



# CompTIA Strata™ IT Fundamentals How to Guide



This document has been designed for academic institutions as a guide on how to incorporate CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals into the curriculum offering. Inside you will find information on courseware, funding and candidate testing as well as free instructor resources to help deliver the classes.

[www.comptia.org](http://www.comptia.org)

## About CompTIA

CompTIA is the non-profit trade association advancing the global interests of information technology (IT) professionals and companies including manufacturers, distributors, resellers, and educational institutions.

Since 1982 CompTIA has supported and led the global IT industry through educational programs, market research, networking events, professional certifications, and political advocacy.

CompTIA is known worldwide as the leading provider of vendor-neutral IT certifications. CompTIA certifications identify IT professionals who prove their aptitude in various fields, such as security, network administration, computer repair, and server administration.

## CompTIA Academic (Education 2 Careers) Programme

The academic membership programme is specifically designed for schools, colleges, universities, government funded organisations and charities.

CompTIA currently works with academic members whom deliver CompTIA certifications in the UK and Ireland. Academic members can benefit from heavily discounted exam vouchers, free instructor exam vouchers, free marketing materials, and student resources including career roadmap, sponsorships and much more.

For more information on the Academic programme, please contact: **Michelle Henderson, Academic Programme Manager** at: [mhenderson@comptia.org](mailto:mhenderson@comptia.org) or **0207 330 6063**.

You can also visit <http://uk.comptia.org/e2c.htm> or watch our informational video here; <http://www.comptia.org/documents/e2cflash/video.html>.



## About CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals

The CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams are designed to show that a successful candidate has the knowledge to identify technology and computer hardware basics, compatibility issues and common errors, software installation and functions, security risks and prevention, as well as some Green IT and preventative maintenance practices.

The Strata IT Fundamentals certificates are ideal for individuals and students new to the IT job market as well as the increasing number of professionals changing careers to IT or technology-related fields. Many entering an IT career will continue to pursue higher certifications in CompTIA A+, and with specialised experience, CompTIA Network+ and CompTIA Security+.

## Exam Content

The Strata IT Fundamentals exams have been designed to prove that an individual can identify essential technology and computer hardware basics, network fundamentals, compatibility issues and common errors, software installation and functions, security risks and prevention and Green IT and preventative maintenance practices.

They also provide learners with an understanding of the basic concept of supporting and maintaining computer systems, with a sound base to progress on to the CompTIA A+ and other industry certifications.

Candidates can also gain additional accreditation in the form of an ITQ Level 1 award once both exams have been successfully completed.

Target Audience

ICT is everywhere! Computers have become standard work equipment in nearly every job. In the UK, 75% of workers report that they use ICT in their jobs, while 90% of new jobs require ICT user skills. These users need technical support and expertise to help them do their jobs.

The Strata IT Fundamentals certificates allow individuals to demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to carry out basic support skills for computer systems. As such it is ideal for individuals that are looking to changing careers or wishing to gain a basic qualification in supporting and maintaining computer systems.



