

# Sample Exam – Answers

Sample Exam set A  
Version 1.0

## ISTQB® Finance Testing Syllabus CT-FT Level

Compatible with Syllabus version 1.0

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International Software Testing Qualifications Board

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## Acknowledgements

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1.0	2026/03/14	Initial creation

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## Introduction

### Purpose of this document

The example questions and answers and associated justifications in this sample exam have been created by a team of subject matter experts and experienced question writers with the aim of:

- Assisting ISTQB® Member Boards and Exam Boards in their question writing activities
- Providing training providers and exam candidates with examples of exam questions

These questions cannot be used as-is in any official examination.

**Note**, that real exams may include a wide variety of questions, and this sample exam *is not* intended to include examples of all possible question types, styles or lengths, also this sample exam may both be more difficult or less difficult than any official exam.

### Instructions

In this document you may find:

- Answer Key table, including for each correct answer:
  - K-level, Learning Objective, and Point value
- Answer sets, including for all questions:
  - Correct answer
  - Justification for each response (answer) option
  - K-level, Learning Objective, and Point value
- Additional answer sets, including for all questions [does not apply to all sample exams]:
  - Correct answer
  - Justification for each response (answer) option
  - K-level, Learning Objective, and Point value
- *Questions are contained in a separate document*

## Answer Key

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
1	b	FT-1.1.1	K1	1
2	b	FT-1.1.2	K2	1
3	d	FT-1.1.3	K2	1
4	b	FT-1.2	K2	1
5	b	FT-1.2	K2	1
6	a c	FT-1.1.2	K2	1
7	b	FT-2.1	K2	1
8	b	FT-2.2.2	K2	1
9	c	FT-2.2.1	K2	1
10	a	FT-2.1	K2	1
11	b	FT-2.1	K2	1
12	b	FT-2.4.1	K2	1
13	b	FT-2.3	K2	1
14	a	FT-3.1	K1	1
15	b	FT-3.2	K2	1
16	a,c	FT-3.3	K2	1
17	a	FT-4.1	K2	1
18	a	FT-4.2	K3	2
19	b	FT-4.2	K3	2
20	a	FT-4.3	K3	2

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	LO	K-Level	Points
21	a	FT-5.1	K3	2
22	a	FT-5.2	K2	1
23	a	FT-5.3	K3	2
24	a	FT-5.4	K2	1
25	b	FT-5.5	K2	1
26	a	FT-6.1	K2	1
27	a	FT-6.2	K3	2
28	a	FT-6.3	K2	1
29	a	FT-6.4	K2	1
30	a,e	FT-2.3	K2	1
31	a	FT-4.3	K3	2
32	a	FT-2.2.1	K2	1
33	b	FT-2.4.2	K2	1
34	a	FT-3.2	K2	1
35	a	FT-3.3	K2	1
36	a	FT-4.1	K2	1
37	a	FT-5.2	K2	1
38	a	FT-5.4	K2	1
39	a	FT-5.5	K2	1
40	a	FT-6.1	K2	1

# Answers

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
1	b	<p>a) Incorrect. A payment gateway is a service provider, not a deposit-taking institution.</p> <p>b) Correct. Commercial banks accept deposits and issue loans as core activities.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. A cloud service vendor provides IT infrastructure/services.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. An e-commerce marketplace is a retail platform, not a financial institution.</p>	FT-1.1.1	K1	1
2	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Transaction accuracy and data integrity take precedence over UI aspects in financial systems.</p> <p>b) Correct. Sensitive financial data requires strong protection, access control, and governance.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Financial workflows often rely on external clearing, payment, or reporting systems.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Performance is important but does not define the environment's unique requirement.</p>	FT-1.1.2	K2	1
3	d	<p>a) Incorrect. This is closer to a payments/clearing/settlement platform.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. This is an AML monitoring/compliance system.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. This is a trading/portfolio management system.</p> <p>d) Correct. A CBS supports customer accounts and core services such as deposits, withdrawals, loans, and payments.</p>	FT-1.1.2	K2	1

