

Understanding ICAP results

By

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If you've taken the ICAP exams, have you ever wondered how your exam would be graded?

GCA actually did some extensive research on this some time ago. GCA thought it would be insightful to share a set of tidbits on the grading process that ICAP goes through to get your results into your hands.

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READY?

Understanding ICAP Exam Result

- ▶ **Your exam result** indicates whether your performance on the exam met the minimum passing score (MPS). A result of:
- ▶ **Pass** indicates your total exam score met the MPS
- ▶ **Did Not Pass** indicates that your total exam score did not meet the MPS.

Exam Score Retabulation

If you are not satisfied with your exam result, you may request that your exam score be manually retabulated. Additional details regarding the deadline and payment process can be found on ICAP website, available following the release of results.

ICAP take the marking of exams very seriously and therefore errors in the calculation of exam results are very rare. However, if you have failed an exam and believe that this result is not correct, you may request a marks review.

The retabulation process only confirms that your scores are recorded and totaled correctly. Retabulation is not an appeals process nor a re-marking service, nor will it change the grades on your individual answers.

If your score is found to be accurate, you will still be responsible for paying the retabulation fee and no refund will be given. If, however, your score is found to be incorrect, even if it does not change your exam result, ICAP will not promptly refund your retabulation fee.

The exam script review includes:

- ▶ An exam marker checking that no errors or omissions were made during the marking process.
- ▶ A check that all the marks awarded have been correctly calculated and transferred to ICAP marks database and your results notification.

ICAP do not release individual scores, nor do we release scores for any portion of the exam unless you are unable to pass your exam. All exam materials, including answers, are the property of ICAP and will not be returned to you in either original or copied form.

Paper Setting

For ICAP every paper, there is a separate examiner hired by ICAP who are subject specialists. **It's a 01 man show.**

Exam setters name are kept in complete secrecy. Even ICAP President don't know who are examiners.

ICAP President is not allowed to enter the exam department.

ICAP exam deptt officials has their unique finger prints scanning machine and only relevant personnel are allowed to enter the exam department.

Each Examiner is responsible for setting the question paper, writing the suggested published answers and producing a marking scheme.

No member of the team is permitted to teach students who may be sitting any of the papers for which s/he is responsible. Examiners are required to report to us any attempt made by a student to discuss future papers with them.

Once an exam paper has been drafted, it is reviewed by an Assessor whose job it is to ensure that the questions are relevant to the syllabus and that the paper is fair and balanced throughout.

The Assessor also ensures that the suggested answers and marking schemes are suitable for publication.

Next, a Subject Co-ordinator examines the agreed version of the question paper, suggested answers and marking scheme to ensure that they have been set in accordance with the standards required for that level of the exams.

The Subject Coordinator also checks to see that the exams are consistent with previous exam sessions, avoid unnecessary overlap with other papers and ensure progression.

Once the paper has been fully considered, it is attempted by the Exam Sitter - ICAP examiners don't expect you to sit a paper that they are not prepared to sit themselves!

The purpose of this is to ensure that the paper can be completed by an average student in the time available. The Exam Sitter then produces a report outlining in detail any problems encountered sitting the question paper.

Where marking is done?

At unknown centralized location with complete CCTV monitoring.
Examiners are not allowed to take their cell phones or any electronic gadget to marking place.

Who can be a marker?

Markers are normally expected to meet the following criteria:

Essential:

- ▶ Minimum education requirement.
- ▶ At least two years' prior experience in higher education and/or professional body of marking and setting or evaluating assessments.
- ▶ Relevant teaching or practitioner/consultancy experience (for the subject matter of the paper applied for). You should be currently lecturing/teaching or engaged in consultancy/practice, or have very recently retired.
- ▶ Professional updating in area of specialism.
- ▶ Demonstration of being up to date in educational and subject issues, and assessment methodology.

Desirable:

- ▶ Demonstration of being up to date in educational and subject issues, and assessment methodology.
- ▶ Employed as external examiner to a recognized programme/institution.
- ▶ Other professional body faculty experience.

How marking is done

Each Examiner co-ordinates a team of Qualified Markers responsible for marking candidates' scripts. Markers' meetings are held as soon as possible after the final paper for each exam session to discuss potential problems and establish a clear marking strategy.

To ensure fairness in the marking of scripts, the marking team does not know the identity of the candidates.

ICAP does not set a target percentage of candidates to be successful at each exam sitting.

However, ICAP do set a target number of candidates which ICAP have to pass in each attempt as Qualified Chartered Accountants.

Your results in each and any paper are totally uninfluenced by any previous exam record, or the performance of other candidates.

Examiners and Markers
pay particular attention
to borderline scripts and
the need to ensure
consistency between
exam markers.



Exam Marking

Marking MCQ based papers

After the exam, multiple-choice papers are securely delivered and machine-graded. At the same time 5-10% of multiple-choice papers will be graded by hand as a quality-control mechanism.

At this point there would also be a re-evaluation of questions depending on the results and complaints logged during the exam - questions will be checked as to whether they're unfairly confusing, have multiple right answers, or were structured wrongly.

In every case the decision would be taken to award any candidate that may have been treated unfairly.

This means points for all everyone in unfair questions, 2 right answers if there are 2 right answers, and so on. You won't be screwed over.

Marking paper based exam

The paper base exam will be graded by a platoon of the best of the best accounting professionals in Pakistan.

These are guys you don't mess with - you know the boss that always seems to be 3 steps ahead of you in a work presentation no matter how much you prepared? That's the breed of accounting professional we're talking about here.

The graders form teams in which **each team grades only one question, or a question part, which tends to be their industry specialty area.**

There is a whole hierarchy of junior graders, senior graders, and grader of graders checking each other's work that I'm not going to go into, but suffice to say that quality control and consistency is paramount.

After all papers have been graded, the middle 50% is graded again to ensure that the borderline cases would have been double checked.

Graders will not know your name, your test centre, or even how you did apart from the single question they are evaluating you for. This will not be a factor at all.

Nonetheless, there is one thing that we do know and that is this year's pass rate is still just as miserable as ever. This will be miserable with time to come since ICAP will never pass you unless you deserve it.

It goes like “ ICAP ghalat pass tau kar sakta ha, ghalat fail nae karta ha”

Thank
You!