

# **The Impact of COVID-19 and Emerging Technologies in Computer Auditing**

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## **New Accountant Era: 「 CPA Exam Revisions Focus on Tech, Critical Thinking 」**

The American Institute of Accountants (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) have established a joint working group to carry out a larger "CPA Evolution" project since 2018. Begin to discuss about whether Accountant Licensure Regulation is reformed against the current capability that the accountant needs, such as technology capacity and information analysis. AICPA has also conducted a "practice analysis" (practice analysis) project plan (referred to as AICPA 2019) since 2019. Both mainly discuss accountant examination in response to rapid development of technology, audit analysis and process automation these years. According to the study, Accountant licensure urgent needs a new model to handle artificial intelligence, automation, data analysis and digital mindset.

## **New Era of Auditing: Transformation of International Certified CAATs Practitioner**

The International Computer Auditing Education Association (ICAEA), based in Vancouver Area, Canada, has promoted the cultivation of technology and critical thinking for auditors over a decade. ICAEA thanks for the new CPA Exam Revisions and believe that the changes will not only in North America but also globally. Many countries will undergo similar transformation for the modern accountant revolution. In the future, ICAEA certificate exam will still emphasize the parallel of the Knowledge and Case Study Hands-On.

ICAEA believes that computer auditing is a work which requires social practice, so the relevant competency is not only theoretical but also a need for practical technology skill. As you know COVID-19's impact audit process, remote or online auditing process has been used during the special occasion. In the future, each ICAEA examinations will add the emerging machine learning technology and IT control/governance technology testing items, such as Predictive Analytics, Cybersecurity risk, Open Data Extraction, etc. ICAEA certification exams will provide remote on-line examination methods. Anyone who is interested in this field can have online exams to confirm what they learned have met the basic needs of practical work.

In addition, as the change of technology knowledge is ten times faster than the change of traditional accounting knowledge, relevant professionals need to continuously improve their competency to meet the new world requirement. Given that the impact of COVID-19, physical training courses will become impossible. Thence, ICAEA 's CPE courses recommend that each training center does a remote on-line training model by using internet software, such as ZOOM, Google Meets or Microsoft Teams, etc. In the future, more audit training materials with data set will be on ICAEA's Knowledge portal.