

ANALYSIS OF ISA EXAMS

Class of 2009 June

.....A Prime Academy
Research Report



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Source:

This document is based on sample data accessed from ICAI's website. The ICAI is in no way part of this analysis.

Caveat:

While all care has been taken to ensure that the data provided in this Report is accurate, the Academy will not take any responsibility for decisions that anyone may take on the basis of this report.

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How did “Class of 2009J (ISA)” Fare

There was a time when chartered accountants made a beeline for taking up the post qualification course on Information Systems Audit (ISA). They were seniors; in their thirties and forties. For a variety of reasons the program is no longer that hot.

We take a look at how these professional accountants performed in the June 2009 ISA exams.

How the Analysis was done

We began by ascertaining how many candidates took the exam. In statistics, this is called the “population”. To ascertain this we logged on to www.icaai.org and were prompted to enter the four digit exam roll number.

CLASS	ISA JUNE 09
POPULATION	1085
CONFIDENCE LEVEL	99%
ERROR MARGIN	3.75%
SAMPLE SIZE	566

We tested for 1200 and found no initiation. We entered 1201 and found a result. Thereafter by trial and error we located the last number as being 2286. Hence our ball park estimate is that about 1085 candidates took the exam

The next step was to decide the sample size. Given the population size we could have tapped data on all candidates; but we chose to go by sampling since our other reports had used sampling. The software that we employ suggested that for a 3.75% error estimate and a 99% confidence level the sample size should be 566. We then used the random number table generated by the

Close Shave

71% of the passes got exactly 150 marks; the passing threshold.

software to decide on the 566 candidates whose marks we would tap.

THE ANALYSIS

The critical number is the **pass percent**. 257 of the 566 passed the examination throwing up a pass percent 45%. That's "good result" for sure. But hold on. There is a twist in the tail.

Of the 257 who passed, 182 got exactly 150 marks! That is 71% of the passes just about managed to reach the finish line. No one got marks in the range 151-159! Is that possible in a paper that tests on the multiple choice mode?

What does it suggest? A healthy dose of 'moderation'? Or does it suggest that scaling of marks weren't really uniform at the marginal level? Or does it suggest that those who scored more in the 150-160 range were scaled downwards? Some indication of views from the ICAI would, for sure, be helpful.

7 candidates got 149 i.e. 1 mark short of the touchline. Surely, they were more than a shade unlucky.

The **best mark** was 197. This was bagged by 2 candidates and it fetched them the joint first rank. The second rank holder (193) and the third rank holder (190) also figured in our sample

The **lowest score** was obtained by two candidates who got 79 apiece.

The **average marks** of the sample was 142 and fell short of the pass line of 150.

	Appeared	Outcome	Percent
Pass %	566	257	45.0%
Dropout	566	40	7.0%

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MARKS		RANGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Highest	197	0-24	0	0
Lowest	79	25-49	0	0
Mean	142	50-74	0	0
Median	146	75-99	6	1
Mode	150	100-124	79	14
Rank Candidates	4	125-149	224	40
Drop Outs	40	150-174	243	43
150s	182	175-200	14	2
149s	7			
			566	100.0%

Candidates tend to apply for the exams, pay the fees for it, receive the hall ticket and then not take the exams. In our sample this worked to 40 showing a **drop out** of 7%.

The mean and median are close to each other indicating that the sample was not affected by extremes.

A graphical representation of the class interval of marks shows a clean Normal Distribution Curve skewed well to the right.

