic testing anyway	☐

Question 18	FL-3.2.3		K1	Score	1.0

What task may management take on during a formal review (e.g. inspection)?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Doing the post-review rework for a review object, if necessary	☐
b)	Deciding what is to be reviewed	🔊
c)	Ensuring the effective running of review meetings, and mediating, if necessary	☐
d)	Recording review information such as review decisions	☐

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Question 19	FL-4.1.1		K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements describes an advantage of black box testing over white box testing?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Black box test techniques can check the internal structure and processing of the test object.	☐
b)	Black box test techniques can be created regardless of the implementation of the software.	☑
c)	Black box test techniques better utilize the knowledge and experience of the testers.	☐
d)	Black box testing techniques can be performed without adjustment even though the required behavior of the test object has changed.	☐

Question 20	FL-4.2.1		K3	Score	1.0

A fitness app measures the number of steps taken daily and provides feedback to motivate the user to stay fit.

The feedback for different step counts should be as follows:

- Up to and including 1000: Couch Potato!

- Over 1000, up to and including 2000: Get moving!

- Over 2000, up to and including 4000: On the right track!

- Over 4000, up to and including 6000: Well done!

- Over 6000: Super!

Which of the following groups of test input values would provide the HIGHEST coverage of equivalence classes?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	0,	1000,	2000,	3000,	4000	☐
b)	1000,	2001,	4000,	4001,	6000	☒
c)	123,	2345,	3456,	4567,	5678	☐
d)	666,	999,	2222,	5555,	6666	☐

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Question 21	FL-4.2.2		K3	Score	1.0

You are testing a system that calculates the final grade for course participants.

The final grade is determined based on the total number of points between 0 and 100, according to the following rules:

- **0 - 50 points: failed**
- **51 - 70 points: sufficient**
- **71 - 90 points: good**
- **91 - 100 points: very good**

You have prepared the following set of test cases:

	Total points	Final grade
TF1	91	very good
TF2	50	failed
TF3	70	sufficient
TF4	100	very good
TF5	90	good
TF6	0	failed

Given these test cases, what percentage coverage is achieved when using 2-value boundary analysis?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	60%	☐
b)	75%	☑
c)	33,3%	☐
d)	100%	☐

Question 22	FL-4.2.3		K3	Score	1.0

You are testing a new customer relationship management system for a daily bike rental company. The system requirements are as follows:

- Anyone can rent a bike, but only members receive a 20% discount.

- However, if the return deadline is missed, the discount can no longer be claimed.

- After 15 rentals, members receive a T-shirt as a gift.

A tester designs the following decision table to test the requirements: (T=true, F=false, X=execute action):

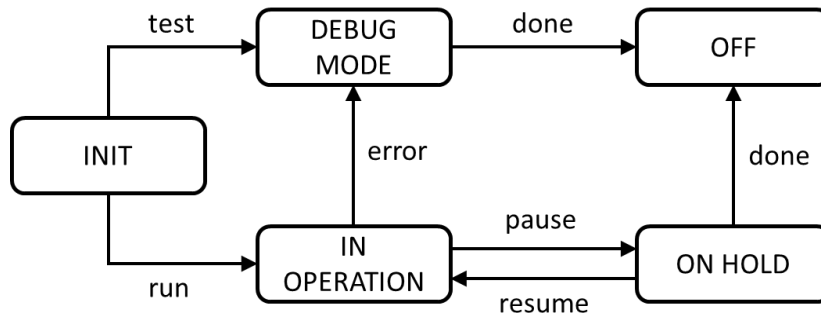| Conditions	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8
is a member	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
Missed deadline	T	F	T	F	T	F	F	T
15. rental	F	F	T	T	F	F	T	T
Actions								
20% discount		X		X				
Gift T-shirt			X	X				X

Which rule (combination of conditions and actions) does not meet the above requirements?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	R4	☐
b)	R2	☐
c)	R6	☐
d)	R8	☑ ✓

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Question 23	FL-4.2.4		K3	Score	1.0

You are testing a system whose life cycle is modeled by the state transition diagram shown below. The system starts in the INIT state and ends its operation in the OFF state.

