# Auditing Theory Practice Exam (Sample)

**Study Guide** 



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## **Questions**



- 1. Which statement about materiality is TRUE?
  - A. Auditors do not consider changes in the circumstances of the engagement.
  - B. Materiality will always remain constant throughout the audit.
  - C. Auditors shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole for audit strategy.
  - D. Materiality levels must be the same for all classes of transactions.
- 2. Who appoints the members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy in the Philippines?
  - A. The Secretary of Finance
  - **B.** The Congress of the Philippines
  - C. The President of the Philippines
  - D. The Department of Education
- 3. What should the auditor consider when developing the overall audit strategy?
  - A. Only the entity's financial performance
  - B. Changes in reporting requirements
  - C. The business's regulatory environment
  - D. All of the above
- 4. What is the required time frame for a partner to report the dissolution of a CPA partnership?
  - A. Immediately upon occurrence.
  - B. Within 10 days.
  - C. Within 30 days.
  - D. Within 90 days.
- 5. What penalty may be faced by someone violating the provisions of the Accountancy Act?
  - A. A fine not less than P10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year.
  - B. A fine of not less than P50,000 or imprisonment for up to two years.
  - C. A fine of P100,000 or both imprisonment and fine.
  - D. Imprisonment for more than three years with no monetary fine.

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a safeguard against threats to independence?
  - A. Open communication policies
  - B. Involving family members in audits
  - C. Separating duties within the team
  - D. Removing the individual from the team
- 7. Which of the following is an example of a self-review threat?
  - A. Analyzing regulatory reports for an audit client
  - B. Helping with tax return preparations for the client
  - C. Assisting in management consulting
  - D. Conducting external audits
- 8. What is the primary purpose of ethical standards in auditing according to the CPA profession?
  - A. To ensure that professionals maximize client satisfaction.
  - B. To maintain trust and integrity in the profession.
  - C. To enhance the profitability of auditing firms.
  - D. To provide competitive advantages in client engagements.
- 9. Why do independent auditors report on financial statements?
  - A. To provide a definitive answer on management honesty.
  - B. To determine the compliance with international accounting standards.
  - C. Different interests may exist between the company preparing the statements and the persons using the statements.
  - D. To ensure that management's statements are reliable without question.
- 10. Which action can help in maintaining independence when dealing with potential conflicts?
  - A. Involving non-family members in audits
  - B. Disclosing relationships to clients
  - C. Documenting all communications
  - D. Establishing firm policies on independence

#### **Answers**



- 1. C 2. C 3. D 4. C 5. B 6. B 7. B 8. B 9. C 10. D



## **Explanations**



#### 1. Which statement about materiality is TRUE?

- A. Auditors do not consider changes in the circumstances of the engagement.
- B. Materiality will always remain constant throughout the audit.
- C. Auditors shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole for audit strategy.
- D. Materiality levels must be the same for all classes of transactions.

The statement emphasizing that auditors shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole for audit strategy is accurate and reflects a fundamental principle in auditing. Materiality is not a fixed threshold but rather a concept that helps auditors decide the nature, timing, and extent of audit procedures. When auditors assess materiality at the financial statement level, they consider the overall context of the financial statements, weighing the potential misstatements in relation to the entirety of financial reporting. This approach allows auditors to form a strategy that effectively targets areas of greater risk, ensuring that their audit is both efficient and focused on what could potentially influence the users of the financial statements. In professional practice, auditors often refer to benchmarks such as revenue, profit before tax, or total assets to define a materiality level that aligns with the overall accuracy and completeness of the financial statements they are auditing. This dynamic perspective on materiality enables auditors to adapt their methods according to the unique aspects of each engagement rather than applying a uniform standard across various scenarios.

# 2. Who appoints the members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy in the Philippines?

- A. The Secretary of Finance
- **B.** The Congress of the Philippines
- C. The President of the Philippines
- **D.** The Department of Education

The Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy in the Philippines is appointed by the President of the Philippines. This board plays a crucial role in the regulation of the accountancy profession, overseeing the practice of accounting, issuing licenses, and ensuring compliance with the relevant laws and standards. The President's authority to appoint members to the board underscores the importance of accountability and governance in maintaining professional standards within the field of accountancy. In addition, the process of appointment by the President reflects a broader commitment to ensure that qualified individuals, who adhere to the values and objectives of the profession, are placed in these significant positions of responsibility. This system helps align the board's function with national policies and priorities in education and professional development. The other options such as the Secretary of Finance, Congress of the Philippines, and the Department of Education do not have the authority to appoint members to the Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy. Their roles may touch on finance and education, but the direct appointment power lies with the President, ensuring a unified leadership approach for regulatory bodies in the country.

