

ISTQB Expert Level



Introduction and overview

Version 1.1 February 2012

ISTQB Expert Level Working Group

Information contained in this presentation may be re-used if credit is given to ISTQB

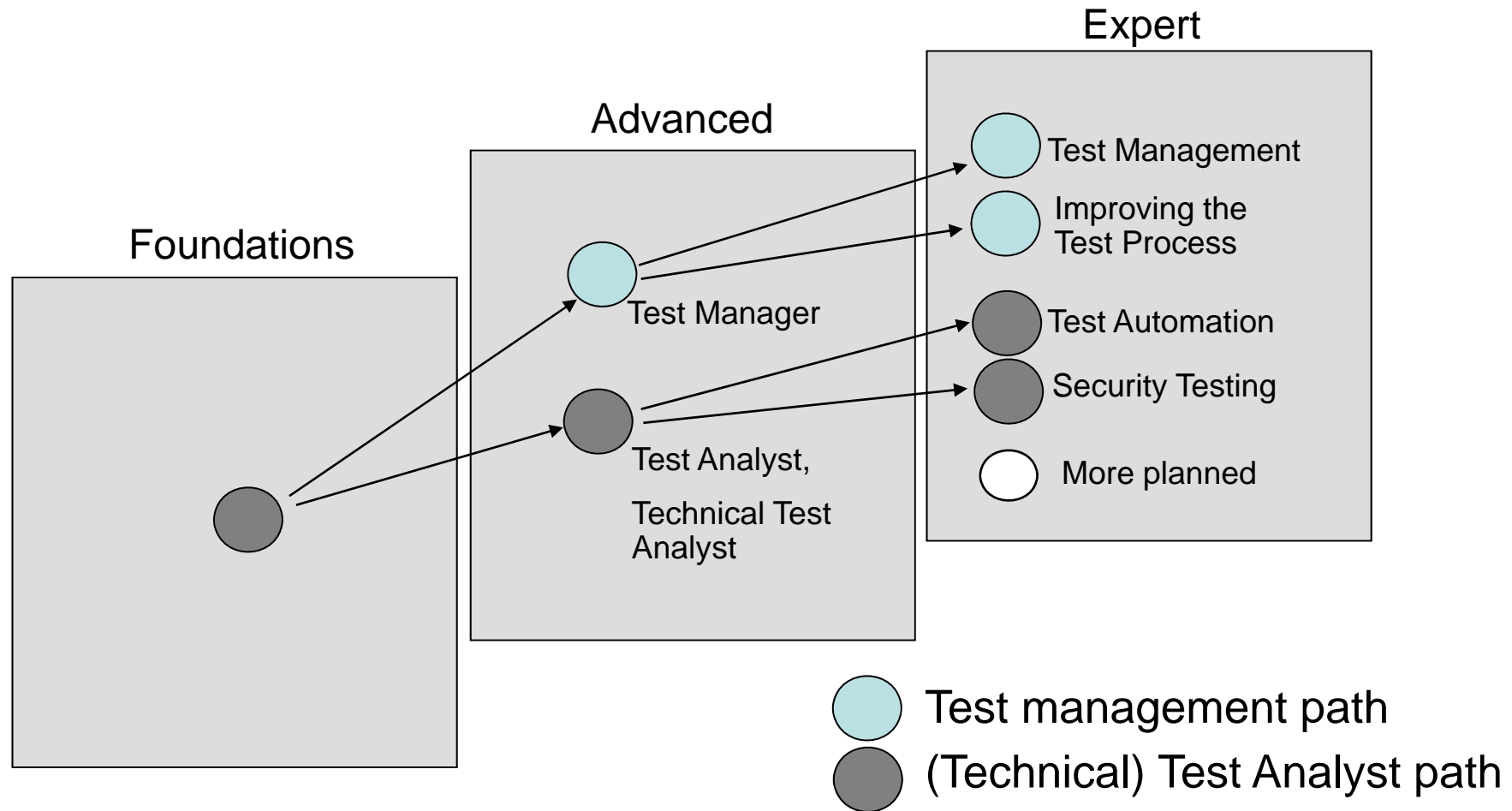
List of Contents

- Expert Level: Building on Success
- What is an Expert?
- Achieving Expert Certification
- The Training Courses
- Achieving Roll-Out
- Summary of Benefits

ISTQB Certified Tester: a success story

- 200,000 certifications
- 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



List of Contents

- Expert Level: Building on Success
- What is an Expert?
- Achieving Expert Certification
- The Training Courses
- Achieving Roll-Out
- Summary of Benefits