What is the MINIMUM number of test cases to achieve 100% coverage of valid transitions (0-switch coverage)?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	2	☐
b)	3	☐
c)	4	☑
d)	7	☐

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Question 24	FL-4.3.1	K2	Score	1.0

Your test suite achieves 100% statement coverage. What does it mean?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Any selected instruction in the code has been executed at least once.	☐
b)	Any test suite that contains more test cases than your test suite also achieves 100% statement coverage.	☐
c)	Each branch in the code has been executed at least once.	☒ ✗
d)	Every combination of input values in the code was tested.	☐

Question 25	FL-4.3.2	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements about branch testing is CORRECT?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	If a program contains only unconditional control transitions, 100% branch coverage can be achieved without having to execute a single test case.	☐
b)	When a branch with a test case is executed, all defects in it are revealed.	☐
c)	If 100% statement coverage is achieved, then 100% branch coverage is also achieved.	☐ ✓
d)	If 100% branch coverage is achieved, then all decision results of each conditional control transition of the code are executed.	☒

Question 26	FL-4.4.2		K2	Score	1.0

What is the purpose of a test charter in session-based exploratory testing?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	The test charter specifies the test objectives for the test session.	☑
b)	The test charter documents the steps taken and the findings made.	☐
c)	The test charter is often formulated in the form of questions.	☐
d)	The test charter evaluates the test results after the test session.	☐

Question 27	FL-4.4.3		K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements is MOST LIKELY an advantage of checklist-based testing?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	It enables high repeatability of the tests.	☐
b)	It provides a structured approach to testing without requiring detailed test cases.	☑
c)	It covers all requirements for the test object.	☐
d)	It supports functional and non-functional testing.	☐

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Question 28	FL-4.5.1		K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements does NOT describe the collaborative approach to writing user stories?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	User stories include technicality, development and testing aspects.	☐
b)	User stories are created by business representatives, developers, and testers together.	☐
c)	Acceptance criteria for user stories must be created specifically by testers to ensure independence of testing.	✓
d)	User stories are created in a sprint or interation in such a way that they are independent, negotiable, valuable, estimable, small, and testable.	☐

Question 29	FL-4.5.3		K3	Score	1.0

You are using acceptance test-driven development and designing test cases based on the following user story:

As a Regular or Special user, I want to be able to use my electronic floor card, to access specific floors.

Acceptance Criteria:

AC1: Regular users have access to floors 1 to 3

AC2: Floor 4 is only accessible to Special users

AC3: Special users have all the access rights of Regular users

Which test case is the MOST reasonable one to test AC3?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Check that a Regular user can access floors 1 and 3	☐
b)	Check that a Regular user cannot access floor 4	☐
c)	Check that a Special user can access floor 5	☐
d)	Check that a Special user can access floors 1, 2 and 3	☑

Question 30	FL-5.1.1		K2	Score	1.0

Consider the following statement from a test plan.

The correct functioning of components is verified using component tests and component integration tests. Evidence must be provided that 100% branch coverage is achieved for each component classified as critical.

Which part of the test plan does this definition belongs to?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Test environment	☐
b)	Risk register	☐
c)	Context of testing	☐
d)	Test approach	☒

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Question 31	FL-5.1.4	K3	Score	1.0

Given the following user story:

"As the chairman, none of the data that I upload should be viewable by any other user of the system, so that no confidential information can be viewed."

During the first poker planning session, the following effort estimations were given based on risk, effort and proper extent of testing:

Customers: 5

Developers: 5

Testers: 20

What is the BEST outcome following this planning session?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Since the customers' and developers' estimates agree, the team can assume that they are good. The planning poker for this user story ends.	☐
b)	The team discusses together why consensus on the estimates has not been reached. Another round of planning poker follows.	☑
c)	Since the customer ultimately receives the system, his estimate is crucial in such conflicts. The planning poker ends.	☐
d)	The planning poker continues until all estimates from the stakeholders involved have exactly the same value.	☐

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Question 32	FL-5.1.6		K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following is true regarding the test pyramid?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	The testing pyramid focuses on a small number of tests at the lower test levels.	☐
b)	The closer you get to the top of the pyramid, the less granular the testing should be.	☒
c)	The test pyramid has exactly 3 test layers and always includes unit tests, integration tests and end-to-end tests.	☐ ✓
d)	High-level end-to-end tests are user-friendly and therefore usually faster than tests at the lower levels.	☐

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Question 33	FL-5.1.5		K3	Score	1.0

The following priorities and dependencies of test cases are given:

Test case-ID	Priority	Technical dependency on:	Logical dependency on:
TC1	High	TC4	
TC2	Low		
TC3	High		TC4
TC4	Medium		
TC5	Low		TC2
TC6	Medium	TC5	