4	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Domain knowledge complements, not replaces, test design.</p> <p>b) Correct. It helps testers understand and validate business and regulatory rules within financial workflows.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. It does not inherently reduce test scope; it improves relevance and prioritization.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Reviews and stakeholder input remain necessary.</p>	FT-1.2	K2	1
5	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Execution speed is not the key risk addressed by domain knowledge.</p> <p>b) Correct. Without domain knowledge, testers can miss domain-specific defects such as compliance and transaction-flow issues.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Late detection can happen for many reasons; it is not the most direct consequence here.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Framework compatibility is a technical/tooling issue, not primarily domain knowledge.</p>	FT-1.2	K2	1
6	a , c	<p>a) a) Correct. Financial processes cross multiple systems and must be validated end to end.</p> <p>b) b) Incorrect. Auditability is critical in regulated environments.</p> <p>c) c) Correct. Sensitive financial data must be protected while remaining usable for testing.</p> <p>d) d) Incorrect. Automation and controlled configuration improve reliability.</p> <p>e) e) Incorrect. Broader validation is required beyond unit scope.</p>	FT-1.1.2	K2	1

7	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Throughput relates to performance testing.</p> <p>b) Correct. Compliance testing ensures adherence to governing requirements.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Compliance complements functional testing.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Documentation is essential for audit evidence.          affect change, testing scope, and risk in finance.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Environment delays are common, but legacy modernization is typically a larger, persistent driver.</p>	FT-2.1	K2	1
8	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Code coverage is a testing metric, not a regulatory consequence.</p> <p>b) Correct. Non-compliance can lead to sanctions such as fines, remediation orders, or restrictions.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Regulations typically limit, not increase, access to sensitive data.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Compliance usually adds controls rather than shortening approvals.</p>	FT-2.2.2	K2	1
9	c	<p>a) Incorrect. Basel III focuses on banking capital and liquidity requirements.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. MiFID II focuses on markets and investment services.</p> <p>c) Correct. PSD2 covers payment services and introduced SCA requirements.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Solvency II is an insurance regulation framework.</p>	FT-2.1	K2	1

10	a	<p>1-A Correct. Control testing evaluates whether controls operate effectively.</p> <p>2-B Correct. Substantive testing checks transactional accuracy.</p> <p>b Incorrect. The descriptions are reversed.</p> <p>c Incorrect. Both approaches are required.</p> <p>d Incorrect. Control testing is missing.</p>	FT-2.1.	K2	1
11	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Results validation does not confirm control effectiveness.</p> <p>b) Correct. Approval workflows represent a control mechanism that must operate correctly.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Exploratory testing does not directly verify controls.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Performance does not address regulatory approval behavior.</p>	FT-2.1	K2	1
12	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Manual execution does not inherently ensure auditability.</p> <p>b) Correct. Bidirectional traceability allows auditors to verify coverage and evidence from requirement to result.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Logs help, but without traceability they do not prove requirement coverage.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Using real production data may violate privacy/security constraints.</p>	FT-2.3.1	K2	1
13	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Defects can cause financial loss and penalties.</p> <p>b) Correct. Regulation and financial exposure define the domain.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Traceability is strongly required.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Financial ecosystems are highly interconnected.</p>	FT-2.3	K2	1

14	a	<p>a) Correct. Regulatory change risk is a recognized category affecting finance systems and testing priorities.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. This is a coding defect example, not a finance risk category.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. This is a usability/visual issue, not a finance risk category.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. This is a build/engineering concern, not a finance risk category.</p>	FT-3.1	K1	1
15	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Risk-based testing differentiates focus based on risk.</p> <p>b) Correct. Risk-based testing allocates effort based on risk likelihood and impact, which is critical in finance.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Risk-based testing considers changes and business-critical areas, not only new features.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Automation is a strategy choice and does not define risk-based prioritization.</p>	FT-3.2	K2	1
16	a,c	<p>a) Correct. End-to-end payment flow is high impact and integration-heavy.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Marketing page visuals are typically lower risk for payment processing release.</p> <p>c) Correct. Reconciliation/ledger correctness is critical in financial transactions.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Pure refactoring without behavior changes is generally lower functional risk.</p> <p>e) Incorrect. Spelling checks are lower risk relative to payment correctness.</p>	FT-3.3	K2	2

17	a	<p>a) Correct. Finance processing depends on consistent data across systems; inaccuracies can lead to incorrect balances, postings, or decisions.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Financial systems usually have strong audit and compliance requirements.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Inaccurate data can affect calculations, postings, compliance, and customer outcomes.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Data validation is required throughout development and testing, not only after deployment.</p>	FT-4.1	K2	1
18	a	<p>a) Correct. Reconciliation requires record-level comparison to locate where and why entries diverge across systems.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Load testing addresses performance, not reconciliation of financial correctness.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Disabling masking may violate privacy and is not required to reconcile totals.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Ledger correctness is critical and must be validated beyond UI tests.</p>	FT-4.2	K3	2
19	b	<p><b>a) Incorrect:</b> Comparing transaction counts and balances is important but doesn't guarantee full data integrity, especially with complex transformations during migration.</p> <p><b>b) Correct:</b> Checksum verification and record sampling ensure that the data is accurately transferred and transformed, preserving integrity during the migration process.</p> <p><b>c) Incorrect:</b> Rounding differences still need to be verified, as they can affect data accuracy and reconciliation.</p> <p><b>d) Incorrect:</b> Focusing only on end-of-day batch processing neglects other aspects of the migration process and doesn't fully cover data alignment.</p>	FT-4.3	K3	2

