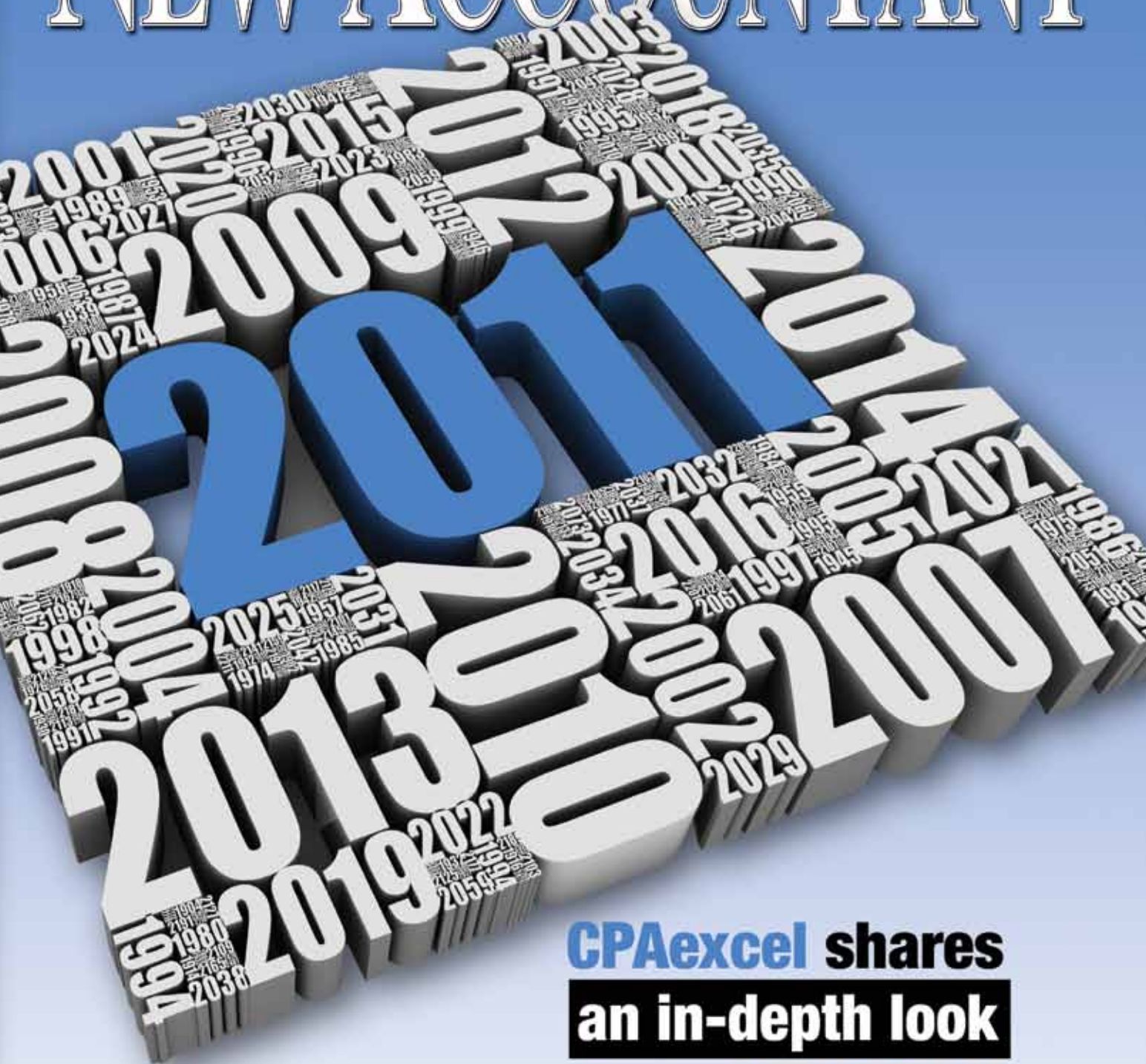


NEW ACCOUNTANT[®]



CPAexcel shares
an in-depth look
at the **NEW EXAM**
COURSE MATERIALS



An in-depth look at the **NEW EXAM COURSE MATERIALS**

by Michael Duffy, CPA, Vice President, CPAexcel

CPAexcel
C P A E x a m R e v i e w

The CPA Exam continues to evolve to more accurately reflect the reporting needs and reliability of financial statements for the global financial community. To that end, the CPA Exam, beginning on January 1, 2011 will be incorporating IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards), International Auditing Standards (IAS), the codification of standards, operations management and increased testing of global business concepts. To understand how these changes will affect you in your preparation process for the CPA Exam we will address each of the significant changes you will need to be prepared for.

IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards)

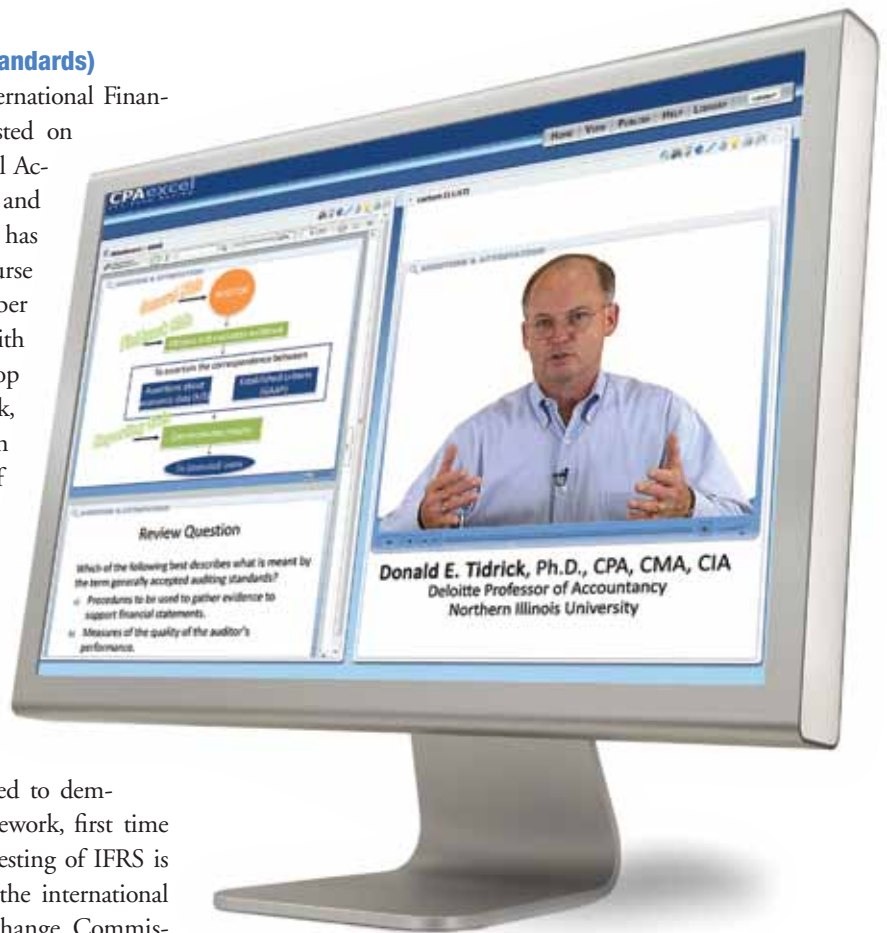
The two most significant areas where International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) will be tested on the CPA Exam will be found in the Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) and Auditing and Attestation (AUD) sections. CPAexcel already has incorporated all of these changes in the course material which will be available in September 2010, and includes IFRS based questions with rationales and IFRS specific lectures from top accounting faculty such as Dr. Don Tidrick, Deloitte Professor of Accounting, Northern Illinois University. Dr. Tidrick, as well as all of the nationally recognized faculty at CPAexcel, will help familiarize candidates with these new topics.

FAR (Financial Accounting and Reporting)

The FAR section of the CPA Exam will expect the candidate to be bi-lingual in the use of GAAP and IFRS. Candidates will need to demonstrate an understanding of the IFRS framework, first time adoption and basic financial reporting. The testing of IFRS is driven by the broad acceptance of IFRS in the international community and the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which is expected to adopt IFRS as the national reporting standard. The broad acceptance of IFRS requires US CPAs, who work for companies in the US that are owned by foreign IFRS entities, to prepare reporting packages consistent with IFRS. In addition, there are many US CPAs who work for companies in the US that own foreign entities reporting in IFRS and need to convert IFRS financials to US GAAP.