Which of the following test execution plans BEST addresses the priorities, technical and logical dependencies?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	TC1 – TC3 – TC4 – TC6 – TC2 – TC5	☐
b)	TC4 – TC3 – TC1 – TC2 – TC5 – TC6	☐
c)	TC4 – TC1 – TC3 – TC5 – TC6 – TC2	☑
d)	TC4 – TC2 – TC5 – TC1 – TC3 – TC6	☐

Question 34	FL-5.1.7	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following test types belongs to quadrant Q2 – "Business-oriented, support for the team" in the test quadrant model?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Component integration tests	☐
b)	User story-based tests	☑
c)	Nonfunctional tests	☐
d)	Exploratory tests	☐

Question 35	FL-5.2.2	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements represents a project risk?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Management transfers two experienced testers to another project	☑
b)	The system does not comply with functional safety standards	☐
c)	System response time exceeds user requirements	☐
d)	Disabled persons have difficulties using the system	☐

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Question 36	FL-5.4.1	K2	Punkte 1.0

You are working as a project manager on an internal bank software project. To avoid rework and excessive "find/fix/retest" cycles, the following process has been introduced to fix a bug as soon as it is found in the test lab:

   a. The assigned developer finds and fixes the bug and then creates an experimental build

   b. A peer developer reviews, tests and confirms the bug fix

   c. A tester - usually the one who found the bug - confirms the fix by testing it in the development environment

   d. Once a day, a new release with all confirmed bug fixes is installed in the test environment

   e. The same tester from step c tests the bug fix in the test environment

Nevertheless, a large number of defects that the testers have confirmed as fixed in the development environment (in step c) somehow fail the post-deployment tests in the test environment, causing additional rework and impact on cycle times. You have the utmost confidence in your testers and have eliminated errors or omissions in step c.

Which of the following is the most likely the part of the process that should be checked next?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	The activity of developers that who may not have sufficiently tested the fix in step b.	☐
b)	The activity of testers who may be unclear about what to test in step e.	☐
c)	Configuration management, which may not maintain the integrity of the product in step d.	☑
d)	The activity of developers who may not correctly fix the errors in step a.	☐

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Question 37	FL-5.3.2		K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements from a weekly test progress report is NOT relevant for the stakeholders in regards to test monitoring and test control?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	The downtime of the test environment during the reporting period has increased by 20% to 25 hours.	☐
b)	The time for providing statistics on the coverage metrics was reduced by 35% to 72 minutes during the reporting period.	☑ ✓
c)	The execution of the test cases is currently 6 days behind schedule, as many failures are being found and there are problems with the test environment.	☐
d)	New product risks were derived from the results of the test execution, which still need to be assessed.	☐

Question 38	FL-5.5.1		K3	Punkte 1.0

After running a set of test cases, a colleague has created the following bug report and asked you for a review.

Defect report:

- **ID: br00_23_12**

- **Title: Error message on login with empty name not correct**

- **Author: Lisa van der Vaart (Test Engineer)**

- **Test object: build v00812**

- **Test environment: cfg_full_02**

- **Revealing test case: sys_128**

- **Description: After a login attempt with an empty name, the system returns the error message "wrong password". Instead, "Name must not be empty" should have appeared.**

- **Severity of the error effect: low**

- **Priority for correction: medium**

- **Defect status: new**

Which of the following suggestions for improvement would you MOST like to give to your colleague?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	The title does not describe the content correctly.	☐
b)	Severity and priority should be the same, as the first determines the second.	☐
c)	You have not yet observed this defect. Therefore, the status is not "new".	☐
d)	The following entry is missing: Date of the defect report: 19.12.2023	

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Question 39	FL-6.1.1	K2	Score	1.0

Which of the following testing tools is most useful for reporting the number of defects in the test object?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Management tool	☑
b)	Static test tool	☐
c)	Test coverage tool	☐
d)	Tool to support scalability	☐

Question 40	FL-6.2.1	K1	Score	1.0

Which of the following statements is a potential benefit of test automation?

Select ONE option! (1 out of 4)

a)	Test automation enables more objective evaluation and delivery of measurements that are too complicated for humans to derive.	☐
b)	For test automation, you can estimate very precisely the effort required for introduction, maintenance and training.	☑
c)	Test automation increases confidence in test results because it eliminates human critical thinking.	☐
d)	Test automation always complies with regulatory requirements and security standards.	☐

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