20	a	<p>a) Correct. The mappings reflect typical purposes of tokenization, masking, anonymization, and minimization in privacy-compliant testing.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Several mappings are wrong and include non-compliant practices (e.g., unchanged production data).</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Encryption/access control are security controls, not the requested privacy technique purposes.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. The option includes non-compliant and unrealistic actions.</p>	FT-4.3	K3	2
21	a	<p>a) Correct. Functional validation requires derived test conditions and expected results for calculation and posting, including relevant boundaries.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Expected results can be defined from business rules; exploratory testing alone is insufficient.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. UI checks alone do not validate calculation correctness.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Security testing is important but does not validate functional correctness of interest calculations.</p>	FT-5.1	K3	2
22	a	<p>a) Correct. Batch jobs plus concurrent customer activity can create peak load and contention.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Single-record edits do not typically represent peak-load risk.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Static analysis is not a runtime system load driver.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Project planning does not load production systems.</p>	FT-5.2	K2	1
23	a	<p>a) Correct. Load testing validates expected peak; stress testing explores behavior beyond expected capacity.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Usability does not assess throughput and system capacity.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Unit tests do not assess end-to-end capacity under peak load.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Small manual tests cannot assess peak throughput or degradation behavior.</p>	FT-5.3	K3	2

24	a	<p>a) Correct. Confidentiality, integrity, and availability are critical in finance due to customer impact and regulatory expectations.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Security testing complements, not replaces, functional testing.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Availability is critical for both internal and customer-facing systems.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Cloud hosting does not remove the need to test security and resilience.</p>	FT-5.4	K2	1
25	b	<p>a) Incorrect. Release approval requires governance and accountability beyond AI predictions.</p> <p>b) Correct. GenAI can assist by proposing drafts that testers validate and adapt.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Audit evidence cannot be replaced by unverified summaries.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Bypassing controls is unethical and non-compliant.</p>	FT-5.5	K2	1
26	a	<p>a) Correct. Automation can speed up execution of repetitive checks and improve consistency, supporting efficient feedback cycles.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Manual testing remains needed for certain areas (e.g., exploratory, usability, new risks).</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Compliance typically requires traceability and evidence regardless of automation.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Automation detects issues; it does not prevent defects from being introduced.</p>	FT-6.1	K2	1

27	a	<p>a) Correct. Layered automation focusing on stable interfaces plus selective end-to-end coverage reduces brittleness and supports integrated assurance.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. UI-only automation is typically brittle and may not isolate failures well.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Waiting may miss efficiency gains and risk reduction during modernization.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Database-level automation can miss business logic and is often risky in regulated environments.</p>	FT-6.2	K3	2
28	a	<p>a) Correct. Evidence, protected data handling, and traceable/controlled changes are common compliance needs.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. III and V are incorrect; version control and investigation remain necessary.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. V is incorrect; failures typically require triage and analysis.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. III is incorrect; version control remains required.</p>	FT-6.3	K2	1
29	a	<p>a) Correct. Cross-layer automation must handle UI volatility while ensuring correctness of backend processing, which is critical in finance.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Language choice is not the primary cross-layer automation challenge.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. APIs are often essential for efficient, stable automation.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Testing only in production is risky and typically non-compliant.</p>	FT-6.4	K2	1

30	a, e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Correct. Financial models complicate expected results.</li> <li>b) Incorrect. Accuracy requirements are high.</li> <li>c) Incorrect in this context. While dependencies exist, the question targets drivers of complexity; regulatory change and models are stronger differentiators.</li> <li>d) Incorrect. Audits are mandatory.</li> <li>e) Correct. Regulation changes drive repeated validation.</li> </ul>	FT-2.3	K2	1
31	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Correct.</b>  <b>Data Masking:</b> Obscures sensitive data for testing without exposing it.  <b>Pseudonymization:</b> Replaces identifiers with pseudonyms for privacy.  <b>Data Anonymization:</b> Removes identifiers to prevent re-identification.  <b>Access Control:</b> Limits data access to authorized users only.</li> <li><b>f) b) Incorrect.</b>            Encryption, real customer IDs, and unchanged data don't align with the purpose of data protection techniques like masking or pseudonymization.</li> <li><b>g) c) Incorrect.</b>            Keeping data unchanged and increasing data volume doesn't follow privacy practices and exposes sensitive information.</li> <li><b>h) d) Incorrect.</b>            Removing fields, disabling access control, and skipping evidence collection compromise data protection and privacy</li> </ul>	FT-4.3	K3	2

