

ISTO Test of Understanding, Level 1 – Practitioner ISO 14001:2015/Amd 1:2024 Test Description

What is an ISTO Test of Understanding?

I. General

ISTO Tests of Understanding are developed specifically for ISO management system standards (MSS) professionals and practitioners. This includes middle and senior management personnel, responsible persons*, internal auditors, third party certification body auditors, advisors and consultants.

Each Test of Understanding has three (3) outputs:

(1) Certification

- for candidates who pass the test, a certificate of achievement which recognises the candidate's understanding of the respective standard at one (1) of three (3) levels (Practitioner, Professional, Expert).

(2) Analytics

- an analytics report which measures the candidate's level of understanding in the eight (8) A C C U R A T E domains.

(3) Ranking**

- an overall percentile rank, together with a star diagram which provides a visual indication as to the candidate's strengths and development opportunities, as measured against the test population.



Key Features

- Multiple choice test with no prerequisites
- Detailed syllabus with reference materials
- Robust test development process by international experts
- Insightful data analytics on the eight (8) A C C U R A T E domains
- Ranking against the test population

“Employers of ISO MSS auditors/consultants/tutors would find the ISTO Test of Understanding certification a good benchmark in their selection process, as the ISTO Test adds value to the organizations’ performance excellence and consistency. A course tutor with an ISTO Test of Understanding credential is able to offer learners a more accurate and comprehensive presentation of the standard.”

* as defined under clause 5.3

** indicative: subject to potential variations as the test population data may evolve over time.

Key Benefits

Organizations / Employers (MSS Team)	Conformity Assessment / Training Organizations / Consultants	Professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster consistent understanding of ISO MSS across all levels and deliver predictable outcomes Effectively implement MSS at strategic and operational levels Upskill employees Demonstrate training effectiveness Facilitate recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance your organization's credibility and consistency Differentiate your offerings in the market Provide evidence to meet accreditation requirements Verify comprehensive knowledge and competence Identify and bridge potential competence gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate professional development and career advancement Instil confidence in your expertise Enhance competitiveness with a globally recognised qualification Rank yourself against the test population Identify and bridge potential competence gaps

ISTO Tests focus not only on understanding the requirements of a standard but are also designed to ensure that those who pass the test have demonstrated a knowledge of the underlying management system principles, definitions, applicability, commonly held misconceptions and the ISO standard's practical implementation.

II. Structure of the Test of Understanding – Level 1 – Practitioner

All ISTO Tests are closed-book and online. They consist of multiple choice questions with four (4) possible options, of which only one (1) represents the 'best' response. Candidates are allowed to refer to an unmarked copy of the respective ISO standard which is the only permitted reference material during the test.

Time allowed: 120 min. **No of questions:** 80 **Pass criteria:** 60%

Section	No. of questions	Focused areas
1	20	Principles and definitions, applicability, clause 4.3
2	30	Management system requirements based on clauses 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 (except clause 4.3)
3	30	Operational requirements based on clauses 7 and 8

Candidates who meet or exceed the Pass criteria at 60% will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement. All candidates will receive the **ACCURATE** analytics report indicating their level of understanding and relative ranking in each of the eight (8) domains in the star diagram.

Comparing Test of Understanding **Level 1 - Practitioner** against **Level 2 - Professional**

	Level 1 - Practitioner	Level 2 - Professional
Target	Implementation personnel, Internal auditors	Responsible persons, professionals, Lead auditors, consultants
Time allowed	2 hours (120 min.)	3 hours (180 min.)
No. of questions	80	120
No. of sections	3 (20+30+30Q, no cases)	4 (30+30+30+30Q)
Pass criteria	60%	70%

Note:

The Level 1 test assesses a candidate's understanding of the basic principles and requirements of an ISO management system standard (MSS). The Level 2 is a comprehensive test that covers principles, requirements, and the implementation in various scenarios and business sectors.

III. ACCURATE Analytics

Based on ISTO's research, endorsed by the ISTO Technical Advisory Board, the level of comprehension of an ISO management system standard can be grouped into 8 domains of understanding. These form the acronym **ACCURATE**.

Ac: an Actual requirement in the standard related to documented information.

