

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is CAT and how does it fit into the testing industry?

More and more companies are recognising their skills need to change as they adopt Agile as their preferred method. CAT has been developed to fill that gap by giving those with testing experience the skills they need to become effective members of an Agile project. Essentially, CAT is no different from any other course in that its simple remit is to teach and provide learning that can be put to effective use in an agile environment to help enable successful business outcomes.

But don't just take our word for it: The following blue-chip companies, all of which use agile, are public supporters of the CAT scheme:

- Barclays, Dorma, Hewlett Packard, IBM, IVV, Logic Studio,
- Microfocus, Microsoft, Mobile.de, Nokia, NTS, Océ, OTTO,
- SAP, Siemens, Sogeti, Swift, T-systems MMS, XING & Zurich

2. Who is the course for?

For those working in an Agile environment already the course helps fill any skills gaps, formalise their knowledge and ensure they can work effectively as part a collaborative team. For those thinking of going Agile the course provides a real insight into Agile and the skills needed to hit the ground running.

3. Will it give me real and usable Agile skills?

Yes, CAT is designed as a very interactive course in which delegates have the opportunity to discuss and share their experiences with others and to extend their knowledge of testing in agile projects.

70% of the course is dedicated to practical exercises that are based on a complete agile life cycle, giving students a lot of time to put their learning and knowledge into practice.

4. Agile and certification - does that work?

Yes, business critical agile projects rely on skills. Further, if you go to the trouble of learning a skill why not achieve the certificate to demonstrate your knowledge and increase your standing with fellow professionals?

Achieving a pass is tough, but that makes it worth having! To become a 'CAT' requires students to:

- Sit a 2-5 hour written exam and provide solutions to scenarios in their own words;
- Take a 2-hour practical exam consisting of multiple code drops that must be tested.

Delegates soft skills are assessed throughout the course based, on their contributions to the classroom discussions and practical exercises.

5. What is the success rate?

Our Agile course has been run for public and private companies since it was launched in April earlier this year, and to date TSG has achieved a 77.5% pass rate for the exam.

6. Will the certification still be around in 12months time?

Very much so! The CAT course is the first of many at a number of different levels. This one is the foundation course, and others at the next level are currently under development by the working party.