For ISTQB, Expert really means Expert

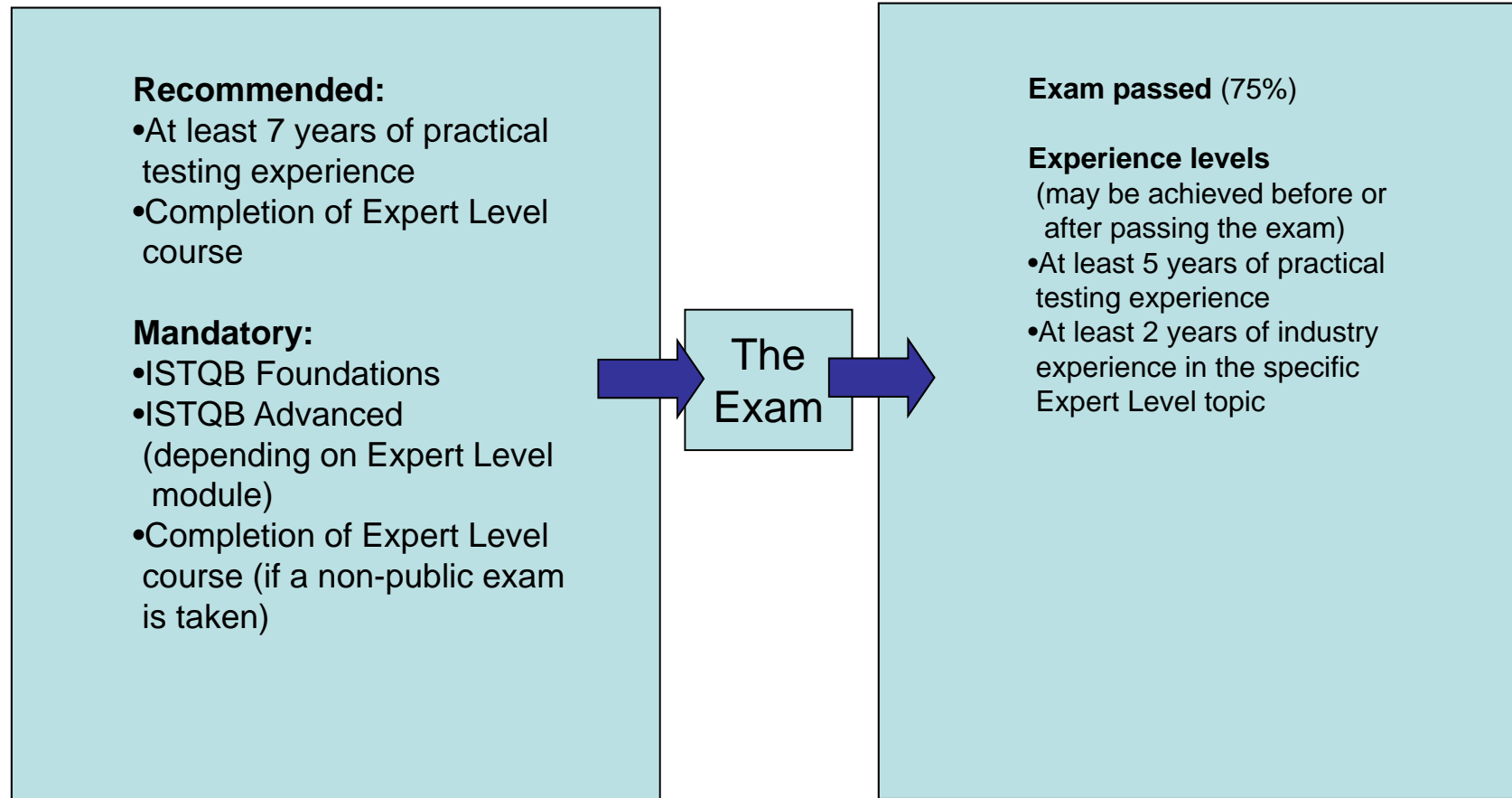
- “A person with the special skills and knowledge representing mastery of a particular testing subject.
- Being an expert means possessing and displaying special skills and knowledge derived from training and experience.”*
- Clearly stated expectations and business outcomes are established for each subject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