32	a	<p>a) Correct. GDPR governs personal data protection and processing obligations.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Basel III concerns banking capital and liquidity requirements.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. MiFID II concerns investment services and market conduct.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. PSD2 concerns payment services.</p>	FT-2.1.1	K1	1
33	b	<p>a) Incorrect. CACV promotes continuous validation.</p> <p>b) Correct. Automation ensures ongoing compliance assurance.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Governance remains necessary.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Evidence must still be maintained.</p>	FT-2.4.2	K2	1
34	a	<p>a) Correct. High impact warrants attention; likelihood influences prioritization but does not eliminate testing for critical outcomes.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. High impact failures in finance can be unacceptable even if rare.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Risk-based testing can require multiple levels/types of testing, not only unit tests.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Risk-based testing focuses more on higher-risk areas, not low-impact features.</p>	FT-3.2	K2	1
35	a	<p>a) Correct. Highest risk (1) first, then medium risk (3), then lowest risk (2).</p> <p>b) Incorrect. This prioritizes lowest risk over highest risk.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. This delays the highest-risk change.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. UI color update should not outrank a high-risk fraud rule change.</p>	FT-3.3	K2	1

36	a	<p>a) Correct. Inconsistent data can affect risk, compliance reporting, and customer outcomes.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Corporate actions directly affect financial holdings and valuations.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Consistency across systems is essential for accurate risk and reporting.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Reconciliation may exist, but defects can still cause incorrect positions and must be detected.</p>	FT-4.1	K2	1
37	a	<p>a) Correct. Load testing under expected concurrency provides evidence of performance under peak usage.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Reviews help but do not replace empirical performance testing.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Functional correctness does not guarantee performance under load.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. A few manual users cannot represent peak concurrency.</p>	FT-5.2	K2	1
38	a	<p>a) Correct. Failover and recovery testing validates resilience and continuity during failures.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Pairwise testing addresses input combinations, not availability.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Mutation testing assesses test suite effectiveness, not system availability.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Exploratory navigation does not validate failover behavior.</p>	FT-5.4	K2	1

39	a	<p>a) Correct. Human validation against authoritative sources reduces risk from incorrect AI-generated content.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Using content without validation increases risk of incorrect tests and evidence.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Reviews remain important, especially in regulated environments.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Compliance evidence requires governance and cannot be auto-approved by GenAI alone.</p>	FT-5.5	K2	1
40	a	<p>a) Correct. Stable, frequently repeated critical flows provide strong ROI for automation.</p> <p>b) Incorrect. Short-lived features yield limited automation value.</p> <p>c) Incorrect. Highly volatile UI automation tends to be brittle and costly to maintain.</p> <p>d) Incorrect. Exploratory sessions are valuable but are not typically automated directly.</p>	FT-6.1	K2	1

## Appendix: Answers to Additional Questions

Question Number (#)	Correct Answer	Explanation / Rationale	Learning Objective (LO)	K-Level	Number of Points
1	B-A-C-D	Impact analysis drives what must change; then test conditions/oracles are updated; traceability/evidence planning is updated; finally tests are executed and evidence collected.	FT-2.3.2	K2	2
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance/Evidence: Bidirectional traceability; Version control for test artefacts; Evidence retention policy</li> <li>Performance/Capacity: Load testing at expected peak; Stress testing beyond expected peak; Throughput monitoring during batch runs</li> </ul>	The first group relates to compliance evidence and auditability; the second group relates to performance and capacity evaluation.	FT-2.3.1 / FT-5.3	K2/K3	2

<p><b>3</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokenization → Replace sensitive values with tokens that can be mapped back under controlled conditions</li> <li>• Static data masking → Obscure sensitive fields while preserving format/structure for testing</li> <li>• Anonymization → Transform data to prevent identification or re-identification of individuals</li> <li>• Minimization → Use only the data fields necessary for the test objective</li> </ul>	<p>Each description corresponds to standard privacy techniques used in compliant test data preparation.</p>	<p>FT-4.4</p>	<p>K3</p>	<p>2</p>
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