

A Practical Guide

Transition
plan to move
into QA

Transition plan to move into QA

Why do you feel lost before even starting?

Do you want to learn but don't know how?

Anyone who wants to transition into a career as a **Quality Assurance Engineer** quickly finds an endless list of training courses and technical skills to consider:

- ISTQB Foundation Level certification – required in many job openings
- Define and execute functional tests (manual and automation)
- Understand test types
- You are not a programmer, but you need to know how to read code
- Learn how to create automated tests
- Understand what API testing is
- Understand what SQL means
- Know commonly used frameworks such as Jira
- Understand which test management tool to use
- Know the testing frameworks used for each product type:
 - API: Postman
 - Web/Mobile: BrowserStack
- Optimise your CV and LinkedIn and prepare for interviews....

Transition plan to move into QA

It can feel overwhelming and confusing for someone coming from a non-IT background and trying to transition into this field for the first time, especially in QA.

The problem is not a lack of information.

The problem is too much information without structure.

When there is no plan, it is easy to fall into 3 traps:

- Studying everything at the same time leads to overload
- Comparing your beginning with someone else's mid-career stage
- Confusing technical skills with essential professional competencies

Transitioning into QA does not require knowing everything.

It requires understanding what comes first, what to expect, and how to turn learning into professional positioning.

What are the warning signs that you need a clear plan?

- You jump from topic to topic without feeling real progress
- You save content and courses but don't know what to apply first
- You feel everyone knows more than you and that blocks you
- You want to apply for jobs but still don't know how to position yourself

Transition plan to move into QA

How to organise your QA transition plan?

Before thinking about complex training, you need to build a solid foundation.

How? Simplify the steps and start with the basics:

1. Motivation

What led you to identify QA as a career path? Try to understand what QA is, its responsibilities, what quality means in the development cycle, the difference between testing and quality assurance, and how QA contributes to reducing issues and improving software quality.

2. Testing Foundations

Learn existing test types, testing activities, and processes. Understand development frameworks such as Scrum, Kanban, V-Model, etc. Learn what priority, severity, acceptance criteria, test cases, evidence, bug, defect, and error mean.

3. Identify Essential Skills

Critical thinking is essential. In an era where Artificial Intelligence is present in organisations, it is important to question prompts, outputs, and results, understand what the organisation builds, and who the end users are. In short: validate the product, identify issues, and suggest improvements that add value.

4. Identify Core Tools

Daily tools such as Jira, test management tools like TestRail and Xray, API testing with Postman, and basic SQL/database querying. Tools support your logic; they do not replace it.

5. Work on Professional Positioning

Optimise your CV, LinkedIn, cover letter, and your ability to explain your career path clearly and honestly.

Transition plan to move into QA

What should you prioritise in your learning?

Your initial goal is not to master everything, but to build a solid enough foundation to understand the field, practise QA thinking and position yourself honestly and with focus.

Higher Priority	Lower Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic QA concepts and test types• Test cases and critical thinking• Bug reporting with clarity• Understanding frameworks• Scrum, user stories and acceptance criteria• Basic Jira and workflow knowledge• CV, LinkedIn and personal pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning automation immediately• Multiple tools at the same time• Learning programming before understanding QA• Certifications without practical foundation• Comparing your journey with senior profiles• Trying to look perfect before applying

The 7 mistakes that delay people from starting in QA the most

- Consuming content without defining a study order
- Thinking that only technical tools matter
- Ignoring the importance of writing test cases, evidence, and bugs well
- Studying for weeks without applying anything to real examples
- Waiting until feeling “ready” to update CV and LinkedIn
- Not knowing how to explain your own transition or motivation for QA
- Trying to follow someone else’s path instead of building your own

Transition plan to move into QA

90-Day Roadmap

This roadmap is not rigid. Use it to stay focused. Adapt it to your pace and availability, but keep the progression logic.

Phase	Goal	Metrics	Expected Outcome
Days 1-30	Testing Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify essential QA skills• Learn core QA concepts• Learn test types• Understand bug reporting• Scrum framework: user stories, acceptance criteria, SDLC/Agile basics• You can study using the Identify essential QA skills• Learn core QA concepts• Learn test types• Understand bug reporting• Scrum framework: user stories, acceptance criteria, SDLC/Agile basics <p>You can study using the Syllabus do ISTQB-CTFL, take notes and create summaries in your own words.</p>	You understand the language of the field and can explain the basics.
Days 31-60	Practical Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a simple Excel file for test scenarios• Include feature name, scenario name, steps and expected result• Use apps or websites you use daily as examples• Practise bug reporting• Explore Jira and test management tools• Bonus: install Postman to explore API testing	After the first 30 days learning concepts, you can apply what you learned.
Days 61-90	Positioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for ISTQB-CTFL certification• Adjust CV and LinkedIn• Prepare a personal pitch• Identify vacancies aligned with your profile• Practise interviews based on your journey and learning• Use mentoring if needed	You are ready to present yourself with more clarity and confidence.

Transition plan to move into QA

Next Steps

If this guide helped you understand the path more clearly, the next step is turning that clarity into a plan adapted to your reality.

At **Quality Warrior Mentor**, this work is done with you: together we define direction, priorities, roadmap, CV/LinkedIn optimisation, and next steps practically and strategically.

**You do not need more confusion.
You need a clear, consistent, and realistic path for yourself.
Start simple.
Grow with direction and purpose.**