

CORE EXAMINATION INFORMATION

FOR CANDIDATES

Please see the transcript of your results on the Core examination. The transcript provides information with respect to your performance on the examination.

The following information is designed to help you in the interpretation of your reported results.

OVERALL RESULT – An overall result is reported. It is based on how you performed on a combined basis on the objective format and case portions of the examination. Your performance is classified as a “Pass with distinction”, a “Pass”, a “Marginal pass” or a “Fail”.

If you achieved either of a “Pass with distinction”, a “Pass” or a “Marginal pass”, you are eligible to proceed to the next module of the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP). If you received a FAIL, you are allowed to rewrite the next offering of the examination without repeating the module. You will be required to repeat the module prior to a third attempt at the module examination.

RESULTS BY EXAMINATION SECTION – In addition to your overall status, the transcript provides information with respect to your performance in each of the specific competency areas. The information in this report is broken down into two distinct areas:

Performance on Objective Format Questions – this section provides information on the multiple-choice questions and the task-based simulations that you answered as part of the examination. These questions were provided to you in electronic format on the examination day.

Performance on the Case – this section provides information on the case(s) that you answered as part of the examination. The case(s) were provided to you in paper (hard) copy on the examination day.

Examination Design

The Core blueprints allow for the objective-format portion of the examination to be between 60-75% of the exam. The case reflects the balance of the examination. The coverage of the different competency areas for the objective-format portion falls within the following blue print requirements:

CORE 1 COMPETENCY AREA WEIGHTINGS	
CPA Competency (covers Entry and Core 1 competencies)	RANGE
1. FINANCIAL REPORTING	50 % - 70 %
4. AUDIT AND ASSURANCE	10 % - 30 %
5. FINANCE	5 % - 10 %
6. TAXATION	10 % - 20 %

CORE 2 COMPETENCY AREA WEIGHTINGS	
CPA Competency (covers Entry, Core 1 and Core 2 competencies)	RANGE
1. FINANCIAL REPORTING	0 % - 10 %
2. STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE	10 % - 30 %
3. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING	50 % - 70 %
5. FINANCE	15 % - 20 %

Competency Performance

Results are reported by competency area (i.e. Financial Reporting; Strategy and Governance; Management Accounting; Audit and Assurance; Finance; and Taxation). Please note that all competency areas are not assessed on every examination, as shown above in the blueprints, and therefore you may not receive feedback on all technical competency areas.

Performance has been assessed in one of four levels:

1. Not competent
2. Reaching competent
3. Competent
4. Competent with distinction

You have been provided with *your performance* in each relevant technical competency area as indicated by the shading of the assessed level for each area. As well, you have been provided with a breakdown of the *group performance* which represents the percentage of candidates that attained each competency level for the examination that you have written.

Setting the passing standard

In determining which candidates pass, each candidate is judged in relation to pre-established expectations of what an entry-level CPA is able to perform by the end of Core 1 or Core 2, as applicable. Before the opening of the marking centre the evaluation guide for the case(s) is reviewed and applied to randomly selected candidate responses to test the pre-established passing profile, and make necessary adjustments.

In setting the passing profile, the following factors are considered:

- The level of difficulty of the examination questions.
- The design and application of the marking guide on the case portion.
- Comments from markers regarding any marking difficulties encountered or any time constraints noted on the case portion.
- Possible ambiguity of wording.

Subsequent appeal of results

Appeals of examination results are permitted for overall assessments of “Fail” only. Candidates may only apply for review of their examination results as a whole.

Before making a decision to appeal your result, please note the following:

- An appeal does not provide any additional feedback on your result; it ensures that you receive credit for all competencies demonstrated.
- All responses have been marked once. After the results were recorded, the case portion was remarked for candidates in a set range of the passing standard set. Differences between the first and second marking was arbitrated by a third marker, ensuring fairness in marking the candidate responses around the passing standard.
- CPA Canada does not accept any circumstantial information and will not take any cases of hardship into consideration when re-marking an appealed paper.

The following procedures are applied to an appealed result:

- **Objective-Format Portion:** Where the objective-format questions include a written element (e.g., short answer or fill in the blank) the written responses are reviewed. The objective format questions are verified against the right answers.

- **Case Portion:** Competency-based assessment is applied. A change to the assessment is made only if one or more of the following errors occurred:
 - The markers misapplied the marking guidelines; or
 - The markers failed to consider a relevant section of the candidate's response (e.g. the markers missed a relevant discussion somewhere, etc.); or
 - The markers exhibited poor application of judgment.

Candidates appealing their examination results must forward their request to the Board of Examiners through their provincial body within three business days from results release. Appeals requests will be handled:

- For CPA West candidates, through the My CPA portal.
- For Ontario candidates, refer to the Module 0 discussion board on D2L for instructions.
- For Quebec candidates, email : examens@cpaquebec.ca
- For Caribbean candidates, email: KScarlett@cpacanada.ca
- For CPA Atlantic, email: lmurphy@cpaatlantic.ca

Fee for an appeal is \$195. If an appeal is successful, the fee will be refunded.

Appeals results will be released as they become available.