

Elevate your career: become a testing generalist

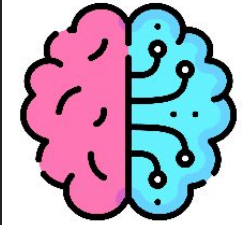
Ady Stokes and Scott Kenyon

Wednesday 2nd October

TestBash - Brighton UK

Ady Stokes and @ScottKTeaching

Scott Kenyon

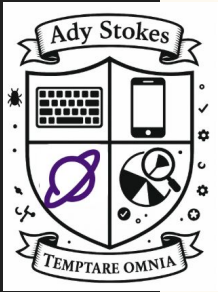


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MoT Profile

Why talk about generalists?

STATS - 80% testers identify as Quality Engineers (QEs)

- **Learn what a software testing generalist is**
- **Understand your starting point (QE or not)**
- **How to define areas or skills you want**
- **Set learning levels and plan for success**

Shapes [Types] of Testers

Have you heard of - or are aware of...

T

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What is a generalist?

- Knowledge in multiple areas
- Pi, comb or tree shaped testers
- Not necessarily a specialist, but can be
- Can identify more risks or issues
- Supports specialist by identifying basic bugs
- #QualityEngineer

Where are you on your learning journey?

- **Everyone is in a different place**
- **Novice - I know nothing!**
- **Beginner - I know about it**
- **Practitioner - I can do it**
- **Intermediary - I am good at it**
- **Specialist - I don't show off, but I could**

Let's look at creating a generalist learning journey

Task 1: List three areas of testing you already know

Task 2: What is your current level?

Task 3: List at least two more areas you want to learn more about

Task 4: For all the test areas you listed, add the level of knowledge that you want

Task 5: Pick 3 areas and prioritise them 1, 2, and 3

Generalist learning journey handout.

By [Ady Stokes](#) and [Scott Kenyon](#)



Task 1: List three areas of testing you already know in column 1.

Task 2: What is your current level?

Task 3: List at least two more areas you want to learn more about

Task 4: For all the test areas you listed, add the level of knowledge that you want

Note: Remember that a Practitioner can also be an intermediary or a specialist

Task 5: Pick 3 areas and prioritise them 1, 2, and 3

Task 6: Discuss around the table where you see your learning opportunities. What is available, and who can help you?

Current and desired test areas What areas do you know now and want to know?	Current knowledge level? <input type="checkbox"/> Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Wanted knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Priority order Pick 3	Learning opportunities and contacts Ministry of Testing and the Club is a given for all Where, what and who can help?
E.g. accessibility	Novice	Beginner	1	Deque, WebAIM, AbilityNet, W3C
1				
2				

Task 1/2: Put your 3 areas of understand and current levels

Basically the step on what you know what you wanna know

Current and desired test areas What areas do you know now and want to know?	Current knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Wanted knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Priority order Pick 3	Learning opportunities and contacts Ministry of Testing and the Club is a given for all Where, what and who can help?
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1				
2				
3				

Task 3 /4: What two areas do you want to know and at what levels?

Identifying areas where you can get from, note down links etc people to link

Current and desired test areas What areas do you know now and want to know?	Current knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Wanted knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Priority order Pick 3	Learning opportunities and contacts Ministry of Testing and the Club is a given for all Where, what and who can help?
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1				
2				

Task 5: Prioritise and plan!

What is most important?

Current and desired test areas What areas do you know now and want to know?	Current knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Wanted knowledge level? Novice: Beginner: Practitioner: Intermediary: Specialist	Priority order Pick 3	Learning opportunities and contacts Ministry of Testing and the Club is a given for all Where, what and who can help?
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1				
2				
3				

Fill in to create your learning roadmap

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Periodic Table of Testing v3

