



# CIA Exam: FAQs



**Certified  
Internal Auditor®**

**Updated. Aligned. Focused.**

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# CIA Exam Syllabi – Updated, Aligned, Focused

To assist our Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®) certification candidates, this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document was created to provide answers to common questions certification candidates may have related to the CIA Exam Syllabi revisions.

We are excited to share the updates with you, and are confident that you will appreciate the greater clarity, uniformity, and alignment with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* offered by the new three-part CIA exam. We also created a more in-depth handbook, [CIA Exam: Why and How It's Changing](#), to provide further clarification. Read below for a quick overview of the revisions.

## FAQs

### 1. What is a CIA exam syllabus?

An exam syllabus is essentially an outline that summarizes the topics covered on an exam. There is a separate syllabus for each part of the CIA exam (CIA Part One, CIA Part Two, and CIA Part Three). Together, the three CIA syllabi serve as a guide to help candidates identify the content on which they will be tested to demonstrate their internal audit knowledge and proficiency and earn the CIA certification.

### 2. Why did the CIA exam syllabi change?

The purpose of the three-part CIA exam is to identify individuals who meet the requisite global competencies in current internal audit practice.

To ensure that the exam's content remains current and valid, The IIA periodically conducts a CIA global job analysis study, whereby The IIA reaches out to candidates, certification holders, academics, experienced internal audit professionals, and other stakeholders around the world to determine the knowledge, skills, and abilities most relevant to today's internal audit professionals. The IIA conducted a global CIA job analysis study in early 2017. An external psychometrician was contracted to ensure the independence of the CIA job analysis study. The results of the study confirmed the need to make revisions to the current three-part CIA exam.

### 3. Is the CIA exam still a three-part exam?

Yes, the CIA program requires the successful completion of exam Part One, Part Two, and Part Three.

#### 4. What hasn't changed?

CIA candidates must continue to meet the same program [eligibility requirements](#). The number of questions on each exam part and the time allotted to complete the exam part also remains the same:

- Part 1 – 125 questions, 2.5 hours (150 minutes)
- Part 2 – 100 questions, 2 hours (120 minutes)
- Part 3 – 100 questions, 2 hours (120 minutes)

#### 5. What is the passing score for the new CIA exams?

The IIA will conduct a standard-setting study based on the revised CIA syllabi. The IIA's Professional Certifications Board will use these results to determine the passing score of the exams. For each CIA exam part, a raw score (the number of items answered correctly) will be converted into a scaled score ranging from 250 to 750 points. A scaled score of 600 or higher is required to pass a CIA exam.

#### 6. Will successful completion of CIA Part One continue to be required to obtain the CRMA designation?

Yes. Candidates seeking the CRMA designation will be required to successfully complete CIA Part One to meet the CRMA certification requirements.

#### 7. Will the revised exams affect my Internal Audit Practitioner designation?

Candidates who applied for the Internal Audit Practitioner designation and successfully completed CIA Part One will retain the designation.

#### 8. How have the CIA exam syllabi changed?

The topic areas on each CIA exam syllabus have been revised to:

- Bring the exams up to date with the current global practice of internal auditing.
- Create greater alignment between the CIA syllabi and The IIA's *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.
- Minimize duplication and overlap among the three exam parts.
- Clarify the knowledge, skills, and abilities that exam candidates must possess in order to pass the exam.

The following provides a high-level overview of noteworthy changes to each exam part. For more specific changes and a reference list, candidates should refer to the complete exam syllabi found in the "[CIA Exam: Why and How It's Changing](#)," document.

## CIA Part One

### Current Version

- I. Mandatory Guidance (35-45%)
- II. Internal Control / Risk (25-35%)
- III. Conducting Internal Audit Engagements  
– Audit Tools and Techniques (25-35%)

### Revised Version

- I. Foundations of Internal Auditing (15%)
- II. Independence and Objectivity (15%)
- III. Proficiency and Due Professional Care (18%)
- IV. Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (7%)
- V. Governance, Risk Management, and Control (35%)
- VI. Fraud Risks (10%)

Additional noteworthy elements related to the revised CIA Part One exam syllabus:

- IPPF elements such as the Mission of Internal Audit and Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing are included.
- The syllabus features greater alignment with The IIA's Attribute Standards.
- The exam covers the differences between assurance and consulting engagements.
- The exam covers appropriate disclosure of conformance vs. nonconformance with the *Standards*.
- The largest domain is "Governance, Risk Management, and Control," which makes up 35% of the exam.
- A portion of the exam requires candidates to demonstrate a basic comprehension of concepts; another portion requires candidates to demonstrate proficiency in their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

## CIA Part Two

### Current Version

- I. Managing the Internal Audit Function (40-50%)
- II. Managing Individual Engagements (40-50%)
- III. Fraud Risks and Controls (5-15%)

