How is the **CIA exam** *written and scored?*

The Institute of **Internal Auditors**

The IIA's Professional Certifications Board, a globally diverse group of internal audit professionals, oversees and monitors all IIA certification programs, protecting the integrity and security of the assessment process and upholding equitable and fair treatment of all candidates globally.

1 *Understanding the competencies required for internal auditors*

The Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®) exam is designed to test the essential competencies required for internal auditors.

Following exam development industry standards, The IIA works with a diverse and experienced group of internal auditors to identify the essential competencies of the profession. The IIA also collects input from internal auditors around the world through surveys.

The competencies identified are used to create the CIA exam syllabus. The exam is developed based on the exam syllabus.

Writing the exam questions

2

CIA exam questions test the topics on the CIA exam syllabus. The questions are written by internal auditors from around the world who hold active CIA certifications.

Questions submitted to The IIA are first edited by IIA staff to ensure that they are grammatically correct, clear, and supported by reference material.

The questions are then reviewed by The IIA's Exam Development Committee (EDC), a volunteer group of internal auditors from around the world. All members of the EDC hold active CIA certifications. The EDC checks that each question is accurate and relevant to internal auditors globally.

Questions accepted by the EDC are then field tested to ensure they are at an appropriate level for the exam. During field testing, a question is included on an exam but does not count toward a candidate's exam score. Field testing ensures that each question measures the candidate's knowledge fairly and accurately.

Translating the exam

3

The CIA exam is currently offered in more than 10 languages. The IIA offers translation in languages for which there is a strong demand and IIA affiliate support.

Exam questions are initially translated from English to target languages by professional translators. The translated questions are then reviewed by internal audit subject matter experts who are identified by IIA affiliates. The subject matter experts are native speakers of the target language, and they hold active CIA certifications.

Understanding exam scores

To pass any part of the CIA exam, candidates must score 600 or higher. This passing score is determined through an established certification industry process. A score below 600 simply means that the candidate was not fully prepared for the exam.

Candidates who fail an exam are provided with additional information on their performance for each major section of the exam, which is meant to help them identify areas that they need to study further.

Exam scores reflect a candidate's readiness at a point in time. A change in scores does not mean that the exam became more or less difficult, only that candidates were more or less prepared.

The pass rates for each exam currently offered are published on The IIA's Certification Program Pass Rates webpage.

4