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

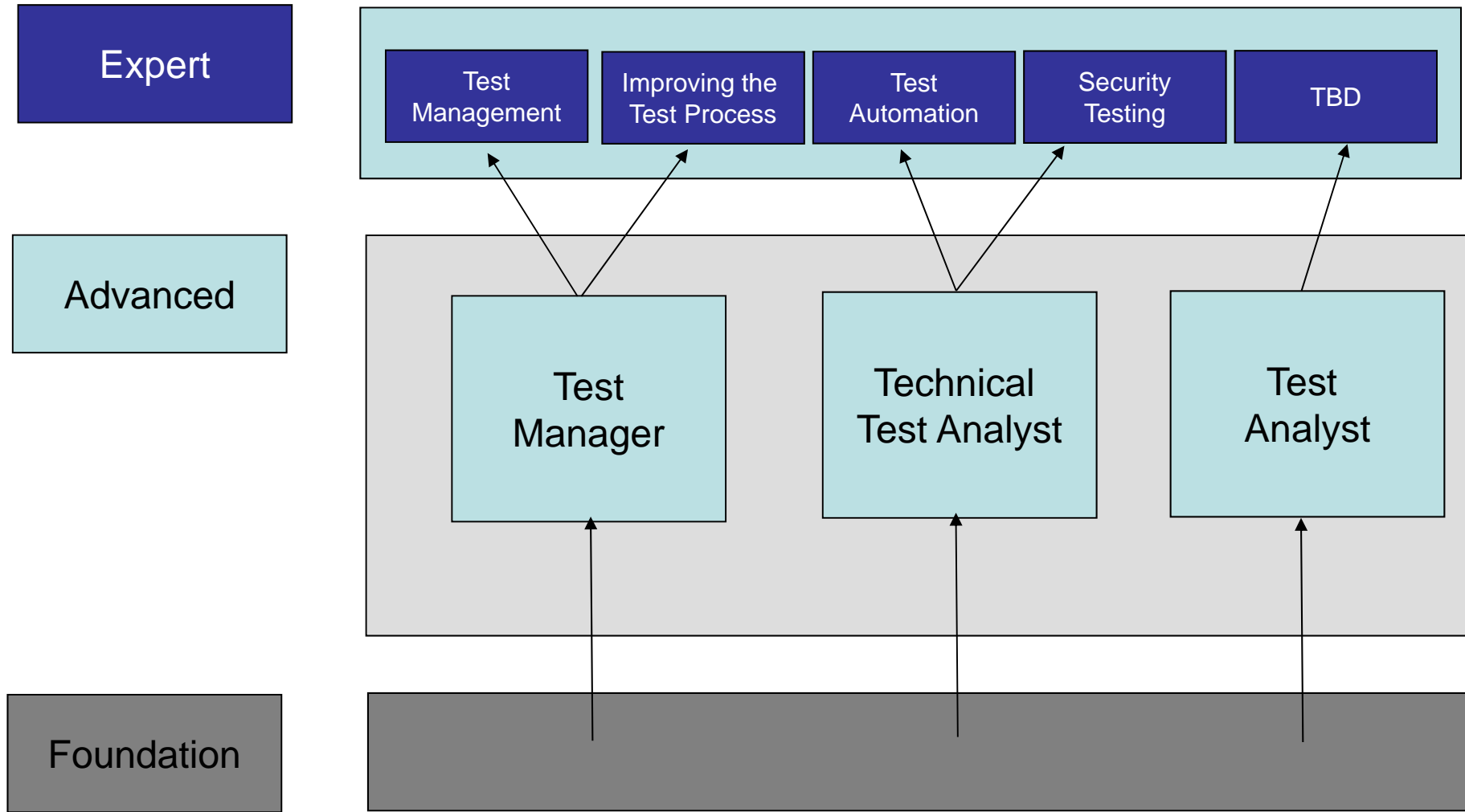
List of Contents

- Expert Level: Building on Success
- What is an Expert?
- Achieving Expert Certification
- The Training Courses
- Achieving Roll-Out
- Summary of Benefits

Achieving Expert Level: Criteria



Achieving Expert Level: Required Certificates



↑ Required Certificate

Achieving Expert Level: The Exam

- 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 75% 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)

Maintaining Certification at Expert Level

- Expert 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

List of Contents

- Expert Level: Building on Success
- What is an Expert?
- Achieving Expert Certification
- The Training Courses
- Achieving Roll-Out
- Summary of Benefits

Focus on Practical education

- 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
- As a result, Expert Level courses are 5 days or more
 - Improving the Test Process (8 days)
 - Test Management (9 days)

* 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.



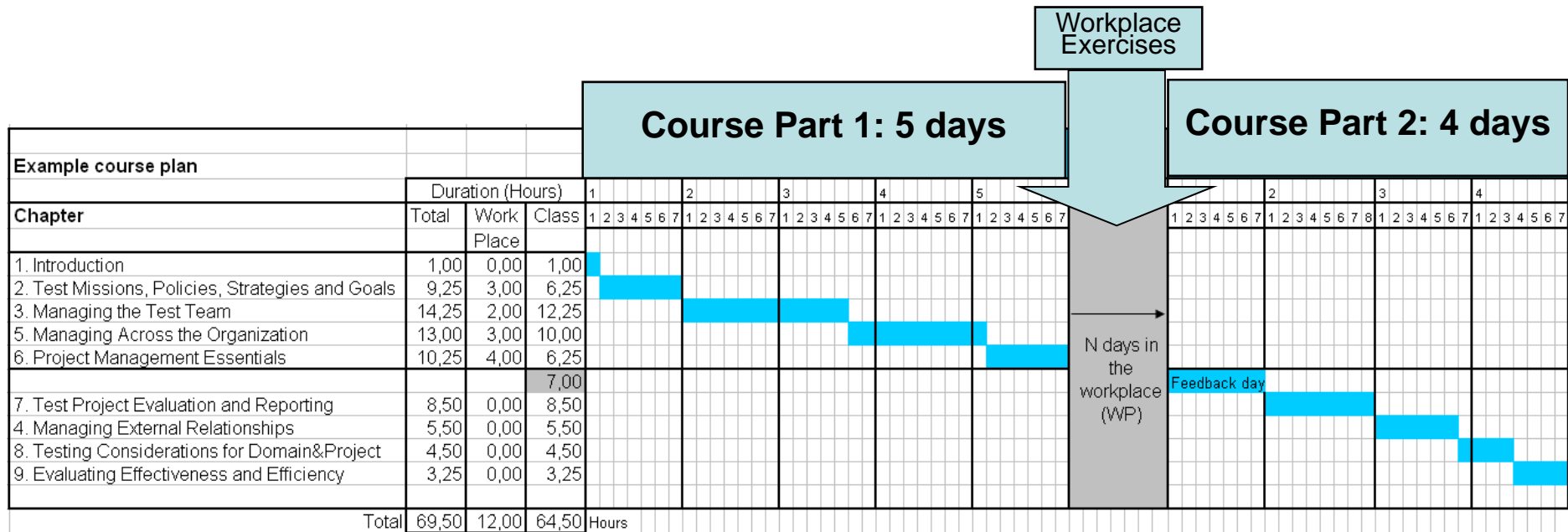
Benefit for trainee:

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

Benefit for sponsor:

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

Example: A Test Management course using Workplace Exercises.

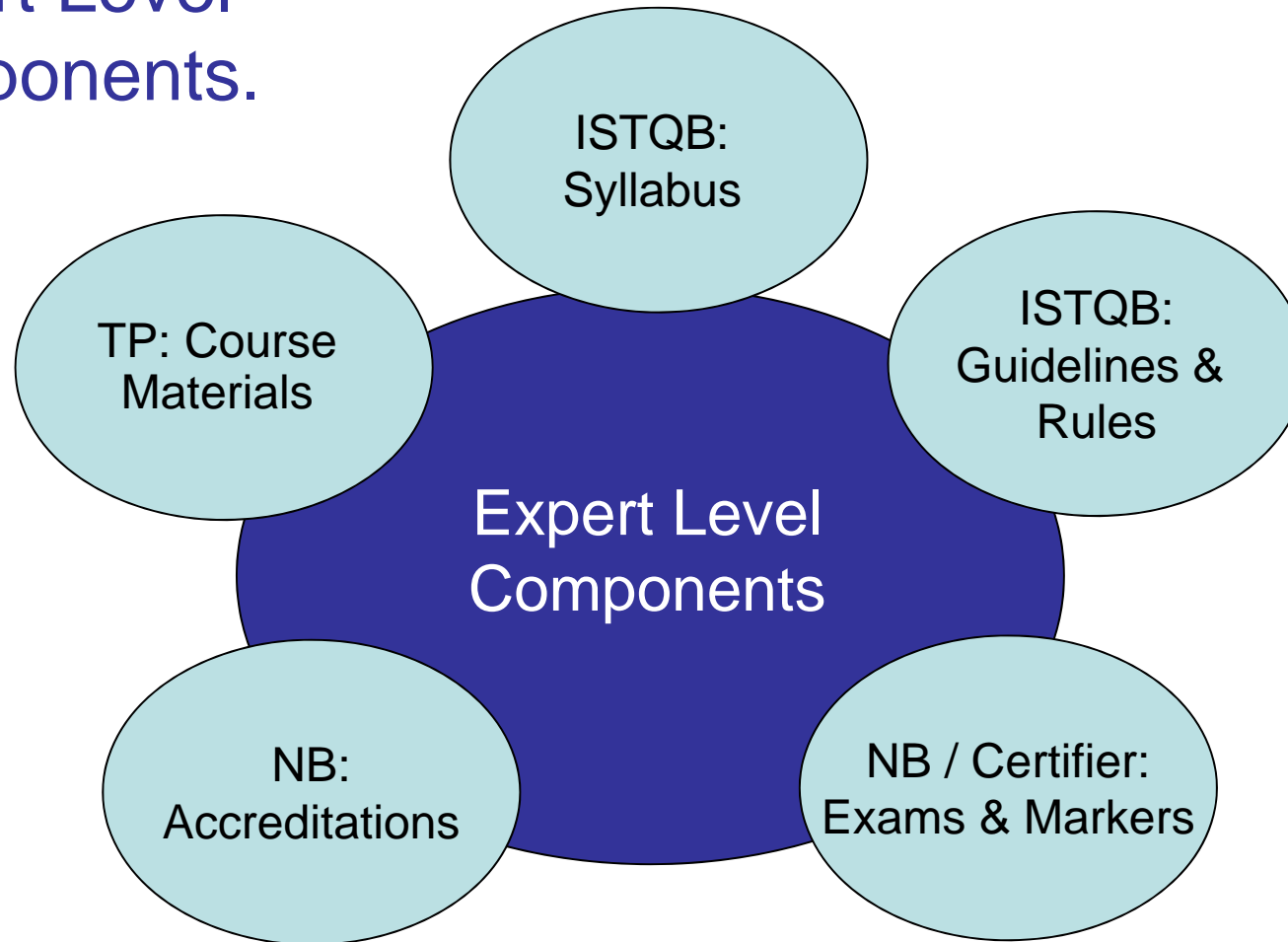


- In this example, the Training Provider gives part 1 as a 5-day course. Participants then perform exercises in the workplace. At the start of part 2, a day of feedback (not mandatory) is given before completing the training.
- Training Providers decide on the time between course parts planned for workplace exercises. They must make it known to potential participants when they offer courses with workplace exercises.