For Individuals

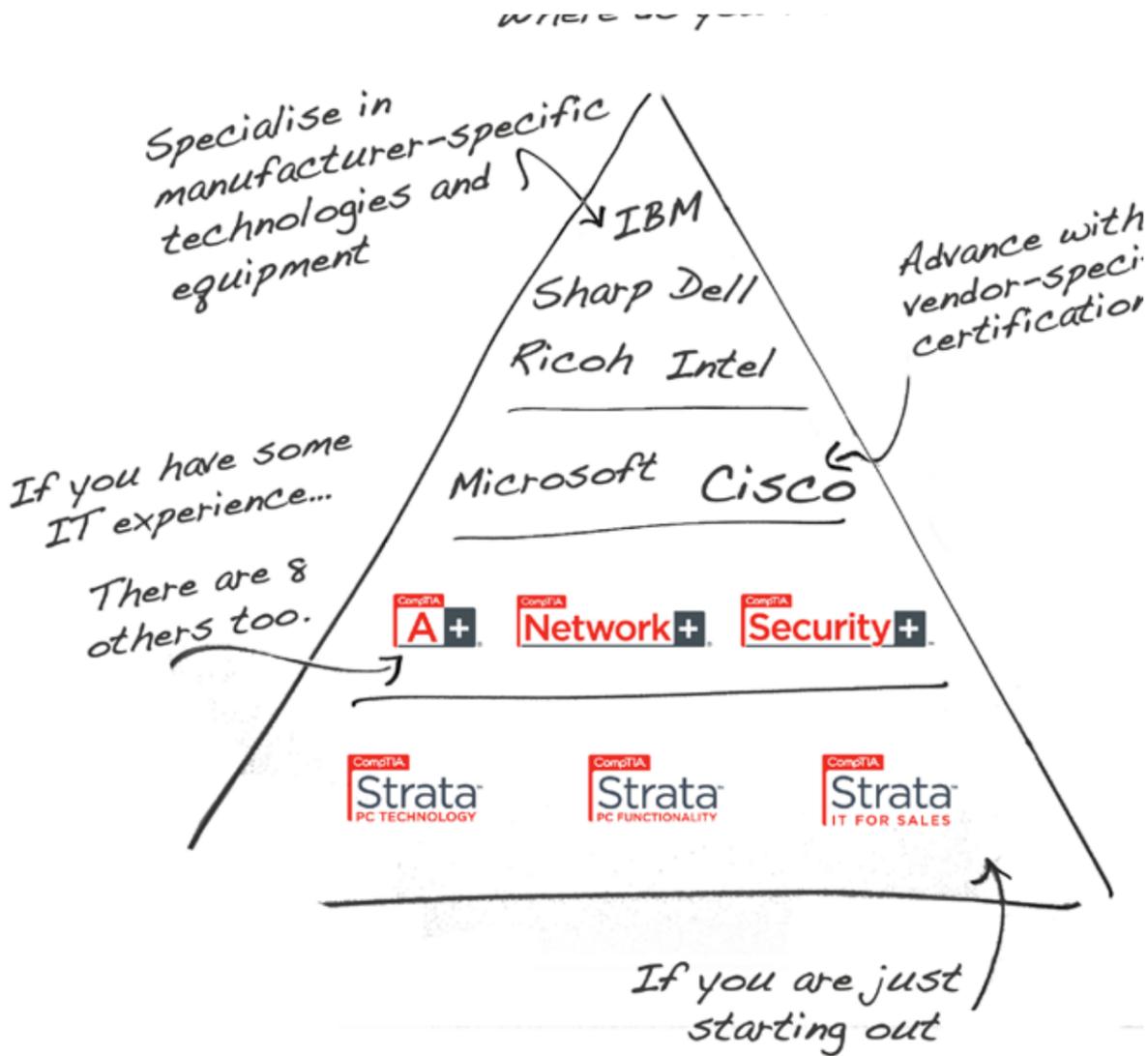
Recognised and adopted by industry worldwide, the Strata IT Fundamentals certificates demonstrates to the employer that the candidate has the initiative that IT employers look for when hiring. The certificate allows the candidate to “hit the ground running” and that they have the desire to learn quickly in a new job role. It is suitable for individuals new to IT or looking for a new career and perfect for individuals changing jobs into a technology career. Finally, as a global certificate is also helps increase your value in the marketplace.

For Business

With people and talent a company’s primary asset today, every business is looking for an entry-level baseline of IT expertise. Businesses want a cost-effective training tool to help advance their staff interested in IT. So whether you employ an IT help desk, a team for PC maintenance and repair, network or security administrators, IT equals customer service, and CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals certificate is an excellent benchmark to validate the skills of your technicians.

Where Does CompTIA Strata™ Fit With Other Industry Qualifications?

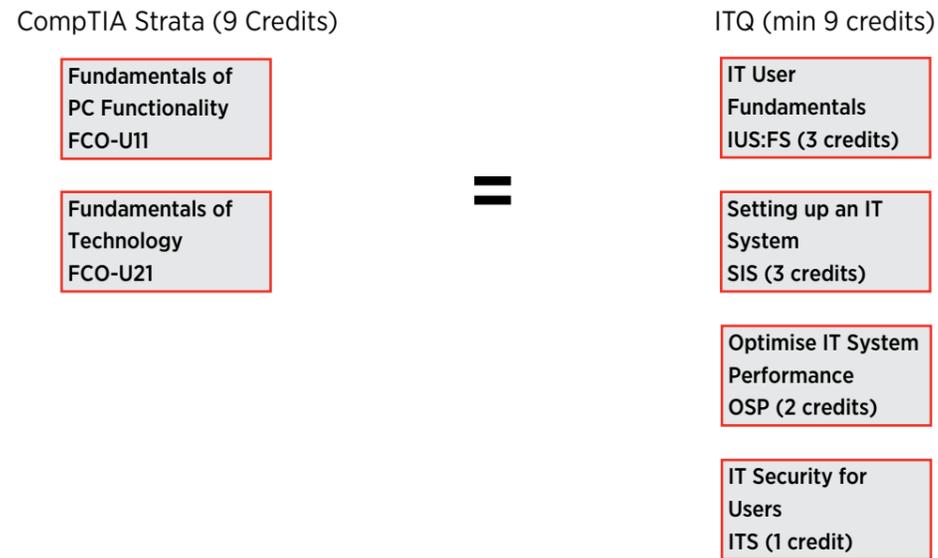
The CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams are recognised by the sector skills council, e-skills, and fulfill ITQ level 1. Additionally, they are a natural stepping stone to CompTIA A+ and CompTIA Network+ certifications, followed by Microsoft and Cisco certification programmes.