Co: Concept - the management principles on which the management system standard is based. This includes the sequence of activities as required in the standard.

C: the unique Clause reference of a specific requirement in the ISO management system standard

U: an Unspecified requirement in the standard (a requirement that does not exist).

R: a certain Requirement in the standard (i.e. the text of the requirement).

A: the Applicability of the standard. This includes the intent of a requirement, and the scope of the standard.

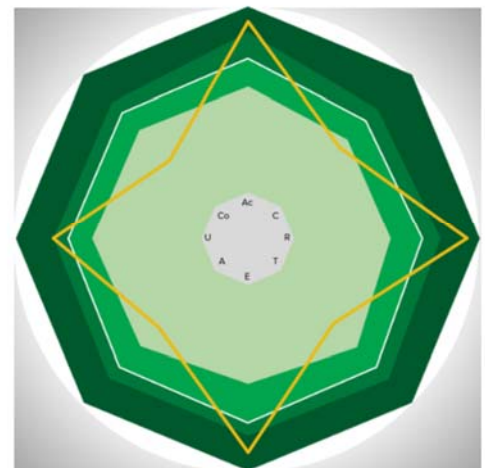
T: Terms and definitions used in the standard. Generally these are defined in Clause 3 of each ISO management system standard.

E: an Erroneous requirement in the standard related to documented information.

A sample ACCURATE Analytics (Star Diagram)

ACCURATE Analytics

Domain of Understanding	Score
Ac (Actual documentation)	92%
Co (Concept)	73%
C (Clause reference)	53%
U (Unspecified requirements)	75%
R (Requirements)	93%
A (Applicability)	50%
T (Terminology)	47%
E (Erroneous documentation)	85%
Overall score	71.0%



Note: The four green octagonal bands represent the four percentile quartiles of the test population, ranging from the lowest (pale green) to the highest (darkest green) in 25% increments. The white ring represents the median percentile score. The golden ring represents the candidate score.

Sample questions (A C C U R A T E)

1. ISO 14001 requires which of the following documented information be maintained?
- A. people awareness
 - B. top management communications
 - C. EMS scope
 - D. all of the above

*(Question related to an actual requirement in documented information, **Ac**)*

2. Which of the following is included in the life cycle considerations?
- A. packaging
 - B. end-of-life treatment
 - C. mining of raw materials
 - D. all of the above

*(Question related to concept & principles, **Co**)*

3. The requirement to ensure that internal auditors are competent is given in:
- A. clause 9.2.1
 - B. clause 9.2.2
 - C. clause 7.2.b
 - D. none of the above

*(Question related to clauses, **C**)*

4. Which of the following is not an ISO 14001 requirement?
- A. conduct management review annually
 - B. assign responsibilities within the EMS
 - C. ensure internal auditors are competent
 - D. Plan actions to address opportunities

*(Question related to an **unspecified** requirement in the standard, **U**)*

5. ISO 14001:2015 requires the environmental policy to:
- A. provide a framework for setting environmental objectives
 - B. be signed by top management
 - C. be copied to all employees
 - D. all of the above

*(Question related to requirement, **R**)*

6. Which of the following is not within the EMS scope of a transport service provider?
- A. operating delivery vehicles
 - B. managing indoor air quality
 - C. administering office activities
 - D. cleaning of delivery vehicles

*(Question related to applicability, **A**)*

7. Which of the following is a potential corrective action?
- A. mending a leaking pipe
 - B. revising a standard operating procedure (SOP)
 - C. cleaning a chimney
 - D. none of the above

*(Question related to terminologies, **T**)*

8. ISO 14001 requires which of the following documented information be maintained?
- A. document control procedure
 - B. EMS manual
 - C. operational process diagram
 - D. none of the above

*(Question related to an erroneous requirement related to documented information, **E**)*

The suggested answers are Q1=C, Q2=D, Q3=C, Q4=A, Q5=A, Q6=B, Q7=B, Q8=D

Additional information

www.isto.ch ISTO background; Test programme; Test Centres
portal.isto.ch Create candidate account; Experience Free Trial Test
J22 Test syllabus and reference sources (downloadable from www.isto.ch)

J21.14001L1/241201