

SOFTWARE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL CERTIFICATION BENCHMARK

By Gabriel Rodriguez

The purpose of this benchmark is to give an idea to the audience about the variety of institutes offering Quality Assurance and Testing certifications on the market, please have in mind that the objective of this benchmark is by no means to prove which institution is the best, but to show all the choices available in the market today, every institute offers a particular need for the high demands of the customers in the IT organizations.

	Quality Assurance Institute (QAI)	Software Quality Engineering (SQE)	International Institute for Software Testing (IIST)	American Society for Quality (ASQ)
URL	www.gaiworldwide.org www.softwarecertifications.org	http://www.sqe.com/certification.asp http://www.istqb.org/	http://www.iist.org/certification.php	http://www.asq.org/certification/
Certification Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Software Tester (CSTE). • Certified Software Quality Analyst (CSQA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This institute prepares candidates for: ISTQB Certified Tester - foundation level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Software Test Professional (CSTP). • Certified Test Manager (CTM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Software Quality Engineer (CSQE). • Quality Engineer (CQE). • Manager of Quality (CMQ)
Foundation Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software Certifications had its beginning in 1980 as the Quality Assurance Institute (QAI). • The first certification began development in 1985 and the first formal examination process was launched in 1990. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning in 1986 with professional consulting services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Institute for Software Testing (IIST) has been offering the Certified Software Test Professional (CSTP) certification since 1999. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1946 The American Society for Quality Control (ASQ) is formed on February 16 by 253 members of 17 quality-related societies. Quality Control becomes ASQ's first flagship publication. • In the 1980s, ASQ members began to see how quality could be applied beyond the world of manufacturing.
Taking the Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates for certification must pass a four-part written examination in order to obtain certification. • Two Parts multiple-choice (50 questions each one) and two parts essay and short answer (10 questions each one). • 4 1/2 hours exam. • No study material is allowed during the exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This institute prepares for the ISTQB exam but first they recommend to attend a course to prepare for the exam. • 40 questions. • 1 hour exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates are required to complete a written exam for each course and pass with a level of performance no less than 80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Software Quality Engineer examination is composed of multiple choice questions. • 160 questions. • One part 4hours exam. • Exams are open-book.
Common Body of Knowledge (CBOK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Body Of Knowledge for Quality Control. • Common Body Of Knowledge for Quality Assurance. • You can buy a study guide from QAI website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Common Body Of Knowledge; there is a Syllabus guide (This guide is not as detailed as a study guide) that outlines the topics that composed the course and the exam. • No information about a particular study guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Body of Knowledge (CBOK) for Certified Software Test Professional. • Common Body of Knowledge for Certified Test Manager (Oriented to Quality Assurance). • No information about a particular study guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Body of Knowledge for CSQE. • Common Body of Knowledge for CQE. • No information about a particular study guide.
Prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTE - \$350 • CSQA - \$350 • This cost also includes a study guide in PDF format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISTQB Certified Foundation Exam Level you need to take a 3 day course cost \$ 2195. • The exam \$250 • No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTP - \$120 • No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSQE - \$360 • CQE - \$360 • CMQ - \$450
Certification Expiration Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTE, CSQA, - 3 years (Note: After 3 years candidates need to apply for recertification) • There're more choices to keep your certification active: CPE Credits, for more info www.softwarecertifications.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every 3 years (Note: After 3 years candidates need to apply for recertification)

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Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be the international standard of definition for professional status as an information services software quality practitioner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help organizations worldwide significantly improve the practice of software testing and quality engineering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By making Quality a global priority, an organization imperative, and a personal ethic, the American Society for Quality becomes the community for everyone who seeks quality concepts, technology, and tools to improve themselves and their world.
Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the needs of information services quality practitioners, providing certification of their professional development as they evolve over their careers from entry-level novices to recognized and mature masters of their respective disciplines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote a disciplined approach to software testing and to caution against ad hoc testing by non-qualified individuals and groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Information Found.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and foster a comprehensive set of industry-accepted bodies of knowledge for current and emerging quality disciplines within the information services field. Provide a governance and operational structure for the Program that assures the on-going integrity and value of its certifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote and provide education and certification of software testing professionals around the world. To create a pool of qualified software testing professionals to meet the needs of testing organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Information Found.
Important Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federation is composed of quality assurance organizations throughout the United States and in many countries worldwide (USA, Mexico, South America, Asia) The overall goal of the QAI Federation of chapters is to provide a framework for IT QA / QC professionals to network with other individuals and to increase their knowledge and expertise in these areas. Currently, the Quality Assurance Institute (QAI) has offices in Canada, Brazil, China, and India. QAI Offers Annual conference programs every year in different locations of the USA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three well-respected testing and quality assurance conferences (STARWEST, STAREAST, and Better Software Conference & EXPO). Better Software magazine – the only commercial magazine targeted specifically to the testing and quality engineering audiences. StickyMinds.com – an around-the-clock information resource for software managers, testers, developers and quality engineers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Information Found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 1991 ASQ has administered the United States' premier quality honor—the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which annually recognizes companies and organizations that have achieved performance excellence. Partner with 14 non profit organizations - Canada, Brazil
What do they offer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Seminars, Conferences, Live Webinars, QAI courses online. Software Testing Assessments and Software Quality Assessments to evaluate the maturity of testing and Quality Assurance in the Organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences in the software testing industry (STAR EAST, STARWEST) and provides test and development training. Better Software magazine and the StickyMinds.com Web site. Training and Consulting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences, on-line training, on-site training, consulting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences, on-line training, on-site training, consulting.

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Free services to QA community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QAI Newsletter. • Federation Chapters to network with other individuals to increase their knowledge. • Journal Magazines to certified members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter through Stickyminds.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Membership to download QA literature and to attend testing seminars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Articles search engine.
Other Certifications and services besides QA and QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Software Project Management (CSPM) • Internal Control Institute and corporate governance • Best of the Best Awards - Awards given to companies that shared their proven best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscription to Better Software Magazine (this has a monthly fee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Information Found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Inspector • Quality Auditor • Quality Process Analyst • Six Sigma Black Belt • Six Sigma Green Belt • Quality Process Analyst (CQTP)
Popularity on job search engines (These queries were retrieved on 02/26/07)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.dice.com CSTE: 33 Jobs displayed. CSQA: 34 jobs displayed. • www.monster.com CSTE: 47 jobs displayed. CSQA: 33 jobs displayed. • www.hotjobs.com CSTE: 33 jobs displayed. CSQA: 24 jobs displayed. • www.qajobs.net CSTE: 4 jobs displayed. CSQA: 0 jobs displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.dice.com ISTQB: 4 jobs displayed. • www.monster.com ISTQB: 5 jobs displayed. • www.hotjobs.com ISTQB: 3 jobs displayed. • www.qajobs.net ISTQB : 0 jobs Displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.dice.com CSTP: 1 job displayed. • www.monster.com CSTP: 2 jobs displayed. • www.hotjobs.com CSTP: 1 job displayed. • www.qajobs.net CSTP: 0 jobs displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.dice.com CSQE: 16 jobs displayed. CQE: 42 jobs displayed. • www.monster.com CSQE: 34 jobs displayed. CQE: 272 jobs displayed. • www.hotjobs.com CSQE: 17 jobs displayed. CQE: 149 jobs displayed. • www.qajobs.net CSQE: 2 jobs displayed. CQE: 3 jobs displayed.