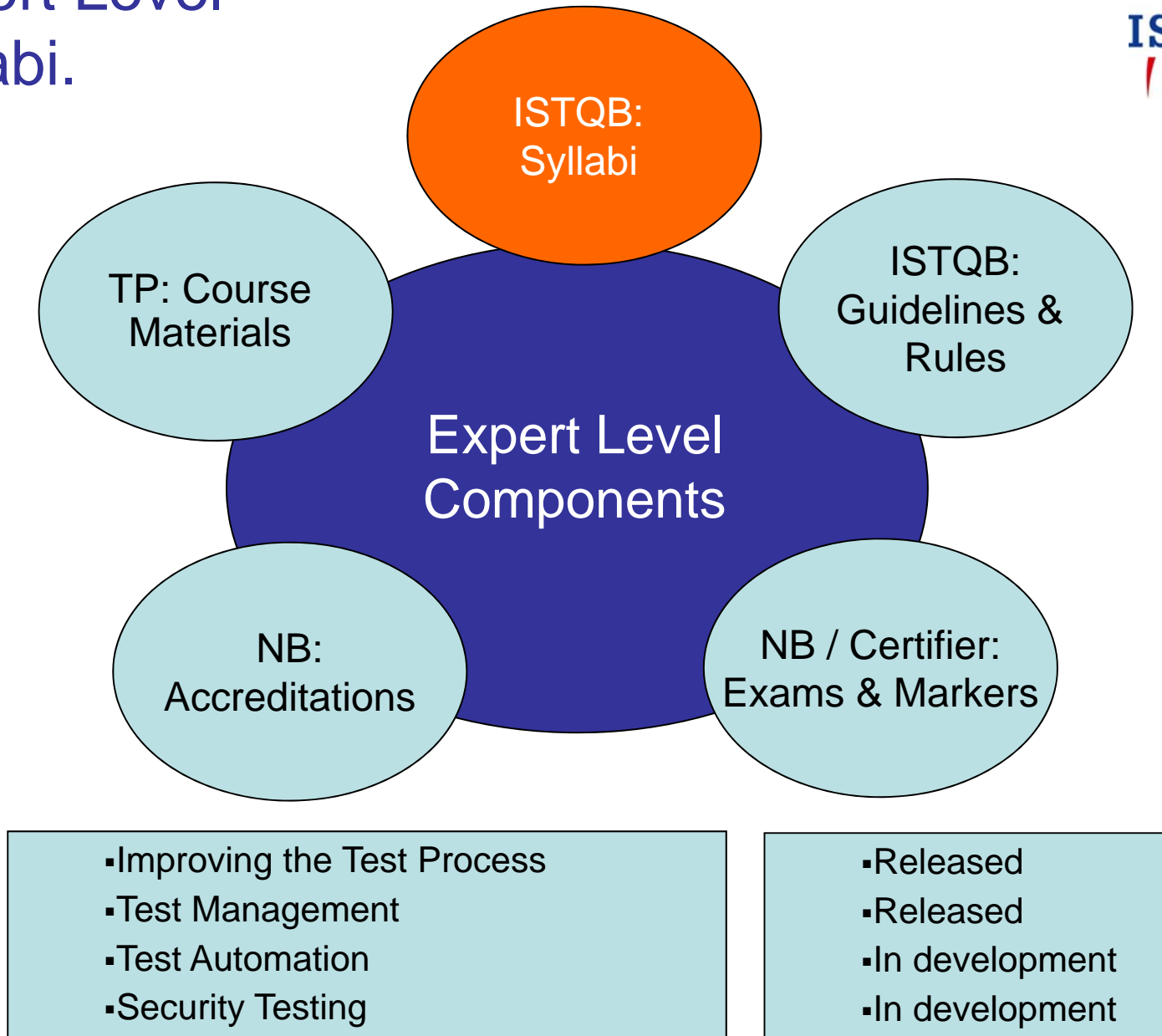
List of Contents

- Expert Level: Building on Success
- What is an Expert?
- Achieving Expert Certification
- The Training Courses
- Achieving Roll-Out
- Summary of Benefits

