

Software Testing Functional Testing PDF Page

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PART 1: Page plan

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PART 2: Page content (copy-paste ready)

SEO Title (50 chars):

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Meta Description (139 chars):

Download the functional testing PDF from Uncodemy: black-box techniques, levels, a worked example and functional vs non-functional testing.

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Quick Answer

This page offers Uncodemy's functional testing guide as a PDF download. Functional testing checks that software does what its requirements say it should: the right outputs for given inputs. The guide covers black-box techniques, levels of functional testing, a worked example and how it differs from non-functional testing.

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What is functional testing?

Functional testing verifies the behaviour of a system against its functional requirements. It asks: when the user does this, does the system do what it is supposed to do? The tester provides inputs, observes outputs and compares them with the expected results derived from the requirements, without needing to know how the code is written, which is why it is called black-box testing. Examples include checking that a login accepts valid credentials, that a discount is calculated correctly and that a report exports the right rows. Functional testing is the foundation of most test suites and covers what the software does, as opposed to how well it does it.

Functional versus non-functional testing

Aspect	Functional testing	Non-functional testing
Question	Does it do the right thing?	How well does it do it?
Based on	Functional requirements, user stories	Quality attributes such as speed, security, usability
Examples	Login, search, checkout, report export	Load, stress, security, usability, compatibility
Typical result	Pass or fail against expected output	Measurements against targets, such as response time

Levels at which functional testing happens

Level	Focus	Typically performed by
Unit	Individual functions or classes	Developers
Integration	Interaction between modules or services	Developers and testers
System	The complete application against requirements	Testers
User acceptance	Whether it meets business needs	Business users or clients

Black-box techniques

Because functional testers work from requirements, they use techniques to design a manageable set of tests. Equivalence partitioning groups inputs that should behave the same and tests one from each group. Boundary value analysis tests at the edges of ranges. Decision table testing covers combinations of rules, such as discount eligibility by customer type and order value. State transition testing checks that the system moves correctly through states such as order placed, paid, shipped and delivered. Use case testing follows complete user journeys. Error guessing and exploratory testing add the tester's experience and curiosity to find what scripted cases miss.

A worked example: a loan eligibility form

Suppose the requirement says an applicant is eligible when age is between 21 and 60 inclusive and monthly income is at least Rs. 25,000. Equivalence partitions for age are below 21, 21 to 60 and above 60. Boundary values are 20, 21, 60 and 61. Income has partitions below and at or above 25,000, with boundaries at 24,999 and 25,000. A decision table of the two conditions gives four combinations, and only the combination of valid age and sufficient income gives eligible. The tester designs cases for each boundary and combination, and also checks input validation, such as letters in the age field, blank fields and negative numbers.

Decision table for the loan example

Age 21 to 60?	Income at least 25,000?	Result
Yes	Yes	Eligible
Yes	No	Not eligible: income
No	Yes	Not eligible: age
No	No	Not eligible: age and income

A functional testing process

1. Study the requirements and clarify anything ambiguous.
2. Identify scenarios and design test cases with the techniques above.
3. Prepare test data and the test environment.
4. Execute the cases and compare actual with expected results.
5. Report defects with clear steps and evidence.
6. Retest fixes, run regression checks and report coverage and results.

What functional testing usually covers

- Input validation and error messages.
- Business rules and calculations.
- Navigation and user flows.
- Data saved, updated and displayed correctly.
- Permissions and role-based access.
- Integration with other modules and services.

Common mistakes

- **Testing only the happy path.**
- **Ignoring boundaries**, where defects cluster.
- **Writing expected results from the behaviour you see** instead of the requirement.
- **Not clarifying ambiguous requirements** before testing.
- **Skipping data validation and error handling** tests.

Types of functional testing

Type	What it checks	Example
Unit testing	Single functions	A tax function returns the right amount
Integration testing	Modules together	Cart passes the right total to the payment service
System testing	Whole application	Complete purchase from login to confirmation
Smoke and sanity testing	Quick stability and focused checks	Login and main pages load on a new build
Regression testing	Existing features after change	Search still works after a filter update
User acceptance testing	Business readiness	Finance team approves the invoice workflow

Checklist for a functional test of any form

Check	Examples
Mandatory fields	Submit with each required field empty
Field formats	Email, phone, date, postcode
Length and range limits	Minimum, maximum and just beyond
Special characters	Quotes, symbols, long text, spaces
Successful submission	Data saved and confirmation shown
Duplicate submission	Double-click and refresh after submit
Navigation	Back button, cancel, reset
Accessibility basics	Labels, keyboard use, error messages

Interview-style questions

Question	Short answer
Is functional testing the same as system testing?	No. System testing is a level; functional testing is a type of testing that can be done at several levels.
Can functional testing be white-box?	Unit tests written by developers check function behaviour with knowledge of the code, so functional checks can be white-box as well.
What is the test oracle?	The source of the expected result, such as requirements, specifications or a trusted existing system.

Tips for beginners

- Always trace each test back to a requirement or story.
- Ask about unclear rules before writing cases.
- Test what is not allowed as carefully as what is allowed.

Related Unacademy resources

- [Software Testing Test Case Guide PDF](#)
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is functional testing?

Functional testing verifies that software behaves according to its functional requirements by giving inputs and checking outputs, without examining the code.

What is the difference between functional and non-functional testing?

Functional testing checks what the system does against requirements. Non-functional testing checks how well it does it, such as speed, security and usability.

Is functional testing black-box testing?

Yes. Functional testers work from requirements and observable behaviour without needing knowledge of the internal code.

What are examples of functional testing techniques?

Equivalence partitioning, boundary value analysis, decision tables, state transition testing and use case testing.

Can functional testing be automated?

Yes. Stable functional checks, especially regression and API tests, are commonly automated.

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