Stage	Types of Tests	Test Plan Source	When to Use	Notes
Unit Testing	**Black-box testing:** treats program as black box.	Program specifications	For normal unit testing	The tester focuses on whether the unit meets the requirements stated in the program specifications.
	White-box testing: looks inside the program to test its major elements.	Program source code	When complexity is high	By looking inside the unit to review the code itself, the tester may discover errors or assumptions not immediately obvious to someone treating the unit as a black box.
Integration Testing	**User interface testing:** The tester tests each interface function.	Interface design	For normal integration testing	Testing is done by moving through each and every menu item in the interface either in a top-down or bottom-up manner.
	Use scenario testing: The tester tests each use scenario.	Use scenario	When the user interface is important	Testing is done by moving through each use scenario to ensure that it works correctly. Use scenario testing is usually combined with user interface testing because it does not test all interfaces.
	Data flow testing: Tests each process in a step-by-step fashion.	Physical DFDs	When the system performs data processing	The entire system begins as a set of stubs. Each unit is added in turn, and the results of the unit are compared with the correct result from the test data; when a unit passes, the next unit is added and the test is rerun.
	System interface testing: tests the exchange of data with other systems.	Physical DFDs	When the system exchanges data	Because data transfers between systems are often automated and not monitored directly by the users, it is critical to design tests to ensure that they are being done correctly.
System Testing	**Requirements testing:** tests whether original business requirements are met.	System design, unit tests, and integration tests	For normal system testing	This test ensures that changes made as a result of integration testing did not create new errors. Testers often pretend to be uninformed users and perform improper actions to ensure that the system is immune to invalid actions (e.g., adding blank records).
	Usability testing: tests how convenient the system is to use.	Interface design and use scenarios	When user interface is important	This test is often done by analysts with experience in how users think and in good interface design. This test sometimes uses the formal usability testing procedures discussed in Chapter 9.
	Security testing: tests disaster recovery and unauthorized access.	Infrastructure design	When the system is important	Security testing is a complex task, usually done by an infrastructure analyst assigned to the project. In extreme cases, a professional firm may be hired.
	Performance testing: examines the ability to perform under high loads.	System proposal and infrastructure design	When the system is important	High volumes of transactions are generated and given to the system. This test is often done by the use of special-purpose testing software.
	Documentation testing: tests the accuracy of the documentation.	Help system, procedures, tutorials	For normal system testing	Analysts spot-check or check every item on every page in all documentation to ensure that the documentation items and examples work properly.
Acceptance Testing	**Alpha testing:** conducted by users to ensure that they accept the system.	System tests	For normal acceptance testing	Alpha tests often repeat previous tests, but are conducted by users themselves to ensure that they accept the system.
	Beta testing: uses real data, not test data.	No plan	When the system is important	Users closely monitor the system for errors or useful improvements.

DFD = data flow diagram.

FIGURE 12-5
Types of Tests