

ISTQB[®] Expert Level Introduction and overview



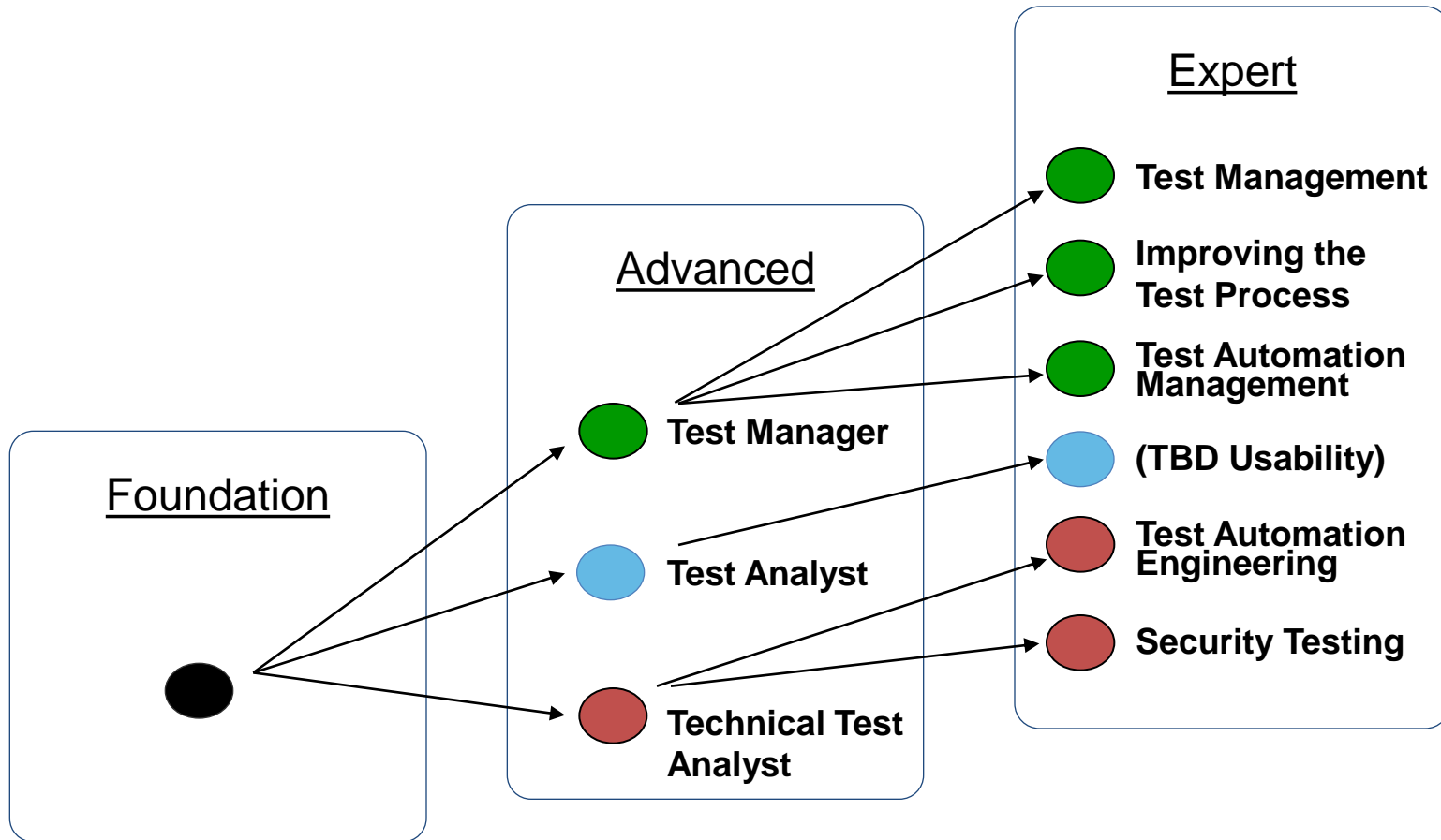
Version 1.3 July 2014
ISTQB[®] Expert Level Working Group

