



## Advanced Syllabus 2007 Release Plan

<i>Milestone</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Non-English</i>
The Advanced Syllabus 2007 distributed to National Boards for general release. Change tracked and Word versions released to National Boards for limited release.	October 18, 2007	-
All currently admitted National Boards to have completed translation of the Advanced Syllabus 2007. Note: Translation is optional and not all boards will chose to do so.	-	April 18, 2008
National Boards to stop accepting new applications for accreditation of training materials against the old Advanced Syllabus.	November 5, 2007	November 5, 2007
The Advanced Syllabus 2007 Exam Guidelines released. Note: As of July 4, 2008, this document is available in Beta release.	November 18, 2007	January 18, 2008
The Advanced Syllabus 2007 Accreditation Guidelines released.	December 18, 2007	February 18, 2008
National Boards may begin to accredit materials against the Advanced Syllabus 2007. Notes: 1) Dates will slip day-for-day if Accreditation Guidelines release slips. 2) Non-English accreditation can begin no sooner than one month after the National Board has completed translation of the Advanced Syllabus 2007 and Advanced Syllabus 2007 Accreditation Guidelines.	December 18, 2007	March 18, 2008
National and Exam Boards that currently do not run Advanced exams may begin to run exams for the Advanced Syllabus 2007.	March 1, 2008	June 1, 2008

<i>Milestone</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Non-English</i>
All National and Exam Boards that currently run Advanced exams must begin to run exams against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.	July 1, 2008	October 1, 2008
Last date for accredited training providers to begin a course accredited against the old Advanced Syllabus.	October 1, 2008	March 1, 2009
Accreditation of courseware against the old Advanced Syllabus withdrawn.	October 8, 2008	March 8, 2009
Last date for National and Exam Boards that currently run Advanced exams to run exams against the old Advanced Syllabus, except for re-tests by those who fail.  Note: Sunset dates moved by six months per the Zurich meeting decision.	April 16, 2009	March 15, 2009 September 15, 2009
Last date for National and Exam Boards to offer re-tests to those who failed exams against the old Advanced Syllabus.  Note: Sunset dates moved by six months per the Zurich meeting decision.	December 31, 2008 June 31, 2009	June 30, 2009 December 31, 2009

Notes:

1. We allow National Boards that use a language other than English six months delay on translation of the syllabus and on shutting down the old syllabus courses, due to the size of the syllabus.
2. National Boards that do not currently offer Advanced Exams shall not introduce exams against the old Advanced Syllabus, but shall proceed directly to creating exams against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.
3. National Boards that do not currently offer Advanced Exams are allowed to introduce exams for the Advanced Syllabus 2007 more quickly than National Boards that do currently offer Advanced Exams. National Boards that currently offer Advanced Exams have trainer and candidate transition problems to manage, while National Boards that do not currently offer Advanced Exams are under pressure by their constituents to begin offer Advanced Exams as soon as possible.
4. We assume it will take National Boards at least three months to create a suitable Advanced Exam, given the Advanced Exam Guidelines.

Status: As of July 4, 2008, the Advanced Exam Guidelines are available in a Beta version. National Boards should use these guidelines, but may deviate from them as they find necessary to create exams, assuming they document these deviations and report them to the ISTQB and the ISTQB Advanced Exam Working Group (chair by Horst Pohlmann).

5. The modification to the sunset dates approved at the Zurich meeting applied to the exams only. Therefore, any questions about whether the “English” or “Non-English” dates apply to a particular National Board are determined by the language of the exam, not the language of the courseware.

### **Treatment of Existing Advanced and Practitioner Certificates**

A large number of existing Advanced certificates have been issued by recognized National Boards and by Exam Boards which are authorized to issue Advanced certificates by at least one recognized National Board. To preserve the continuity of the program, the ISTQB, the National Boards, and the Exam Boards agree to the following four statements of equivalent treatment:

- ISTQB Advanced Test Manager certificates earned by passing exams against the old Advanced Syllabus are treated as equivalent to the Advanced Test Manager certificates earned by passing exams against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.
- ISTQB Advanced Functional Tester certificates earned by passing exams against the old Advanced Syllabus are treated as equivalent to the Advanced Test Analyst certificates earned by passing exams against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.
- ISTQB Advanced Technical Tester certificates earned by passing exams against the old Advanced Syllabus are treated as equivalent to the Advanced Technical Test Analyst certificates earned by passing exams against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.
- ISEB Practitioner certificates earned by passing an exam taken no later than March 31, 2008 [i.e., under the original Practitioner program] are treated as equivalent to the Advanced Test Manager, Advanced Test Analyst, and Advanced Technical Test Analyst certificates earned by passing exams against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.

This treatment of equivalence has the following four consequences.

First, the ISTQB, the National Boards, and the Exam Boards shall not take any action, impose any pre-requisites, or pass any rule or by-law, including at the

Expert level, which would favor one equivalent certificate over another. For example, suppose that Advanced Test Analyst certification is a pre-requisite to take a given Expert exam. Advanced Functional Tester certificate holders may also take the same Expert exam, and no additional burden shall be placed on them to do so.

Second, equivalence does not mean substitution. The ISTQB, the National Boards, and the Exam Boards shall only issue certificates showing certification against the Advanced Syllabus 2007 for candidates who have passed an exam run against the Advanced Syllabus 2007.

Third, treatment as equivalent does not mean that they are in fact identical in coverage. Specifically, the Advanced Syllabus 2007 covers all the topics of the old Advanced Syllabus as well as introducing new topics. Courseware accredited against the Advanced Syllabus 2007 will cover all topics covered by courseware accredited against the old Advanced Syllabus. Therefore, a candidate will be fully prepared if she attends a course accredited against the Advanced Syllabus 2007, then takes an exam against the old Advanced Syllabus. However, courseware accredited against the old Advanced Syllabus will not cover all topics covered by courseware accredited against the Advanced Syllabus 2007. A candidate who attends a course accredited against the old Advanced Syllabus, then takes an exam against the Advanced Syllabus 2007 will be under-prepared.

Fourth, the ISTQB, the National Boards, and the Exam Boards shall post on their Web sites the four statements of equivalent treatment listed above. They shall also post the following cautionary note: "Attention candidates for certification who intend to take an exam against the Advanced Syllabus 2007: If you have taken a training course accredited against the old Advanced Syllabus or the Practitioner Syllabus, please be advised that new topics have been added to the Advanced Syllabus 2007. Additional preparation on your part is necessary prior to taking an exam against the Advanced Syllabus 2007."

## **Recognition of the New Practitioner Certificates**

Starting April 1, 2008, ISEB will separate the Practitioner program from the Advanced program. The Executive Committee will form a team to work with ISEB to negotiate appropriate reciprocity between ISTQB Advanced certifications and the new ISEB Practitioner certification(s).

## Change History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Release</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Comments</i>
~ Oct 1, 2007	0.1	Rex Black	First draft for discussion within core team
Oct 19, 2007	0.2	Rex Black	Second draft for discussion within Executive Committee
Oct 22, 2007	0.9	Rex Black	Third draft for approval by General Assembly
Nov 20, 2007	1.0	Rex Black	Released to the National Boards after approval by General Assembly
August 3, 2008	1.1	Rex Black	Modified to include the new sunset dates.