# 3. What should the auditor consider when developing the overall audit strategy?

- A. Only the entity's financial performance
- B. Changes in reporting requirements
- C. The business's regulatory environment
- D. All of the above

When developing the overall audit strategy, it is crucial for the auditor to consider a comprehensive array of factors, which is why selecting an inclusive option that accounts for multiple elements, such as financial performance, reporting requirements, and the regulatory environment, is essential. Firstly, considering the entity's financial performance allows the auditor to understand the financial health and operational effectiveness of the organization. This understanding is vital in determining the level of risk associated with the financial statements and helps in identifying areas that might need more focused auditing procedures. Secondly, changes in reporting requirements are significant as they can directly impact how financial statements are prepared and presented. Auditors must stay informed about any developments in accounting standards or regulations to ensure compliance and integrity in the audit process. Failure to consider these changes could lead to an audit strategy that is not aligned with current standards. Lastly, the business's regulatory environment is a critical aspect that affects how audits are conducted. Different industries have various rules and regulations that govern their operations, which can influence the audit approach. Understanding the regulatory landscape allows the auditor to account for unique risks and compliance issues that could affect the audit. In sum, an effective audit strategy must integrate all these components to address potential risks adequately and ensure a thorough and compliant auditing process. This holistic

# 4. What is the required time frame for a partner to report the dissolution of a CPA partnership?

- A. Immediately upon occurrence.
- B. Within 10 days.
- C. Within 30 days.
- D. Within 90 days.

The requirement for a partner to report the dissolution of a CPA partnership within 30 days is derived from the obligation to maintain transparency and uphold the integrity of the profession. This time frame ensures that stakeholders, including clients, regulatory bodies, and other professionals, stay informed of significant changes within the firm. A timely report aids in the continuity of services and allows for the reassessment of ongoing client relationships and contractual obligations. Prompt reporting is essential because the dissolution of a partnership can affect the operations of the firm, its ability to serve clients, and its compliance with professional standards. Notifying relevant parties within this 30-day period helps to mitigate any potential disruptions that may arise from the dissolution, enabling a more orderly transition and safeguarding client interests. Additionally, adhering to this requirement reflects a commitment to professionalism and ethical standards within the accounting industry, reinforcing trust and accountability.

- 5. What penalty may be faced by someone violating the provisions of the Accountancy Act?
  - A. A fine not less than P10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year.
  - B. A fine of not less than P50,000 or imprisonment for up to two years.
  - C. A fine of P100,000 or both imprisonment and fine.
  - D. Imprisonment for more than three years with no monetary fine.

The penalty outlined in the Accountancy Act for violations typically includes a framework designed to uphold ethical and professional standards in the accounting field. The correct choice reflects a structured approach toward accountability, setting a minimum fine of P50,000 and a term of imprisonment for up to two years. This kind of penalty is consistent with regulatory measures that aim to deter misconduct and ensure compliance within the profession. The higher fine and more significant potential for imprisonment emphasize the seriousness with which these violations are viewed, recognizing the potential harm that unethical accounting practices can cause to businesses, the public, and the integrity of the financial system. In contrast, penalties with lower fines or shorter imprisonment terms may not fully convey the gravity of the violations under the Act. This penalty structure serves not only as a consequence for violators but also as a warning to deter future occurrences, thereby reinforcing the importance of adhering to established accounting regulations.

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a safeguard against threats to independence?
  - A. Open communication policies
  - B. Involving family members in audits
  - C. Separating duties within the team
  - D. Removing the individual from the team

In the context of maintaining auditor independence, safeguards are essential measures put in place to mitigate any threats that could compromise the impartiality of the audit process. Open communication policies contribute to transparency and help address any potential conflicts of interest early in the audit process, thereby reinforcing an auditor's independence. Similarly, separating duties within the team ensures that no single individual has control over all aspects of an audit, reducing the potential for bias and maintaining objectivity. Removing an individual from the audit team can also serve as a safeguard by eliminating any conflicts of interest that may arise from their personal or professional relationships. In contrast, involving family members in audits is not a safeguard but rather creates a direct threat to independence. Family involvement can lead to conflicts of interest, bias, and the appearance of impropriety, as it may compromise the auditor's objectivity and professional judgment. Thus, while the other options enhance safeguards, engaging family members is counterproductive to maintaining the essential independence that is required in the auditing profession.