1	Expert Level: Building on Success
2	What is an Expert?
3	Achieving Expert Certification
4	The Training Courses
5	Achieving Roll-Out
6	Summary of Benefits

ISTQB® Certified Tester: a success story

- Over 330,000 certifications
- Over 50 National Boards
- Benefits to businesses:
 - Standard language for testing
 - Testing Body of Knowledge
 - More professionalism in testing
 - Career paths for testers

With the new Expert Level, ISTQB® offers career paths for testers



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- “A person with the special skills and knowledge representing mastery of a particular testing subject.
- Being an expert means possessing and displaying special skills and knowledge derived from training and experience“*
- Clearly stated expectations and business outcomes are established for each subject covered at Expert Level.

*ISTQB Expert Level Modules Overview
(downloadable from www.istqb.org)

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Achieving Expert Level: Criteria

Recommended:

- At least 7 years of practical testing experience
- Completion of Expert Level course

Mandatory:

- ISTQB Foundations
- ISTQB Advanced (depending on Expert Level module)
- Completion of Expert Level course (if a non-public exam is taken)

The Exam

Exam passed (65%)

Experience levels

(may be achieved before or after passing the exam)

- At least 5 years of practical testing experience
- At least 2 years of industry experience in the specific Expert Level topic

- A certification scheme at Expert Level must meet the expectations and perceptions of its stakeholders and has to be seen to be truly “expert”
- The exam therefore consists of a multiple-choice section and a written “essay” section
- A score above 65% is required to pass

Multiple-Choice Section

- Duration: 1 Hour
- 20 Questions
- Learning objectives covered:
K2, K3, K4 (like Advanced Level)

Essay Section

- Duration:
 - Reading: ½ hour
 - Answering: 2 hours
 - Add ¾ hour for non-native speakers
- Answer 4 questions out of 5
- Learning objectives covered:
Mostly higher learning objectives (K5,K6)

- Expert Level certification is not for life
- An Expert Level certificate is valid for 5 years
- Expert certification must be renewed using one of the following two options

Repeat the exam

- A passed exam results in certification for a further 5 years.

Achieve 200 „Certification Extension Credits“ (CEC)

CECs may be achieved in a number of areas. For example:

- Perform a professional testing activity
- Take a relevant training course
- Attend a testing conference
- Present at a testing conference
- Teaching a relevant training course
- Write a testing article or book
- Actively participate in a Working Group (NB, SIGIST, ISTQB)

Verifiable evidence must be submitted to the certifier

The Certification Extension Program is published by ISTQB

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- Higher level Learning Objectives in focus
- “Evaluate” and “Create”*
- Emphasis is on practical work
- In-depth consideration of subjects introduced at Advanced Level
- Goal: Mastery of the subject

*also known as K5 and K6 learning objectives

Gain practical experience with workplace exercises

- Some learning objectives (mostly K5 and K6) may be performed at the student's place of work instead of in the classroom. These are identified in each syllabus
- Workplace exercises are particularly useful for syllabi requiring more than 5 days of tuition



Benefit for trainee:

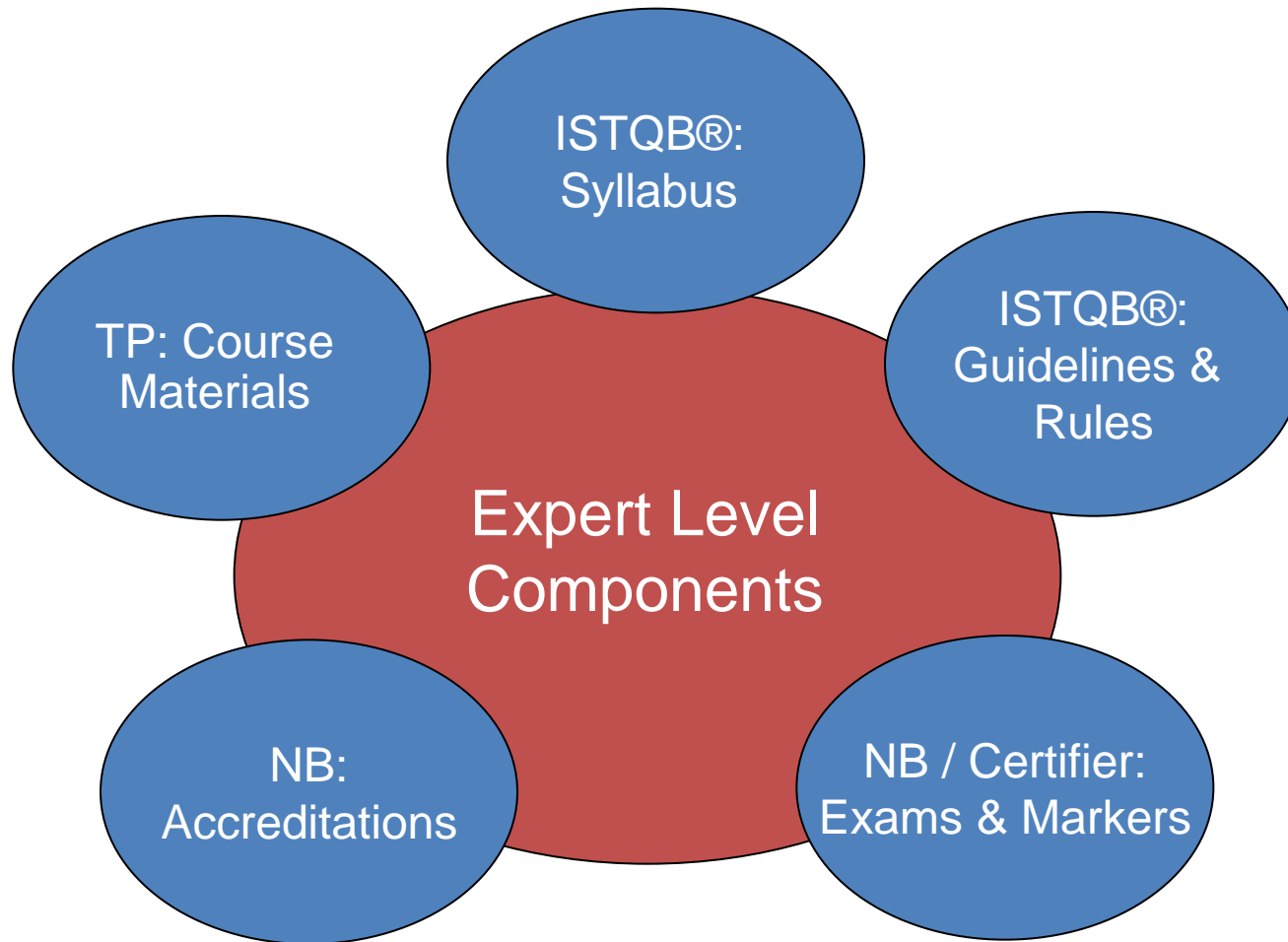
- Practical application in the workplace
- Tutor checks work and provides valuable feedback