AUD (Auditing and Attestation)

Auditing will expect the candidate to be familiar with the International Auditing Standards (IAS). Candidates will need to demonstrate knowledge and awareness of the International Auditing & Assurance Board (IAASB) and their role in establishing International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Candidates must be familiar with the differences between ISAs and US Auditing Standards and the role of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) - role in establishing International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.



Essay Writing

Starting with the CPA Exam beginning in January of 2011, a significant shift will occur in the way essay writing will be evaluated and graded on the CPA Exam. Thru the end of 2010, essay writing will still comprise 10% of the exam scores on the AUD, FAR and REG sections of the CPA Exam. Essay writing on the exam beginning in 2011 will consolidate the essay writing from the current sections into BEC. The weighting of the essay writing in the BEC section of the CPA Exam will be 15% of the total score in BEC.

Many candidates are fearful of the essay writing portion of the exam, but remember that all essay topics were first tested as multiple choice questions. So the best way to prepare for any essay is to become proficient at all of the topics testable on the CPA Exam. The AICPA provides guidance on effective writing which includes six elements, including coherent organization, conciseness, clarity, use of Standard English, responsiveness to the requirements of the question and appropriateness for the reader.

As you practice writing responses to questions make sure to review your answers following the six criteria stated above for essay writing and you will do just fine.

New Exam Topics

The AICPA developed and released a final version of new Content and Skill Specification Outline (CSOs/SSOs) in the fall of 2009. The CSO determines the topics that will be tested on the exam beginning in January of 2011 and the new version reduces or removes some topics from the exam, but on balance greatly increases the breadth of topics you'll encounter and need to prepare for.

Many topics from the exam are being moved from one section to another and the emphasis on weighting topics is also changing. In addition to IFRS, you will be seeing many new topics not previously tested on the CPA exam such as Corporate Governance, Project Management, Multi Jurisdictional Tax issues and Financial Instruments for the first time. Also, the personal financial statement and tax exempt entities will be back after a seven-year hiatus from the exam. Although not a new topic, there will be an increased emphasis on global business concepts due to the increase in global commerce.

Another important topic on the exam, Ethics, will in effect be doubling in its coverage on the CPA Exam. Ethics, as it pertains to tax returns, legislation and industry driven ethics remains in the Regulation (REG) section of the CPA Exam. In addition, a new Professional Responsibilities section in Auditing and Attestation (AUD) will focus on ethics and independence for Auditing related items (e.g. audits, reviews, compilations etc).

Although candidates may not be familiar with all of these newer topics, rest assured, these topics have already been incorporated into the CPAexcel Review program.