### Revised Version

- I. Managing the Internal Audit Activity (20%)
- II. Planning the Engagement (20%)
- III. Performing the Engagement (40%)
- IV. Communicating Engagement Results and Monitoring Progress (20%)

Additional noteworthy elements related to the revised CIA Part Two exam syllabus:

- The syllabus features greater alignment with The IIA's Performance Standards.
- The exam covers the chief audit executive's responsibility for assessing residual risk and communicating risk acceptance.
- The largest domain is "Performing the Engagement," which makes up 40% of the exam.
- A portion of the exam requires candidates to demonstrate a basic comprehension of concepts; another portion requires candidates to demonstrate proficiency in their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

## CIA Part Three

### Current Version

- I. Governance / Business Ethics (5-15%)
- II. Risk Management (10-20%)
- III. Organizational Structure/Business Processes and Risks (15-25%)
- IV. Communication (5-10%)
- V. Management / Leadership Principles (10-20%)
- VI. IT / Business Continuity (15-25%)
- VII. Financial Management (10-20%)
- VIII. Global Business Environment (0-10%)

### Revised Version

- I. Business Acumen (35%)
- II. Information Security (25%)
- III. Information Technology (20%)
- IV. Financial Management (20%)

Additional noteworthy elements related to the revised CIA Part Three exam syllabus:

- The number of topics covered on the Part Three exam has been greatly reduced.
- The exam syllabus features a new subdomain on data analytics.
- The information security portion of the exam has been expanded to include additional topics such as cybersecurity risks and emerging technology practices.
- The largest domain is “Business Acumen,” which makes up 35% of the exam.
- A portion of the exam requires candidates to demonstrate a basic comprehension of concepts; another portion requires candidates to demonstrate proficiency in their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

### **9. When will the revised CIA exams, based on the updated exam syllabi, be released?**

The updated CIA exams are expected to be released January 2019 initially in English only. The updated CIA exams in non-English languages will be released gradually beginning in 2019.

A transition plan for non-English languages will be released in the first quarter of 2018, after consultation with IIA local affiliates around the world. Existing non-English language exams will remain available to candidates until the new CIA exams are translated. For the most up-to-date information regarding transitioning non-English languages to the revised CIA exam syllabi, visit the [CIA Exam Syllabi Changes](#) web page.



**10. When can I apply or register for the new CIA exam?**

Individuals may apply to the CIA program at any time. Once approved into the program, candidates have four years to complete the program. As an approved individual, a candidate can then register for the exam, at which point, the candidate has 180 days (unless the registration window extends beyond the candidate's program expiration date) to schedule and sit for an exam.

If a candidate chooses to sit for the new exam, the candidate should register for the exam no sooner than 180 days prior to the exams' release.

**11. If I already passed a CIA exam part, do I have to retake it?**

No. CIA candidates retain credit for successfully completed exam parts. CRMA candidates who successfully complete CIA Part One as the CRMA eligibility requirement will also retain credit for Part One.

**12. Will I be able to take a CIA exam part before the new exams are released?**

Yes. CIA exam candidates will be able to register and sit for the current exams until the revised exams are available in January 2019 (English version only).

**13. Do I have the option of taking the existing CIA exams or the revised exams?**

Candidates will continue to sit for the current exams until the revised exams are released, initially in English in January 2019, followed by additional languages. Upon release of the revised CIA exams, the previous CIA exams will be retired and will no longer be available.

**14. Where can I find study materials to prepare for the new CIA exams?**

We found that each candidate chooses different methods to prepare for the CIA exams. The following is not an exhaustive list, but a few suggestions:

- Utilize and study the reference materials, which are listed at the end of the syllabus for each CIA exam part in the [CIA Exam: Why and How It's Changing](#) handbook;
- Utilize the study materials developed by review course providers. Contact them directly to learn about the availability of updated CIA study materials;
- Participate in CIA preparation training provided by IIA chapters and affiliates. Contact your local affiliate if English is not your primary language.

**15. Will the CIA exams cost more money?**

The CIA exam application and registration fees will remain the same. For pricing information, visit The IIA's certification [Pricing Structure](#) web page.

**16. I already hold the CIA certification. Will this change affect me?**

No. Candidates who have successfully completed all three CIA exam parts and earned the CIA certification do not need to take any action other than fulfilling annual continuing professional education (CPE) requirements.

**17. Where can I find additional information?**

IIA Global created a handbook to provide additional information. Visit the [CIA Exam Syllabi Changes](#) web page to download the handbook today.

**18. Who do I contact if I have additional questions?**

The IIA's Customer Relations team is available to assist CIA candidates. Call +1-407-937-1111 or email [CustomerRelations@theiia.org](mailto:CustomerRelations@theiia.org).