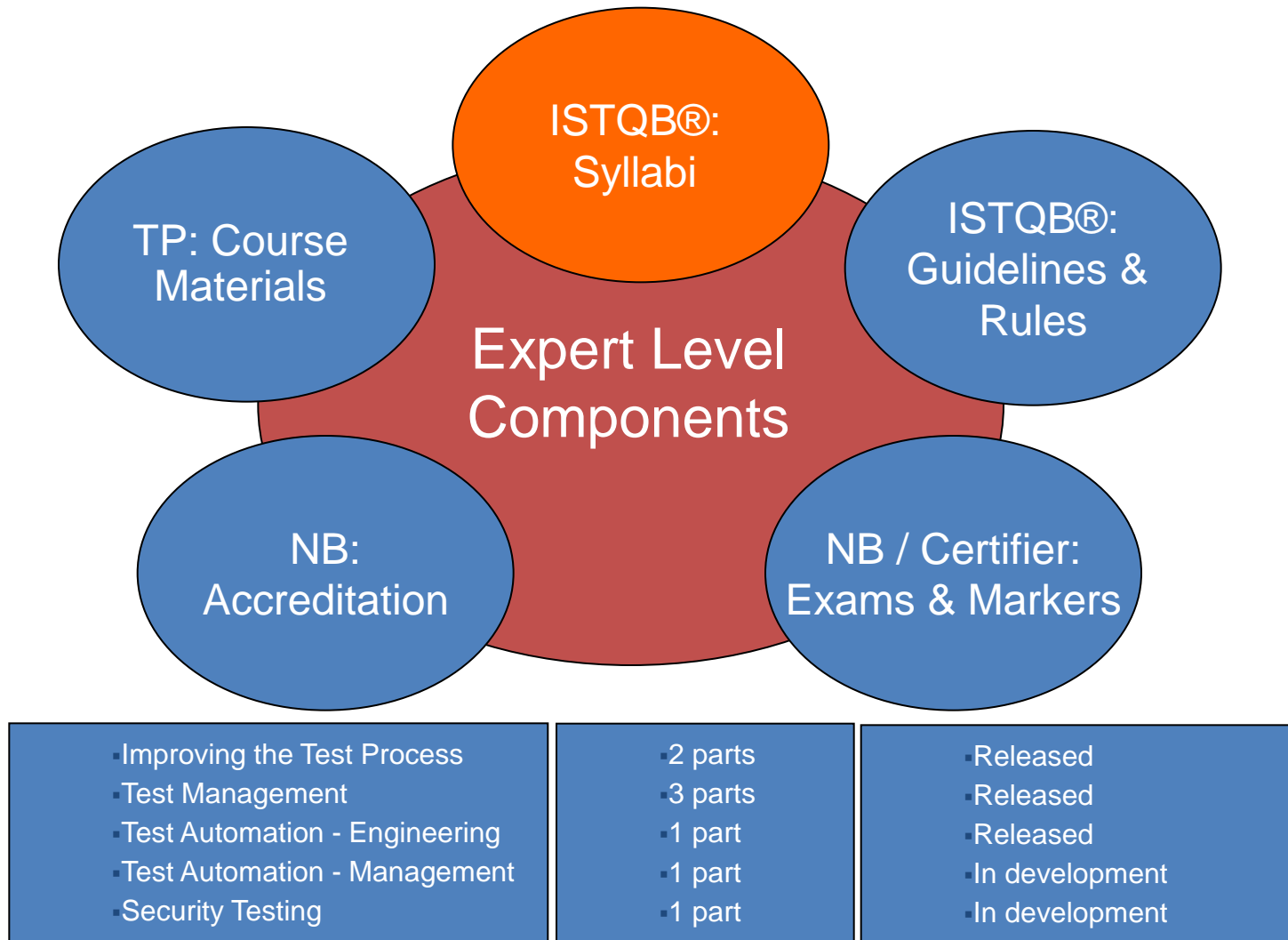
Benefit for sponsor:

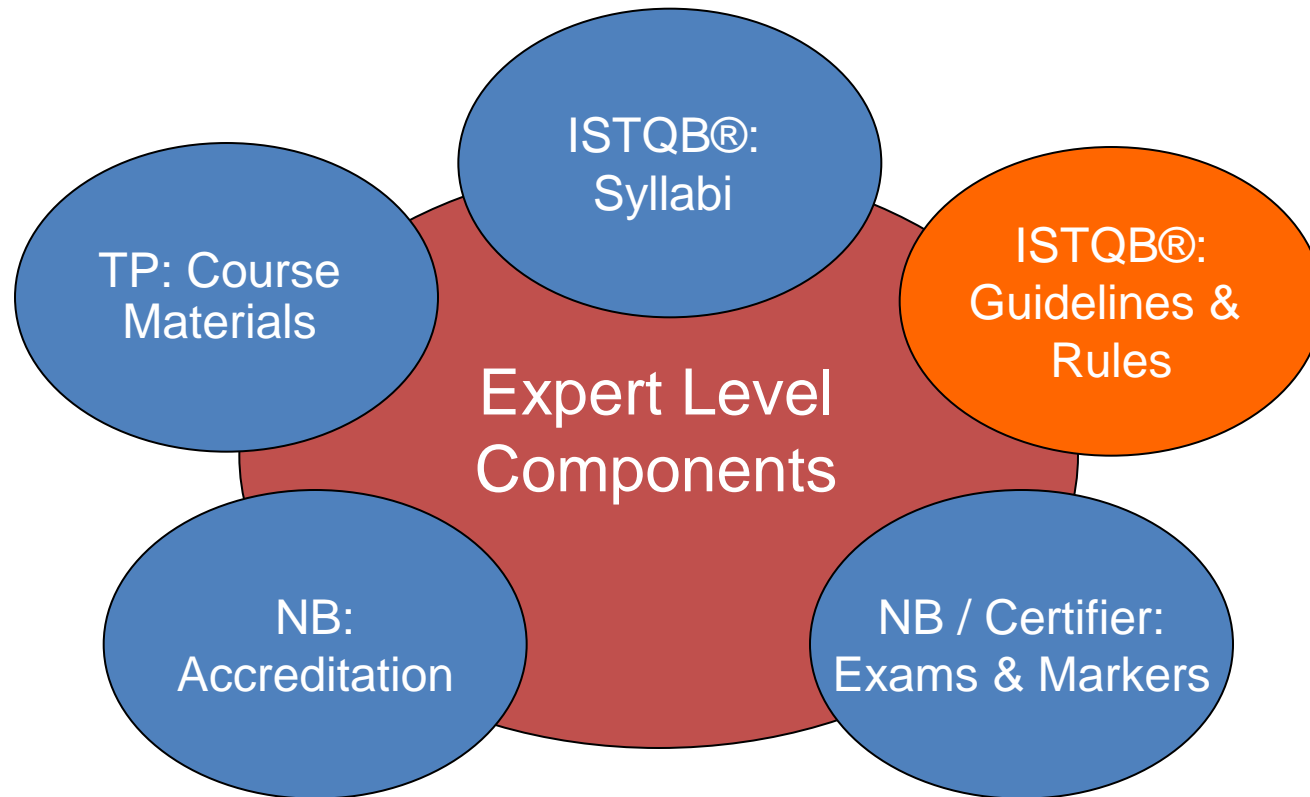
- Spread of training budget
- Project-specific application of knowledge