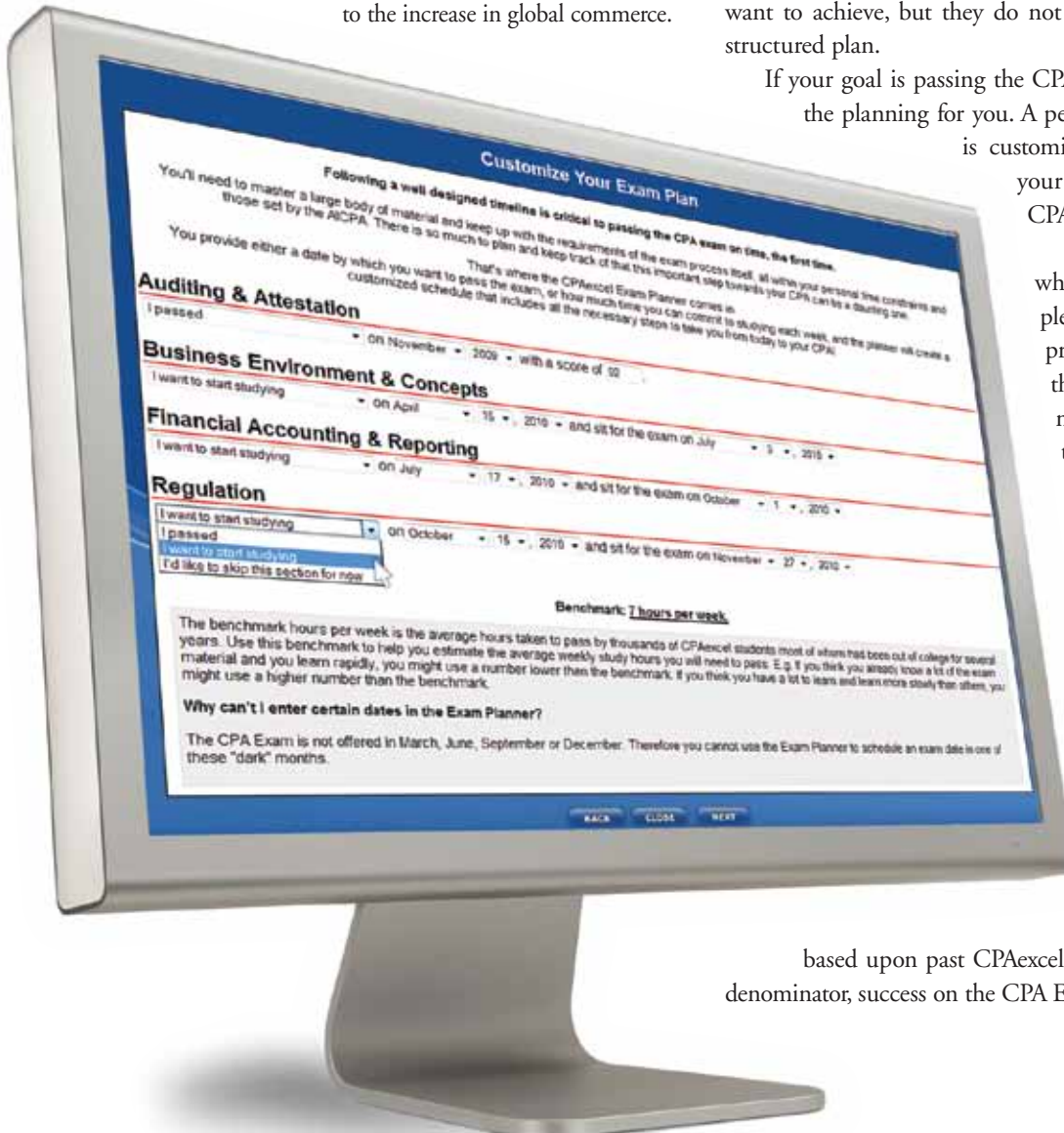
Planning is key:

The key to any type of preparation is having a clear plan. One of the reasons why people fail to achieve their goals is that they do not have a plan. Since few if any candidates have taken time management classes, they may know what they want to achieve, but they do not organize themselves with a structured plan.

If your goal is passing the CPA Exam, CPAexcel has done the planning for you. A personalized step by step plan is customized for you to get you to your end goal of passing the CPA Exam.