### Achieving ITQ Level 1 Award Using CompTIA Strata™

CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams are on the e-skills approved list of contributing qualifications for the ITQ 2009. For more information and for mapping guidance, please visit: <http://itq.e-skills.com/Framework/Contributing-Units>.

The Strata exams combined have a credit value of 9 meeting the criteria for an award at level 1.



### CompTIA Testing

CompTIA exams are available at Pearson VUE & Prometric testing centre's throughout the UK. Many organisations become testing centre's to test candidates onsite. There are also cost benefits associated with this if you decide to make your testing centre open to the public.

CompTIA members can purchase discounted exam vouchers from the testing providers using their membership ID. If you are an OCR approved centre, you can purchase exam vouchers through OCR.

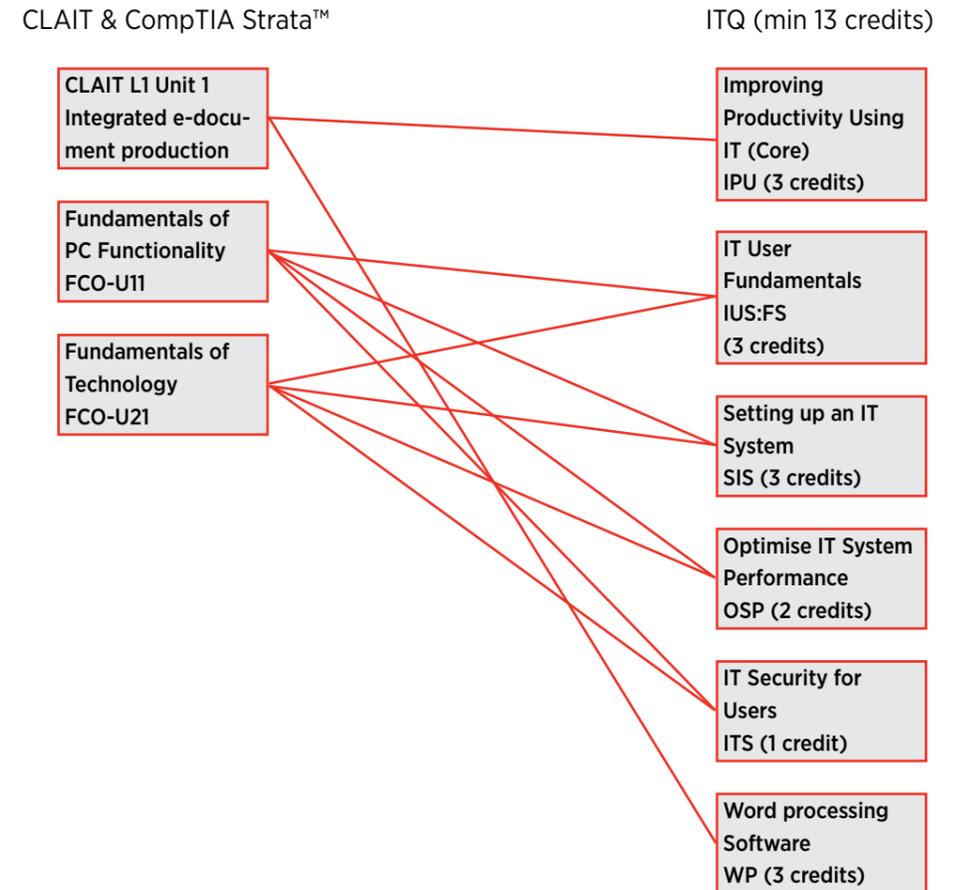
**Pearson VUE:** 0800 731 9905 <http://www.pearsonvue.com/comptia/vouchers>  
**Prometric:** 0800 592 873 <http://www.prometric.com/CompTIA/default.htm>

Vouchers are valid for 12 months.