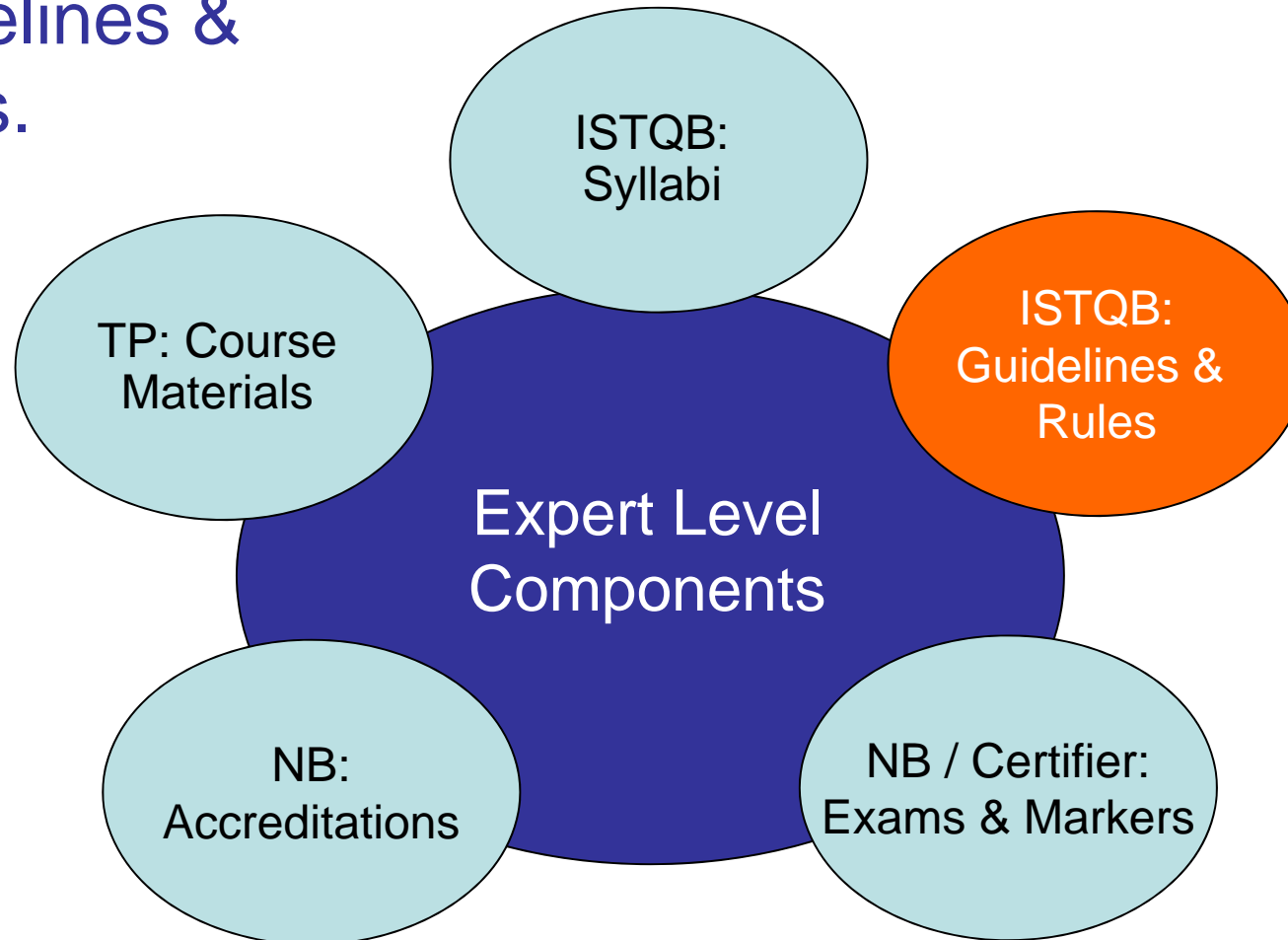
Expert Level Components.



Expert Level Syllabi.