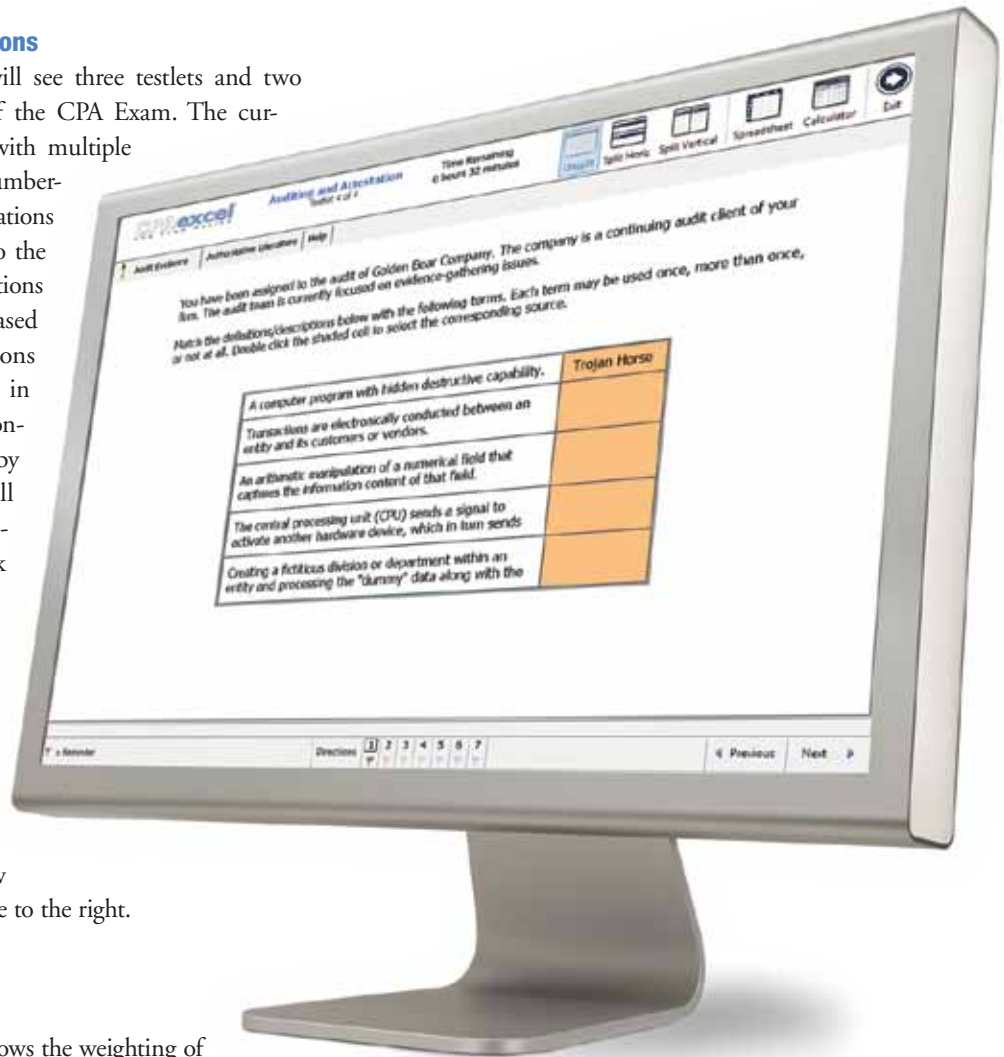
Simply enter the date in which you want to begin (sample at left) as well as your approximate testing date and the CPAexcel program automatically sets your clear plan to achieve your goal. Daily tasks are clearly laid out for you such as; how to register with your state board, when to view lectures, which past exam questions to study, when to do a final review, etc.... CPAexcel plans everything for you.

The key to the CPAexcel Exam Planner is not based on guesses, or expert opinion rather it was designed based upon past CPAexcel students with one common denominator, success on the CPA Exam.



THE NEW Task Based Simulations

On the current exam you will see three testlets and two simulations on three sections of the CPA Exam. The current simulations are presented with multiple tabs and can be somewhat cumbersome to complete. Recommendations to the Board of Examiners led to the development of testing simulations in a format now called Task Based Simulations. The two simulations currently on every exam (except in Business Environment and Concepts [BEC]) will be replaced by multiple TBS. Candidates will now be presented with one testlet containing up to seven Task Based Simulations which allows for more topics to be tested. These TBS are less confusing with less tabs and eliminate the need for essay writing within the simulations for FAR, AUD and REG. A sample of the new Task Based Simulations included in the CPAexcel Review Program can be seen in the image to the right.



Composition of the CPA Exam

The summary chart below shows the weighting of the various formats of questions contained on the four CPA Exam sections. This chart shows the increased use of Task Based Simulations, the reduction in multiple choice questions and the consolidation of essay writing into the BEC section.

Section Weighting Chart

CPAexcel		AUD	BEC	FAR	REG
M/C Questions	2010	70%	100%	70%	70%
	2011	60%	85%	60%	60%
Simulation Questions	2010	20%	0%	20%	20%
	2011	40%	0%	40%	40%
Essay Writing	2010	10%	0%	10%	10%
	2011	0%	15%	0%	0%

Starting in September 2010, current university students will be able to review the content they will need to know to pass the 2011 exams, as well as to use questions and answers on that content. CPAexcel will offer all accounting students access during the fall semester to its entire 2011 course materials, free of charge. Visit www.cpaexcel.com/freeaccess to take advantage of this offer. No cost or obligation or credit card number will be required.

See our advertisement on page 25.