



ISTQB Test Automation Engineer

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Practice Questions

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1. What is the MOST important first step when evaluating test automation tools?

- A. Select the tool with the most features
- B. Compare pricing models of available tools
- C. Determine which tool the development team prefers
- D. Define clear requirements and objectives for automation

2. Which of the following is the MOST significant consideration when selecting a test automation tool for a legacy system?

- A. The vendor's marketing claims
- B. The popularity of the tool in the market
- C. Compatibility with existing interfaces and technologies
- D. The tool's cloud-based capabilities

3. Which approach is BEST for evaluating a test automation tool before organization-wide adoption?

- A. Purchase enterprise licenses immediately
- B. Conduct a proof of concept with a limited scope
- C. Rely solely on vendor demonstrations
- D. Base the decision on online reviews only

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4. When calculating ROI for a test automation tool, which factor should be included?

- A. Cost of training staff to use the tool effectively
- B. Number of features compared to competitors
- C. Vendor's annual revenue
- D. Tool's popularity in online forums



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5. Which is NOT typically a valid criterion for evaluating test automation tools?

- A. Licensing costs and maintenance fees
- B. Integration capabilities with the CI/CD pipeline
- C. Support for the required technology stack
- D. The founding date of the tool vendor

6. What is the MAIN benefit of using a weighted scoring model when evaluating test automation tools?

- A. It eliminates the need for a proof of concept
- B. It guarantees the selected tool will be successful
- C. It provides an objective way to compare tools based on criteria importance
- D. It reduces the cost of tool licenses

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7. Which of the following would be considered a technical risk when selecting a test automation tool?

- A. Higher than expected licensing costs
- B. Poor integration with existing tools and infrastructure
- C. Lack of management buy-in
- D. Vendor's financial stability

8. What should be considered when evaluating open-source automation tools versus commercial tools?

- A. Total cost of ownership including support and maintenance
- B. Open-source tools are always better for enterprise use
- C. Commercial tools always provide better support
- D. Open-source tools cannot be used in regulated industries

9. Which factor is MOST important when considering the long-term sustainability of a test automation tool?

- A. Number of features compared to competitors
- B. Number of current users worldwide
- C. Age of the tool in the market
- D. Regular updates and maintenance from the vendor or community



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10. What is a key consideration when evaluating a test automation tool's scalability?

- A. Vendor's annual revenue growth
- B. Number of programming languages supported
- C. Ability to handle increasing test assets, environments, and execution demands
- D. Size of the vendor's sales team

11. When aligning test automation tool selection with the SDLC, what is MOST important to consider?

- A. The tool vendor's relationship with the SDLC tool vendor
- B. Integration with existing development and testing processes
- C. Using tools exclusively from a single vendor
- D. Selecting the newest tool on the market

12. Which stakeholder is MOST important to include when defining requirements for a test automation tool?

- A. Test automation engineers
- B. Finance department
- C. Marketing team
- D. Human resources department

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13. What is the BEST approach to mitigate the risk of selecting an inappropriate automation tool?

- A. Rely solely on vendor demonstrations
- B. Select the tool with the lowest price
- C. Choose the most popular tool in the market
- D. Conduct a proof of concept with realistic scenarios



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14. Which is the MOST important consideration when evaluating a test automation tool for a cross-platform mobile application?

- A. The vendor's geographical location
- B. The tool's server requirements
- C. Support for all target platforms and devices
- D. The number of customers using the tool

15. What should be included in a test automation tool evaluation report?

- A. Personal preferences of the evaluation team
- B. Comparison of strengths and weaknesses against requirements
- C. Details about competing vendors' financial status
- D. Irrelevant features not required by the organization

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16. Which factor is MOST important when evaluating a test automation tool's maintainability?