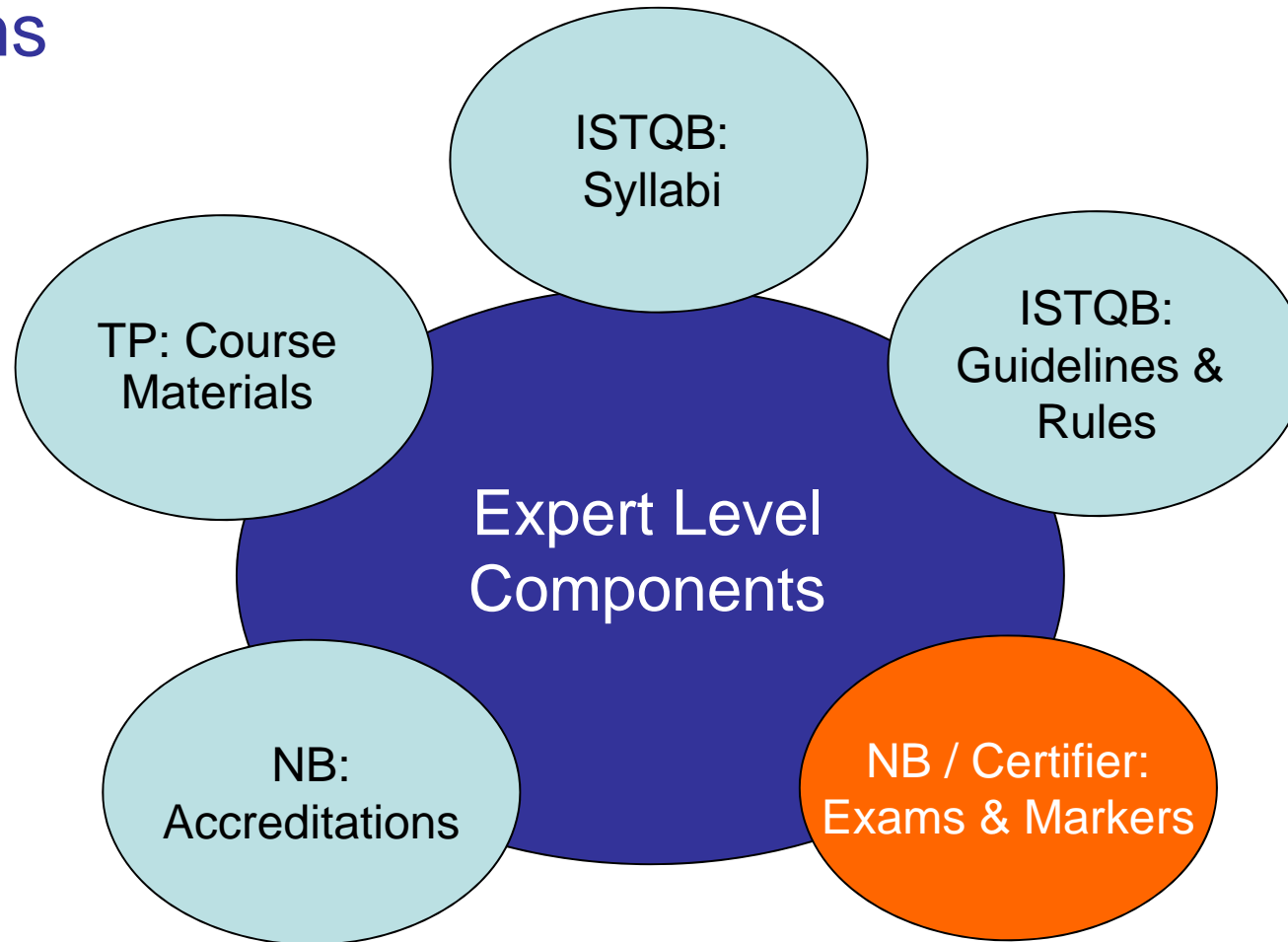


Guidelines & Rules.



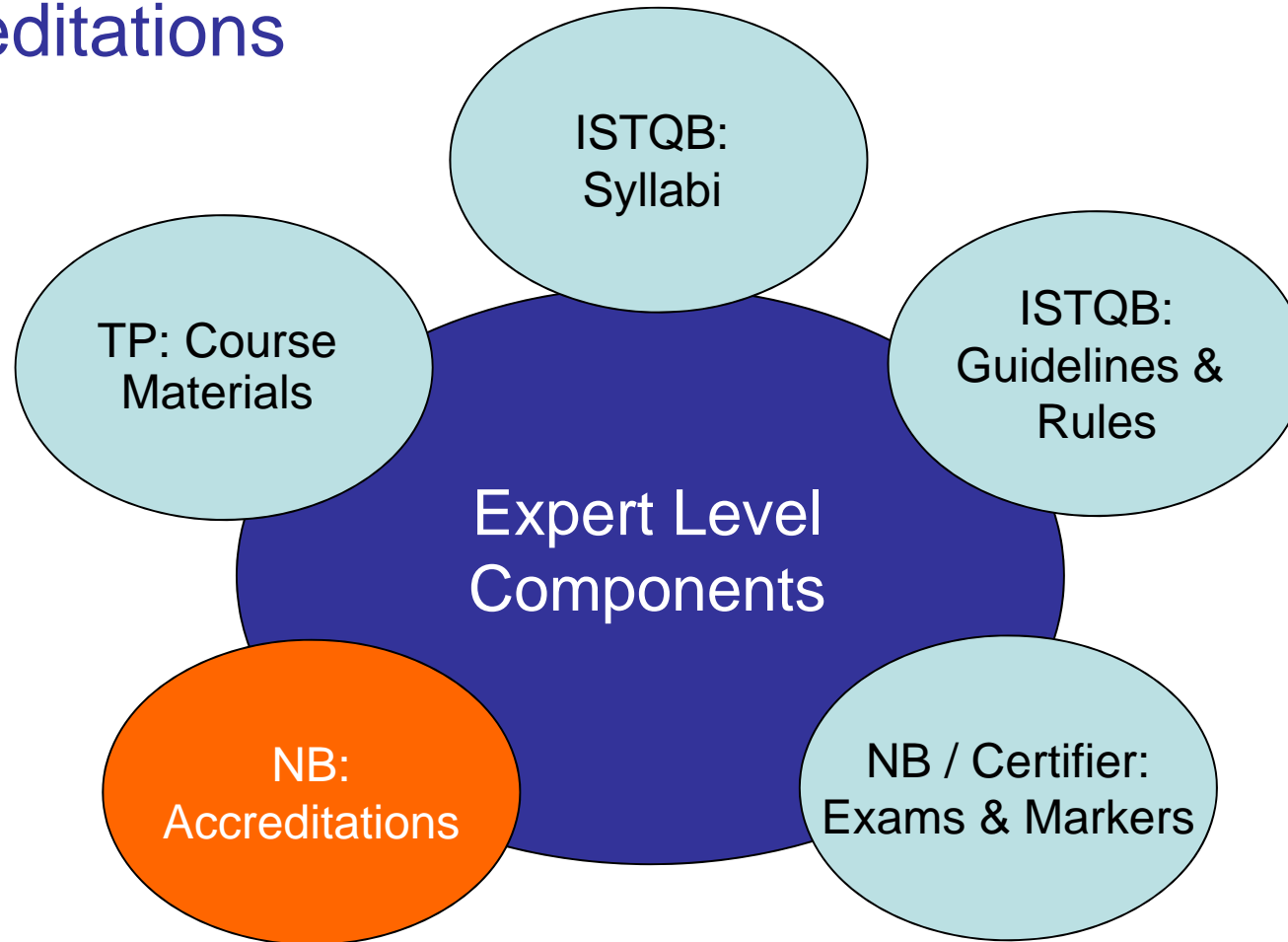
- Expert Level Overview (external document)
- Rules & Recommendations
- Exam Structure & Rules
- Exam Guidelines for specific modules