Upon completing the CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams, the candidate will receive a score report stating pass or fail score. Awarding bodies will accept the score reports as proof that a candidate has passed the relevant units.

CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams require a pass score of 70%; there are 35 questions and 60 minutes per exam.

### Achieving ITQ Level 1 Certificate Using CompTIA Strata™ (OCR Example)



### CompTIA Strata™ IT Fundamentals Courseware

Instructor and student guides are available from Axzo Press, publishers for the CompTIA Press materials: <http://www.computerprep.co.co.uk/> and gtslearning: <http://www.gtslearning.co.uk/>

Please contact **Michelle Henderson** at [mhenderson@comptia.org](mailto:mhenderson@comptia.org) for a preview PDF copy.





Free Practice Test Questions

By purchasing courseware guides, you will have access to practice test questions and revision aids in the form of a CD or online. You can also find practice test questions on the CompTIA website: <http://www.comptia.org/certifications/testprep/practicetests.aspx>.

Free Instructor Resources

Tools and resources to help you deliver CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals courses:

- Wink Screen Capture Software** - <http://www.debugmode.com/wink/>
- Free Hardware and Software Tutorials** - <http://lenovo.bhivesoft.com/bhive/t/1004/>
- VMware Player** - <https://www.vmware.com/tryvmware/?p=player&lp=1>
- Interactive Test** - <http://hotpot.uvic.ca/>
- Open Office** - <http://www.openoffice.megasoftpro.com/>
- Interactive PowerPoint Presentations**- <http://www.microsoft.com/multipoint/mouse-mischief/en-gb/default.aspx>
- eLearning Drag and Drop** - <http://www.webducate.net/>
- On line course creation** - <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/training/lcds.aspx> and <http://www.courselab.com/>

Proprietary software:

- Camtasia Studio Screen Capture and Video Editing Software** - <http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia/>
- Captivate Screen Capturer Software** - <http://tryit.adobe.com/uk/captivate5/?sdid=GXFUR&>

What's Next After CompTIA Strata™ IT Fundamentals?

CompTIA certifications are recommended and in some cases a pre-requisite for many vendor specific accreditations such as Microsoft MCSE and Cisco CCNA.

After completing the CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams, a candidate is perfectly equipped to progress on to CompTIA A+ which is recognised by industry as the global standard for entry level IT Technicians.

Funding for CompTIA Strata™ IT Fundamentals at 20/09/2010

There are a number of ways of funding CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals in the UK.

The government funded route is in a state of flux but at present it is possible to be funded as follows depending on local agreements.

Age Group	Ideas and Concepts	Provision Type
16 - 18	<b>Funded models may be split into two types but in all cases the individual modules have a GLH value of 20, meaning that in total you will only be paid for 40 hours.</b>	
	Where units form part of a full qualification of Foundation Learning. These may be chosen as part of that course. If the delivery hours on other modules are too long you may be able to borrow some hours for the cohort on this subject.	Full time
	May be funded as PT if you have permission locally to offer the modules to this age group under other provision. However it should be noted that this type of provision can not be increased for your organisation without permission.	Part time
	The modules are fundable as part of the ITQ qualification suite but must form part of a complete qualification including the relevant core and option modules.	Either
19+	<b>Please be aware that local funding rules may overrule this guidance and you must ensure that you have full approval to run before you start the courses.</b>	
	In the main, the information for the age groups above can be mirrored here. So as part of a full qualification they should be funded.	Full or part time
	May be funded as PT if you have permission locally to offer the modules. However it should be noted that this type of provision can not be increased for your organisation without permission.	Part time
Any ages	<b>If you make some assumptions as follows;</b> 45 (course hours - 15 weeks x 3hrs) x £90 = £4050 Minimum of 12 students = £330 per student <b>If your costs are at the lower end:</b> 45 (course hours - 15 weeks x 3hrs) x £70 = 3150 Minimum of 12 students = £262.50 per student	
Full Cost Recovery	This depends on your organisation; however, most seem to have a set model for charging this out based on an hourly rate of between £70 and £90 per hour.	Any attendance pattern to suit your customer.

Important:

This page has helped to identify a number of options for funding of the CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals exams. It does not include any of the ways in which the modules may be offered by Workforce Development or Business Development teams within the colleges, as we have found that this is negotiated at a local level in every instance. Whilst every effort has been made to supply accurate information, this is supplied here for general guidance purposes only. CompTIA and its partners cannot be held responsible for funding decisions that may be applied in your college.

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