Periodic Table of Testing v3 <i>Ady Stokes - The Big Test Theory.com</i>												¹⁵ P <small>Periodic</small> <small>30.97</small>	⁷³ Ta <small>Table</small> <small>180.95</small>	SYT Systems Thinking	WF Waterfall																								
IL Inclusive Language	UB Useability											⁷⁶ Of <small>Of</small> <small>190.23</small>	⁵² Te <small>Testing</small> <small>127.60</small>	QE Quality Engineering	PDD Practice Driven Development																								
CJ Customer Journeys	GM Gamification	PA Pairing											AI Artificial Intelligence	AIA AI Assisted Testing											CT Customer Tours	CB Cross Browser	IA Integration Tests	AT Attacks (DDOS etc.)	IoT Internet of Things	TC Technical 'Testing'	ML Machine Learning	SL Scalability	CF Conference	PA Pairing	CG Career Goals	ST Strategic Thinking	CH Checklists	CQ Continuous Quality	ScT Scientific Theory
UX UX / UI	RD Real Devices	VA Value adding	ExP External Penetration	CD Cloud	SCS Server side / Client side	AT API Testing	PPP Physical PC Performance	CM Communities	RP Reporting	YG Year Goals	LD Leadership Development	YO Your own	CR Critical Thinking	XP Xtreme Programming																									
EE End-to-End	RES Responsive	TG Testing Goals	IP Internal Penetration	SOC Social	AU Automation	OML Observability / Monitorability / Logs	AR Application Resourcing	MS Media Sources	AI Actionable Insights	PG Project Goals	QC Quality Coaching	EX Experience	PS Personas	SbE Specification by Example																									
AC Accessibility (WCAG)	OS Operating Systems	DC Discovery	APR Access / Permissions / Roles	MB Mobile	LD Living Documents	DA Test Data	CP Capacity	BK Books	DB Describe Behaviour	SG Session Goals	MN Mentoring	HCS Heuristics / Cheat Sheets	TC Test Charters	WoW Ways of Working																									
TF Testing Fundamentals	WM Web/Mobile /Apps	EP Exploration	SEC Security	AN Analytics	UT Unit Tests	TA Testability	LP Load / Volume Performance	CO Coaching	COL Collaboration	GL Goals (Any)	CL Continuous Learning	HOM Heuristics / Oracles / Mnemonics	RB Risk Based Testing	AG Agile (Agnostic)																									
Customer	Web	Exploratory	Data Protection	Digital	Tests	Tools / Items	Performance	Sources	Comms	Aims	People	Indicators	Approaches	Methods																									
Testing Elements				Technical Elements				Personal Elements				Technique Elements																											

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To sum up

Projects are like seasons

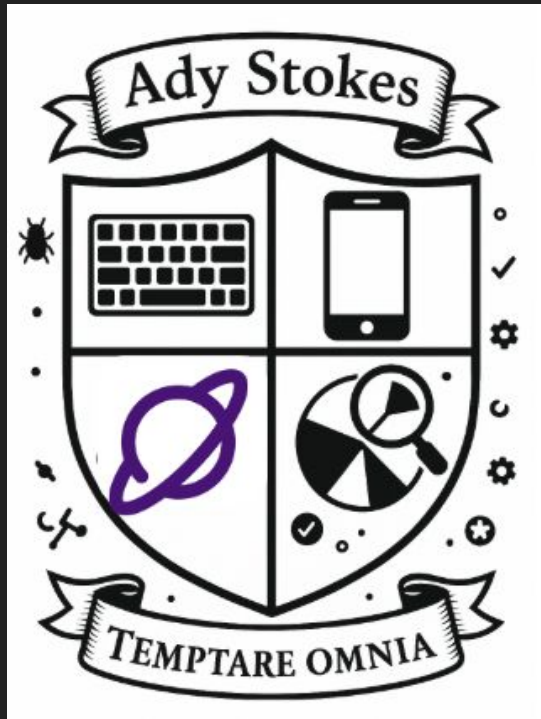
**Leaves fall but branches
and roots grow stronger**

**Your learning tree grows
but needs food -
knowledge**

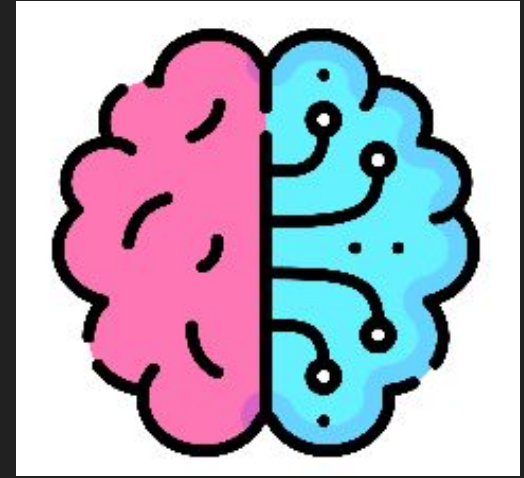


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Thank you
for listening



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