



# Illinois Board of Examiners

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As winter begins to ease its stranglehold on the Midwest, it is important to note that several changes will be occurring in the world of CPA

1). Beginning July 1, 2010, Illinois will no longer be a two tier state. In other words, a person having completed the CPA exams will no longer be able to just register with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IFDPR). No new Registrations will be issued after June 30, 2010. From that date, anyone using the title CPA, C.P.A. or Certified Public Accountant must be licensed by IFDPR.

To be licensed, one must first meet the educational requirements, pass all four parts of the CPA examination as well as the AICPA Ethics examination, have one year of experience and pay the required licensing fee.

2). The Board of Examiners is scheduled to roll out a new, more user friendly website on June 15, 2010. The new site promises to make it easy for candidates to navigate. Candidates will find that understanding the process of certification will be easy and less time consuming. We are excited about bringing this new site to the Board of Examiners. Look for it on June 15!!

3). The CPA exam is changing in January, 2011. Shown on the next page is the exam new exam structure as well as the scoring weights for the new version of the exam.

The Auditing and Attestation (**AUD**) portion of the exam will now be 4 hours instead of 4.5 with 1 testlet of 7 short Task-Based Simulations.

Business Environment and Concepts (**BEC**) will be expanded to 3 hours from 2.5 with a multiple choice section consisting of 72 questions instead of the 90 now contained on the exam. It will also include 3 written communication tasks on BEC topics.

Financial Accounting & Reporting (**FAR**) will now include 1 Testlet containing 7 short Task-Based Simulations.

Regulation (**REG**) will have the same number of MCQs with 1 Testlet containing 6 short Task-Based Simulations.

The total time for all four sections of the examination will still be 14 hours, but AUD will go from 4.5 hours to 4 hours and BEC will go from 2.5 hours to 3 hours. The time allocations and section structure changes are outlined in the document below.

We at the Illinois Board of Examiners continue to look forward to serving the CPA community and welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Russ Friedewald*

Executive Director

**Uniform CPA Examination Section Structure and Time Allocations**

*CBT-e Launch Date: January 1, 2011*

**Auditing and Attestation (AUD)**

<i>Current Structure</i>	<i>CBT-e Structure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets containing a total of 90 questions</li> <li>• 2 Simulations in current (long) format</li> <li>• 2 Written Communication tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets containing a total of 90 questions</li> <li>• 1 Testlet containing 7 short Task-Based Simulations (TBS) with the research question in a new format</li> </ul>
<i>Current Testing Time: 4.5 hours</i>	<i>CBT-e Testing Time: 4 hours</i>

**Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)**

<i>Current Structure</i>	<i>CBT-e Structure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets containing a total of 90 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets containing a total of 72 questions</li> <li>• 3 Written Communication tasks on BEC topics</li> </ul>
<i>Current Testing Time: 2.5 hours</i>	<i>CBT-e Testing Time: 3 hours</i>

**Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)**

<i>Current Structure</i>	<i>CBT-e Structure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets consisting of a total of 90 questions</li> <li>• 2 Simulations in current (long) format</li> <li>• 2 Written Communication tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets consisting of a total of 90 questions</li> <li>• 1 Testlet containing 7 short Task-Based Simulations (TBS) with the research question in a new format</li> </ul>
<i>Current Testing Time: 4 hours</i>	<i>CBT-e Testing Time: 4 hours</i>

**Regulation (REG)**

<i>Current Structure</i>	<i>CBT-e Structure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets consisting of 72 questions</li> <li>• 2 Simulations in current (long) format</li> <li>• 2 Written Communication tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) testlets consisting of 72 questions</li> <li>• 1 Testlet containing 6 short Task-Based Simulations (TBS) with the research question in a new format</li> </ul>
<i>Current Testing Time: 3 hours</i>	<i>CBT-e Testing Time: 3 hours</i>

**Uniform CPA Examination Scoring Weights**

*CBT-e Launch Date: January 1, 2011*

**Auditing and Attestation (AUD)  
Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)  
Regulation (REG)**

<i>Item Format</i>	<i>Current Weight</i>	<i>CBT-e Weight</i>
<i>Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ)</i>	70%	60%
<i>Simulations</i>	20%	40%
<i>Written Communication Tasks</i>	10%	N/A

**Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)**

<i>Item Format</i>	<i>Current Weight</i>	<i>CBT-e Weight</i>
<i>Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ)</i>	100%	85%
<i>Simulations</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Written Communication Tasks</i>	N/A	15%