- A. Ease of updating test scripts when the application changes
- B. The tool's graphical user interface design
- C. The number of programming languages supported
- D. The tool vendor's customer service hours

17. What is a key consideration when evaluating a test automation tool for integration with CI/CD pipelines?

- A. The tool's offline capabilities
- B. The tool's graphical user interface
- C. The vendor's certification program
- D. API or command line interface for triggering and reporting test executions

18. Which approach is MOST effective for evaluating multiple automation tools simultaneously?

- A. Select the tool with the most features regardless of requirements
- B. Let each vendor choose their own demo scenarios
- C. Use the same test scenarios for all tools being evaluated
- D. Base the decision solely on cost comparison



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19. What is the MOST important factor to consider regarding licensing when selecting a test automation tool?

- A. The vendor's office locations
- B. How licensing costs scale with increased usage
- C. The initial purchase price only
- D. The vendor's other product offerings

20. Which of the following is MOST important to consider when evaluating a test automation tool's learning curve?

- A. Availability of quality documentation, tutorials, and training resources
- B. The age of the tool in the market
- C. The size of the vendor company
- D. The tool's popularity in a specific country

21. Which of the following is the most important testability characteristic that should be assessed before implementing test automation?

- A. Size of the development team
- B. Security features of the application
- C. Number of manual testers available
- D. Controllability of the system under test

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22. When preparing for test automation, what is the primary purpose of assessing the observability of a system?

- A. To check if developers can see the test execution
- B. To monitor the performance of the automation tool
- C. To determine if the system's internal states can be observed through outputs for verification
- D. To ensure the automation code is readable



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23. What is a key consideration when preparing test data for automation?

- A. Test data should always be randomly generated
- B. Test data should be in a known state and reproducible for consistent test results
- C. Test data should only come from production environments
- D. Test data should be managed exclusively by developers

24. Which of the following is NOT typically part of a testability assessment for automation?

- A. Evaluation of user interface aesthetics
- B. Analysis of system interfaces and APIs
- C. Assessment of component isolation capabilities
- D. Review of logging and error handling mechanisms

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25. What environmental factor is most critical to assess before implementing test automation?

- A. Operating system manufacturer
- B. Physical location of the test servers
- C. Brand of hardware being used
- D. Stability of the test environment

26. When analyzing a system for automation feasibility, which factor indicates poor testability?

- A. Consistent logging mechanisms
- B. Well-documented APIs
- C. Hard-coded test data within the application
- D. Modular application architecture

27. In the context of test automation preparation, what does "controllability" refer to?

- A. The ability to control which developers can check-in code
- B. The ability to control the inputs and states of the system under test
- C. The ability to control the test execution schedule
- D. The ability to control test tool licenses

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28. Which of the following is most important to verify before implementing UI-based test automation?

- A. UI elements have stable identifiers or locators
- B. The UI has an attractive design
- C. All UI text is grammatically correct
- D. The UI supports multiple languages

29. What is a key consideration when assessing API testability for automation?

- A. Geographical location of API servers
- B. Number of developers who created the API
- C. Programming language used to develop the API
- D. Quality and completeness of API documentation

30. Which aspect of test data management is most important when preparing for test automation?

- A. Manual creation of all test data
- B. Using only production data for all tests
- C. Ability to reset or restore test data to a known state
- D. Limiting test data to text-only formats



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — Define clear requirements and objectives for automation

Before evaluating specific tools, it's crucial to clearly define the requirements and objectives for test automation to ensure the selected tool will actually meet the needs of the organization.

2. C — Compatibility with existing interfaces and technologies

Legacy systems often have unique interfaces or technologies that may be difficult to automate. Compatibility with these interfaces is critical for successful automation.

3. B — Conduct a proof of concept with a limited scope

A proof of concept with a limited scope allows the team to evaluate the tool's capabilities against actual project requirements without a significant initial investment.

4. A — Cost of training staff to use the tool effectively

The cost of training team members to use the tool effectively is a significant factor in the total cost of ownership and must be included in ROI calculations.

5. D — The founding date of the tool vendor

While the other options are valid evaluation criteria, the founding date of the tool vendor is not typically relevant to the tool's suitability for the organization's needs.

6. C — It provides an objective way to compare tools based on criteria importance

A weighted scoring model allows organizations to objectively compare tools based on criteria that are most important to them, with appropriate emphasis on critical factors.

7. B — Poor integration with existing tools and infrastructure

Poor integration with existing tools and infrastructure is a significant technical risk that could lead to inefficiencies and implementation challenges.

