ISTO Test of Understanding, Level 1 – Practitioner
ISO 50001:2018/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
• 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	• 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	• 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 **A C C U R A T E** 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. A C C U R A T E 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 **A C C U R A T E**.

Ac: an Actual requirement in the standard <u>related to documented information</u>.

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 **C**lause reference of a specific requirement in the ISO management system standard

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

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

A: the **A**pplicability of the standard. This includes the intent of a requirement, and the scope of the standard.
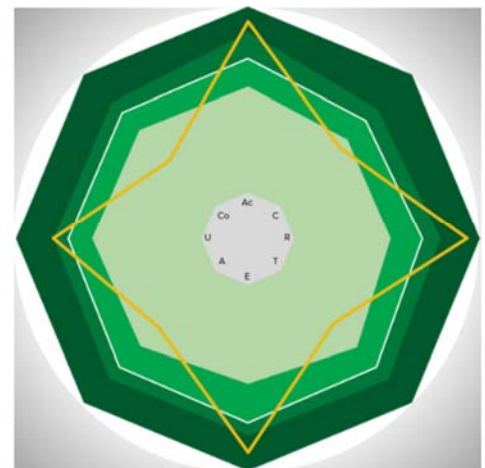
T: **T**erms and definitions used in the standard. Generally these are defined in Clause 3 of each ISO management system standard.

E: an **E**rroneous requirement in the standard <u>related to documented information</u>.

A sample A C C U R A T E 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 50001 requires which of the following documentation be retained?

    A. energy management team meeting minutes
    B. actions to address risks and opportunities
    C. evaluation of compliance
    D. all of the above

    (Question related to an actual requirement in documentation, Ac)

2. Which of the following is relevant to energy performance?

    A. Coefficient of Performance (COP)
    B. human behaviour
    C. technology deployed
    D. all of the above

    (Question related to concept & principles, Co)

3. The requirement to include energy performance as a criteria in SEU related procurement is given in:

    A. clause 6.1.2
    B. clause 8.2
    C. clause 8.3
    D. none of the above

    (Question related to clauses, C)

4. Which of the following is not an ISO 50001 requirement?

    A. use of sustainable energy source
    B. establish energy baseline
    C. ensure outsourced SEU related processes are controlled
    D. assign responsibilities to the energy management team

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

5. ISO 50001 requires that the energy data collection plan be:

    A. reviewed at defined intervals
    B. approved by top management
    C. communicated to everybody within the organization
    D. all of the above

    (Question related to requirement, R)

6.   Which of the following is likely to benefit the most from an EnMS?

     A. a handicraft factory
     B. a hotel chain
     C. a web designer
     D. a trading company

(Question related to applicability, Ap)

7.   Which of the following is a potential corrective action?

     A. replacing a leaking pipe
     B. revising people induction programme related to energy management
     C. re-issuing a missing controlled document
     D. none of the above

(Question related to terminologies, T)

8.   ISO 50001 requires which of the following documented information be maintained?

     A. energy management team terms of reference
     B. EnMS manual
     C. internal communication procedure
     D. None of the above

(Question related to an erroneous requirement related to documentation, E)

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

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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)*

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