- 7. Which of the following is an example of a self-review threat?
  - A. Analyzing regulatory reports for an audit client
  - B. Helping with tax return preparations for the client
  - C. Assisting in management consulting
  - D. Conducting external audits

A self-review threat occurs when an auditor is in a position to review their own work or the results of their own past services, potentially compromising the independence and objectivity required in the auditing process. In this context, helping with tax return preparations for a client exemplifies a self-review threat because, during the auditing process, the auditor may need to evaluate the accuracy of those tax returns. If the auditor had a hand in preparing those returns, their ability to objectively assess the work may be impaired, as they are effectively reviewing their own work. The other options don't create this type of threat as directly. Analyzing regulatory reports for an audit client does not involve reviewing previous work of the auditor but instead focuses on the client's compliance. Assisting in management consulting involves providing advice and recommendations which may not overlap directly with audit services. Conducting external audits, by definition, should maintain independence and objectivity and does not inherently involve a self-review of the auditor's own past work.

- 8. What is the primary purpose of ethical standards in auditing according to the CPA profession?
  - A. To ensure that professionals maximize client satisfaction.
  - B. To maintain trust and integrity in the profession.
  - C. To enhance the profitability of auditing firms.
  - D. To provide competitive advantages in client engagements.

The primary purpose of ethical standards in auditing is to maintain trust and integrity in the profession. Ethical standards establish a framework that guides auditors in their professional conduct, ensuring they perform their work with honesty, objectivity, and diligence. This commitment to ethical behavior is essential for building and sustaining public confidence in the auditing profession, as it assures stakeholders that auditors are acting in the best interests of their clients and the public, free from conflicts of interest or undue influence. Trust and integrity are foundational elements in financial reporting and auditing. When auditors adhere to high ethical standards, it enhances the credibility of their work and the financial statements they audit, which is vital for investors, regulators, and the general public. The effectiveness of the auditing process relies on stakeholders' belief that auditors will provide an unbiased and accurate assessment of a company's financial status, which is why the maintenance of ethical standards is of paramount importance in the profession. The other options do not capture the essence of the role that ethical standards play in sustaining the professionalism of auditors. Maximizing client satisfaction or enhancing profitability, while important for business aspects, do not address the necessity of maintaining a trustful and integrative approach that is critical to the credibility of the audit process. Competitive advantages, although relevant in a business context

- 9. Why do independent auditors report on financial statements?
  - A. To provide a definitive answer on management honesty.
  - B. To determine the compliance with international accounting standards.
  - C. Different interests may exist between the company preparing the statements and the persons using the statements.
  - D. To ensure that management's statements are reliable without question.

Independent auditors report on financial statements primarily to address the potential discrepancies in interests between the company preparing the statements and the various parties using those statements. When a company prepares its own financial statements, management might have incentives that could lead to biased reporting or misrepresentation of financial performance. This could arise from pressures to meet earnings targets, secure financing, or portray the business in a more favorable light than is warranted. The role of independent auditors is to provide an impartial review of these financial statements, ensuring that they are presented fairly and in accordance with relevant accounting standards. By conducting an audit, these professionals can enhance the credibility of the financial statements, offering assurance to stakeholders such as investors, creditors, and regulators that the information provided is accurate and reliable. This helps bridge the gap between the interests of management and those of external users, fostering trust in the financial reporting process.

- 10. Which action can help in maintaining independence when dealing with potential conflicts?
  - A. Involving non-family members in audits
  - B. Disclosing relationships to clients
  - C. Documenting all communications
  - D. Establishing firm policies on independence

Establishing firm policies on independence is a crucial step in maintaining the integrity of the auditing process, particularly when potential conflicts arise. When a firm implements clear and comprehensive policies regarding independence, it sets a standard for all employees and partners to follow. These policies define acceptable practices, outline the nature of relationships that could impair independence, and provide guidelines for identifying and managing potential conflicts of interest. By fostering a culture of independence through established protocols, the firm ensures that auditors remain objective and free from any undue influence or bias, which is essential for delivering credible audit results. The role of strict policies in promoting ethical behavior cannot be understated, as they help create a framework within which auditors can operate without compromising their professional judgment. This proactive approach aids in identifying potential issues before they affect the audit engagement, ultimately protecting the auditor's credibility and the firm's reputation. In contrast, while disclosing relationships to clients, involving non-family members in audits, and documenting communications can be important practices, they may not comprehensively address the broader need for a consistent and firm-wide understanding of independence standards. Thus, firm policies serve as the backbone for maintaining independence across the board.