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Expert Level Components





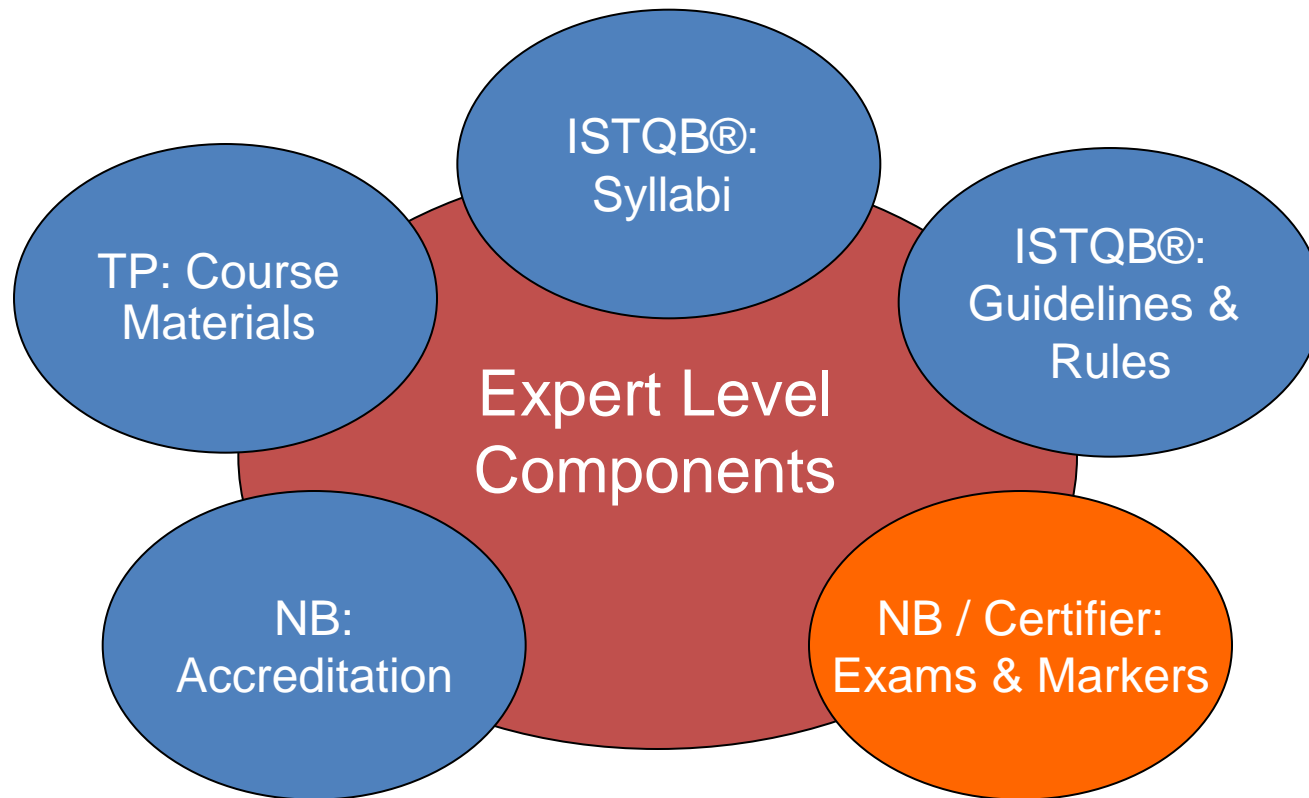


▪ Expert Level Overview (external document)

