ISTQB Foundation Level (CTFL) – 2 Week Crash Guide

A complete self-study package including notes, cheat sheets, MCQs, mock exams, and a day-by-day plan to prepare for ISTQB CTFL v4.0 in 2 weeks.

Day 1 – Fundamentals of Testing

■ Notes

Why testing is necessary, objectives of testing, 7 principles of testing (PEEC-PCA), test process phases.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonic: PEEC-PCA.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Which principle says exhaustive testing is impossible?
■ Answer: Exhaustive testing is impossible

Q2. What is regression testing?
■ Answer: Testing unchanged areas after changes

Day 2 – Testing in SDLC

■ Notes

Waterfall, V-model, Agile; Test Levels (CISA); Test Types (FNSC); Maintenance testing.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonic: CISA for levels, FNSC for types.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Which level validates with users?
■ Answer: Acceptance Testing

Q2. Which is a change-related test?
■ Answer: Regression/Confirmation

Day 3 – Static Testing

■ Notes

Static vs Dynamic testing, Review types (IWTI), benefits of static analysis tools.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonic: IWTI = Informal, Walkthrough, Technical, Inspection.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Who leads inspection?
■ Answer: Moderator

Q2. Who records issues?
■ Answer: Scribe

Day 4 – Black-box Part 1

■ Notes

Equivalence Partitioning (Divide & Pick One), Boundary Value Analysis (a-1,a,a+1,b-1,b,b+1).

■ Cheat Sheet

EP & BVA shortcuts.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. EP for 1–10 range?
■ Answer: 0,5,11 reps for invalid-valid-invalid

Q2. BVA for 1–10 range?
■ Answer: 0,1,2,9,10,11

Day 5 – Black-box Part 2

■ Notes

Decision tables (2^n combos), State Transition Testing, Use Case Testing.

■ Cheat Sheet

Decision Table: 2^n, Transition: From→Event→To.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Best for complex rules?
■ Answer: Decision Tables

Q2. Best for workflows?
■ Answer: State Transition/Use Cases

Day 6 – White-box

■ Notes

Statement vs Decision coverage, stronger metric, Path coverage impractical.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonic: S-D-C-P (Statement, Decision, Condition, Path).

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Which stronger?
■ Answer: Decision Coverage > Statement Coverage

Q2. Which strongest?
■ Answer: Path coverage

Day 7 – Test Mgmt Part 1

■ Notes

Planning (OSCAR-SER), Monitoring & Control, Product vs Project risk, Roles, Entry/Exit criteria.

■ Cheat Sheet

OSCAR-SER = Plan contents.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Who monitors?
■ Answer: Test Manager

Q2. Product risk example?
■ Answer: Incorrect algorithm

Day 8 – Test Mgmt Part 2

■ Notes

Risk-based testing (I-A-M-M), Config mgmt, Test docs (Please Call Clever People Daily, Right?), Defect lifecycle.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonics: IAMM, PCCPDR.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. First step in risk-based?
■ Answer: Identify risks

Q2. Urgency to fix field?
■ Answer: Priority

Day 9 – Tool Support

■ Notes

Tool categories (SMART-PD), benefits, risks (CHOM).

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonics: SMART-PD, CHOM.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Selenium is?
■ Answer: Automation/Execution tool

Q2. SonarQube is?
■ Answer: Static analysis

Day 10 – Agile Testing

■ Notes

Tester's role (CAFÉ), Agile quadrants (12 support, 34 critique), CI/CD, exploratory testing.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonics: CAFÉ, Quadrants 12 Support, 34 Critique.

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Agile quadrant for usability?
■ Answer: Q3

Q2. Who owns quality?
■ Answer: Whole team

Day 11 – Glossary

■ Notes

Key terms: Defect, Failure, Error, Verification vs Validation, Regression vs Re-testing, Severity vs Priority.

■ Cheat Sheet

Mnemonic: EDF chain (Error→Defect→Failure).

■ Practice MCQs

Q1. Alpha vs Beta?
■ Answer: Alpha = internal, Beta = external

Q2. Verification vs Validation?
■ Answer: Specs vs User needs

Day 12 – Mock Exam A

40 Q exam-style test with answers (included earlier).

Day 13 – Mock Exam B

40 Q exam-style test with answers (included earlier).

Day 14 – Final Revision & Cheat Sheets

Quick mnemonics, high-yield notes, rapid-fire MCQs.