8. A — Total cost of ownership including support and maintenance

While open-source tools may have no upfront licensing costs, organizations must consider the total cost of ownership, including support, maintenance, and customization needs.

9. D — Regular updates and maintenance from the vendor or community

Regular updates and maintenance from the vendor or community ensure the tool remains compatible with evolving technologies and continues to meet the organization's needs over time.

10. C — Ability to handle increasing test assets, environments, and execution demands

The ability to handle increasing test assets, environments, and execution demands is essential for scalability, ensuring the tool can grow with the organization's needs.

11. B — Integration with existing development and testing processes

The tool must integrate seamlessly with the organization's existing development and testing processes to ensure efficient adoption and value delivery.



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12. A — Test automation engineers

Test automation engineers will be the primary users of the tool and have the technical expertise to define required capabilities, making them essential stakeholders in the requirements process.

13. D — Conduct a proof of concept with realistic scenarios

Conducting a proof of concept with realistic scenarios allows for practical evaluation of the tool's capabilities against actual requirements before making a significant investment.

14. C — Support for all target platforms and devices

For cross-platform mobile applications, it's essential that the tool supports all target platforms and devices to enable comprehensive testing across the entire user base.

15. B — Comparison of strengths and weaknesses against requirements

A comprehensive evaluation report should include a comparison of the tool's strengths and weaknesses against the defined requirements to support informed decision-making.

16. A — Ease of updating test scripts when the application changes

The ease of updating test scripts when the application changes is crucial for maintainability, as it directly impacts the long-term cost and effort of maintaining the automation suite.

17. D — API or command line interface for triggering and reporting test executions

The ability to trigger and report test executions via APIs or command line interfaces is essential for seamless integration with automated CI/CD pipelines.

18. C — Use the same test scenarios for all tools being evaluated

Using the same test scenarios across all tools provides a consistent basis for comparison, allowing for objective evaluation of each tool's capabilities on equal terms.

19. B — How licensing costs scale with increased usage

It's crucial to understand how licensing costs will scale with increased usage to accurately project total cost of ownership and avoid unexpected expenses as automation expands.

20. A — Availability of quality documentation, tutorials, and training resources

The availability of quality documentation, tutorials, and training resources significantly impacts how quickly the team can become productive with the tool, affecting implementation timeline and ROI.

21. D — Controllability of the system under test

Controllability is critical for test automation as it determines whether test inputs can be easily applied to the SUT. Without sufficient controllability, automation may be impossible or require complex workarounds.

22. C — To determine if the system's internal states can be observed through outputs for verification

Observability refers to how well internal states can be observed through outputs. High observability makes it easier for automated tests to verify expected behavior through visible outputs and results.

23. B — Test data should be in a known state and reproducible for consistent test results

Automated tests require consistent, reusable test data to produce reliable results across repeated executions. Data should be in a known state before each test run.

24. A — Evaluation of user interface aesthetics

While user interface aesthetics may impact usability testing, they are not typically part of testability



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assessment for automation, which focuses on controllability, observability, and isolation aspects.

25. D — Stability of the test environment

Stability of the test environment is crucial for reliable automation. Unstable environments lead to false failures, making it difficult to determine if failures are due to application defects or environmental issues.

26. C — Hard-coded test data within the application

Hard-coded test data complicates test automation by making the system difficult to control with different test inputs and creates maintenance problems when data changes.

27. B — The ability to control the inputs and states of the system under test

Controllability refers to how easily test inputs can be provided to the system under test, which is essential for effective automation implementation.

28. A — UI elements have stable identifiers or locators

Stable element locators (IDs, names, etc.) are essential for UI automation, as tests rely on these to identify and interact with interface elements. Changing locators will break automated tests.

29. D — Quality and completeness of API documentation

Documentation quality is critical for API automation as it provides information about endpoints, parameters, request/response formats, and error handling, which are all needed to design effective automated tests.

30. C — Ability to reset or restore test data to a known state

Test data reset capabilities ensure tests start from a known state, which is essential for test independence and consistent results across multiple executions.



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