Exams



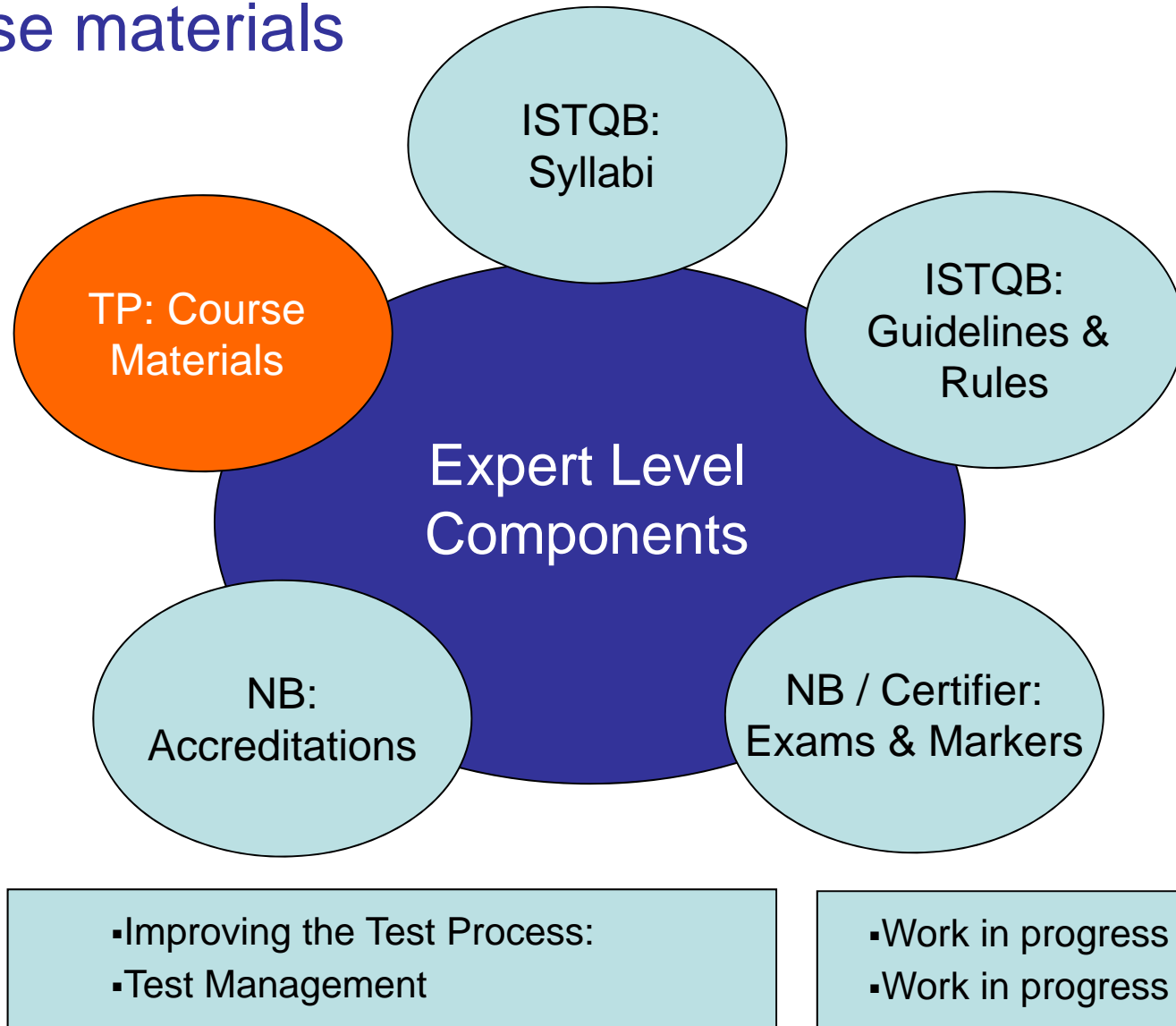
- ISTQB: Practice exam for Test Management available
- ISTQB: Practice exam for Improving the Test Process planned 2012

Accreditations



▪International group being formed to cooperate on accrediting Expert Level courses

Course materials



List of Contents

- Expert Level: Building on Success
- What is an Expert?
- Achieving Expert Certification
- The Training Courses
- Achieving Roll-Out
- Summary of Benefits

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 inhouse 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 Expert Level



Any questions

Information contained in this presentation may be re-used if credit is given to ISTQB