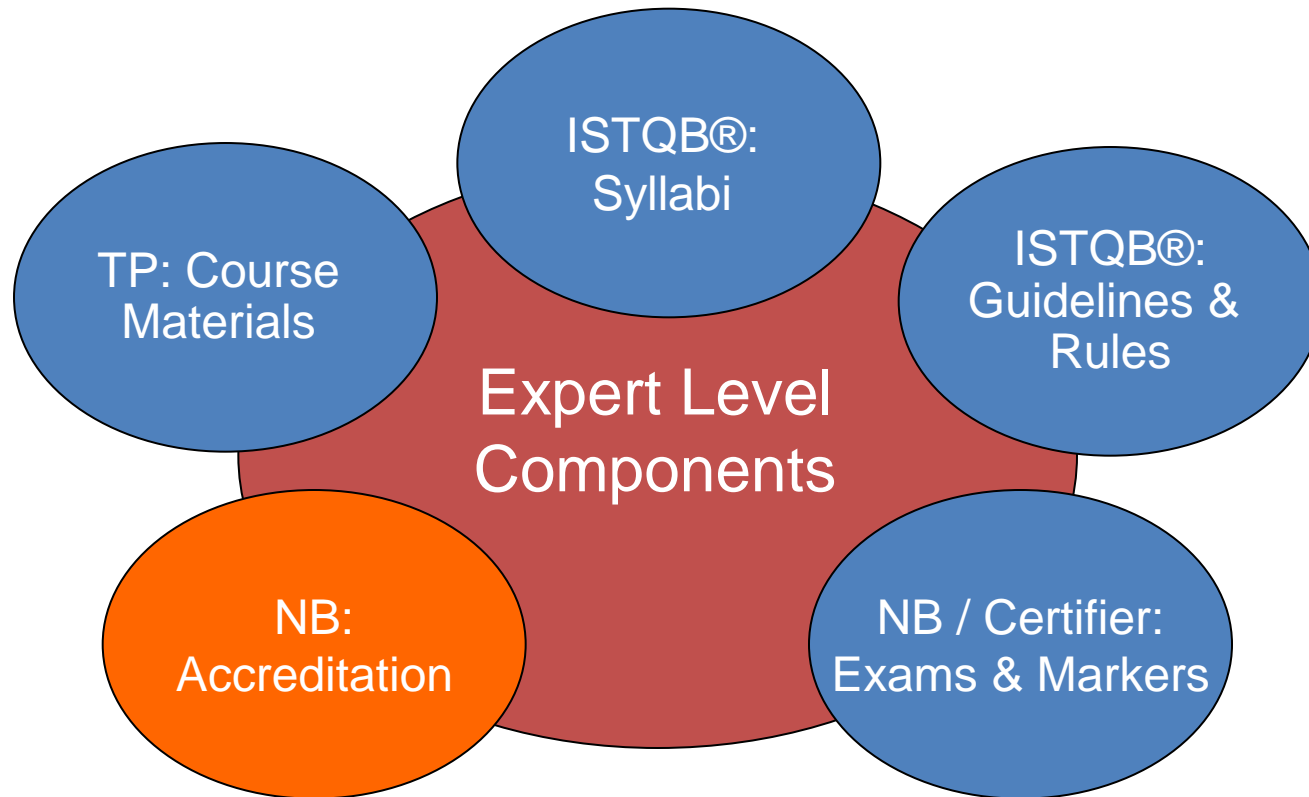
▪ Rules & Recommendations

▪ Exam Structure & Rules

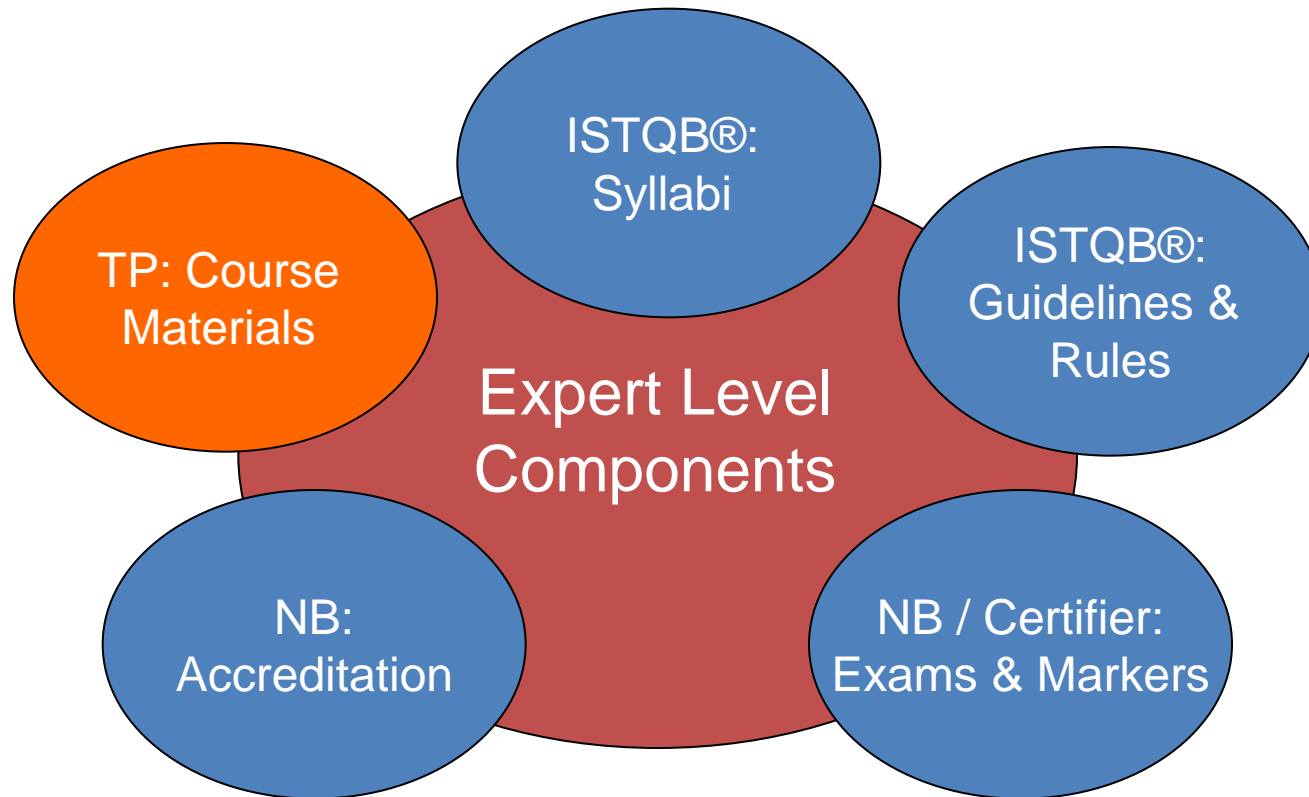
▪ Exam Guidelines for specific modules



- ISTQB: Practice exams for all released syllabi



- International group cooperates on accrediting Expert Level courses
- First accreditation issued in 2013



- Improving the Test Process:
- Test Management

- First courses early 2014
- Work in progress

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Summary:

Advantages for a Professional Tester

An Expert level certificate demonstrates mastery of a particular testing subject and brings several advantages for a professional tester.

From a Knowledge Perspective

- Overview of current best practices for a specific topic
- Ability to select the best solutions for specific project contexts
- Ability to assess the value of new trends & hypes

From a Practical Perspective

- Enables leadership for a topic
- Ensures that work is conducted to state-of-the-art and performed efficiently
- Enables best practices to be adjusted according to project context.

From a Self-Selling Perspective

- Increases business value of employees
- Demonstrates high potential for a candidate
- Underpins continuous learning

Summary: Advantages for Training Providers

Providing Expert Level courses supports leadership in the market and brings several advantages for a Training Provider.

From a Marketing Perspective

- Demonstrates thought leadership in testing
- Creates image of being a trend setter with leading edge concepts
- Strengthens high-quality perception in the professional testing market.

From a Business Perspective

- Additional trainings for in-house as well as public offering
- Cross-selling (other trainings, services, etc.)
- Full-service providers covering complete career development paths.

From a Capability Perspective

- Increases in-house knowledge
- Simplifies integration of experts into a career path
- Creates additional channel for staff with high-potential

ISTQB[®] CONTACTS AND CHANNELS

You Tube presence : <http://www.youtube.com/user/ISTQBORG>



Slide Share presence : <http://www.slideshare.net/ISTQBORG>



LinkedIn Community : <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ISTQB-International-Software-Testing-Qualifications-99444>



Twitter Channel : <http://twitter.com/ISTQBORG>



XING Community : <https://www.xing.com/net/istqb>



Facebook Page : <http://www.facebook.com/istqborg>

