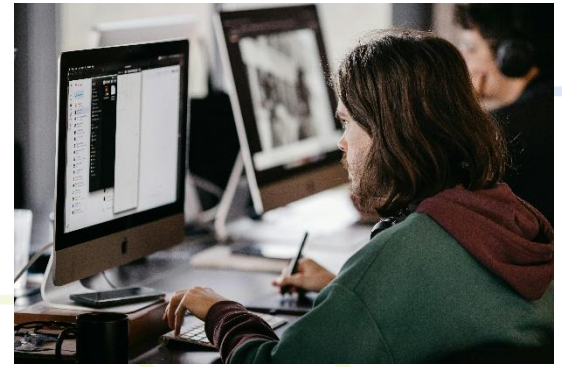


## **CAREER OF THE WEEK: Software Tester**

### **What does a software tester do?**

A software tester checks computer programmes, apps, and websites to make sure they work correctly. They look for bugs, glitches, or anything that could cause problems for users. Testers run different tests, write reports on issues, and work closely with developers to fix them. Their goal is to make software reliable, user-friendly, and safe. Testing can be manual, where you explore the software yourself, or automated, using special testing tools to check for issues automatically.



If you enjoy problem-solving, attention to detail, and making sure things work as they should, a career as a software tester could be perfect for you.

### **What can I expect to earn as a software tester?**

Salaries can vary depending on experience and location. Entry-level testers can expect around £22,000–£28,000 per year, while experienced testers can earn £35,000–£50,000 or more. Test automation specialists and senior testers may earn even higher, sometimes exceeding £60,000. Freelance or contract testers may also have flexible rates depending on the project.

### **What subjects should I study to become a software tester?**

To become a software tester, studying computing, software development, or IT is a great start. Maths, logic, and problem-solving skills are also really useful, as are good attention to detail and strong communication skills.

In addition to academic qualifications, many software testers also take professional courses in software testing or learn programming languages like Python, Java, or SQL, which can help with automated testing.

### **How can I start my career as a software tester?**

To become a software tester, you can follow several routes. Start with GCSEs in Computer Science, Maths, or IT, then choose A-levels, a BTEC, or a T-level in a relevant course, such as computing. Apprenticeships let you earn while you learn, and higher or degree apprenticeships combine work with study. Degrees in Computer Science or IT are useful for advanced roles. Online courses and ISTQB certification also boost skills.

Curiosity, attention to detail, and practical experience are key for a successful career in software testing.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a software tester, visit our partner website [www.logonmoveon.co.uk](http://www.logonmoveon.co.uk)

### **Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a software tester:**

National Careers Service, Test Lead <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/test-lead>

Prospects, Software Tester <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/software-tester>

The Chartered Institute for IT, Careers <https://www.bcs.org/it-careers/>



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