



Free guide · October 2026

AAIA Exam Guide

ISACA Advanced in AI Audit, set by ISACA. What's tested, how the questions are worded, a study timeline and how to book.

AAIA is ISACA's advanced credential for auditors of AI. It assumes you already know audit; it tests whether you can apply that judgement to AI: governance and risk, how AI systems are built and run, and how to audit them, including with AI tools of your own.

Questions

90 multiple choice

Time

2 hours 30 minutes (about 100 seconds a question)

Scoring

Scaled 200–800; pass mark 450

Where

PSI test centre or online (online not available in India, mainland China or Hong Kong)

Exam fee

US\$459 ISACA members, US\$599 non-members

Who qualifies

All CISA holders; CIA, CPA, ACCA and similar holders with an IT audit or IT advisory focus

1 · What's tested

3 domains, their weights and what the examiner looks for

2 · Question wording

The keywords, the traps and a worked example

3 · Study timeline

An 8-week plan, plus a short-on-time version

4 · How to book

Step by step, with fees and exam-day checklist



1 What's tested

ISACA publishes the weight of each domain. Spend your study time in roughly the same proportions.

Domain	Topic	Weight	Questions
1	AI Governance and Risk	33%	≈ 30
2	AI Operations	46%	≈ 41
3	AI Auditing Tools and Techniques	21%	≈ 19

1 33%	AI Governance and Risk AI models and requirements, AI governance and program management, AI risk management, privacy and data governance, leading practices, ethics, regulations and standards. What the examiner is really testing: Whether AI is governed like any other business risk, with clear accountability.
2 46%	AI Operations Data management for AI, the AI solution life cycle, change management, supervision of outputs and decisions, testing techniques, AI-specific threats and vulnerabilities, incident response. What the examiner is really testing: Whether AI systems are controlled from data to deployment and monitored once live.
3 21%	AI Auditing Tools and Techniques Audit planning and design, testing and sampling, evidence collection, data quality and analytics, AI audit outputs and reports. What the examiner is really testing: Whether you can plan and evidence an AI audit, and use AI in your own audit work responsibly.



2 How the questions are worded

Every question has one best answer, and usually one close distractor that is technically true but wrong for the auditor in the room. The keyword in capitals tells you which kind of “right” the examiner wants.

Keyword	What it's asking
BEST / MOST appropriate	Several options may be true. Pick the one that deals with the biggest risk, fixes the cause rather than the symptom, or is the most complete.
FIRST	A question about order. The auditor understands and evaluates before acting: find out what controls exist, then judge them, then recommend.
PRIMARY / MAIN	Asks why something exists. Choose the core purpose, not a side benefit (a backup exists to recover data, not to save storage).
GREATEST concern / risk	Think business impact. The option that could hurt the organisation's objectives most wins, not the most technical flaw.
MOST LIKELY	The usual, everyday cause or result. Avoid exotic edge cases.
LEAST / NOT / EXCEPT	The question is reversed. Slow down: three options are true and you are hunting the odd one.

Distractors that cost easy marks

- ✗ **The auditor fixes it.** Auditors recommend; management implements. An option where the auditor revokes access, changes a setting or designs the control is usually wrong.
- ✗ **Skipping a step.** Jumping straight to a recommendation or a report before checking compensating controls or confirming the finding.
- ✗ **Model tuning over governance.** Retraining or changing an algorithm is the data team's job; the auditor asks whether monitoring, ownership and controls exist.
- ✗ **Absolute words.** Options with “always”, “all” or “never” are rarely the auditor's answer.

Try one

Approval rates from a bank's credit-scoring model have fallen sharply for one applicant group over six months, though the model's code hasn't changed. What should the IS auditor do **FIRST**?

- A. Recommend that the model be retrained on recent data
- B. Review whether model monitoring tracks data drift and fairness measures, and how alerts were handled**
- C. Ask the data scientists to explain the algorithm in detail
- D. Recommend that the model be suspended until it is fixed

Answer: B. Unchanged code with changing outcomes points to drift. Before recommending anything, the auditor checks whether monitoring should have caught it and what happened. A and D are recommendations without evidence; C is detail without a control focus.



3 An 8-week study timeline

Built for working professionals at about 6–8 hours a week. Domains are ordered so the auditor’s mindset comes first, and the heaviest-weighted areas get the most time.

Week	Focus	What to do
1	Orientation	Read the exam content outline. Sit a 30-question diagnostic. Refresh AI basics: models, training, inference.
2–3	Governance and risk	AI governance programs, risk management, privacy and data governance, NIST AI RMF, ISO/IEC 42001, the EU AI Act.
4–6	AI operations	Data management, life cycle, change management, monitoring outputs, testing, threats (poisoning, prompt injection), incident response. Nearly half the exam.
7	Tools and techniques	Planning an AI audit, testing and sampling, evidence, data quality, reporting.
8	Simulations and review	A full 90-question, 2.5-hour simulation, error-log review, then rest.

Short on time?

Four weeks? One week on governance and risk, two on AI operations, and one on tools, techniques and a timed simulation.

Habits that move the score

- ✓ Practise questions from week one, not only at the end.
- ✓ Study little and often: five 90-minute sessions beat one long weekend.
- ✓ Re-read the question’s last line before choosing.
- ✓ Keep an error log: for each miss, write why the right answer beat yours.
- ✓ Time yourself: about 100 seconds a question. Flag and move on.
- ✓ Take your mocks under exam conditions, start to finish.



4 How to book

1

Check that you qualify

Every CISA holder qualifies. CIA, US CPA, ACCA, Canadian, Australian and Japanese CPA, ICAEW, CA ANZ, HKICPA and ANAN holders qualify with an IT audit or IT advisory focus.

2

Register and pay

Log in to your ISACA account and register: US\$459 for members, US\$599 for non-members. Registration is open all year.

3

Mind the six-month window

You have six months from registering to sit the exam.

4

Schedule with PSI

In your ISACA account, go to Certification & CPE Management, then Schedule Your Exam, and continue to PSI. Book from 48 hours after paying, up to 90 days ahead.

5

Pick where to sit

Test centre or remote proctoring. Candidates in India, mainland China and Hong Kong must use a test centre.

6

Rescheduling

Free if done at least 48 hours before your appointment.

7

After you pass

Apply for the credential within five years of passing, with a US\$50 processing fee.

Exam-day checklist

- ☐ Government ID with the exact name on your account
- ☐ Arrive 30 minutes early, or start remote check-in early
- ☐ For remote exams: a quiet room, clear desk, webcam and a tested connection
- ☐ Know your pace: about 100 seconds a question
- ☐ Flag hard questions and come back; never leave one blank
- ☐ Sleep well the night before. No new topics on exam day.

Free official resources

ISACA AAIA exam content outline:

isaca.org/credentialing/aaia/aaia-exam-content-outline

ISACA AAIA page (free practice quiz):

isaca.org/credentialing/aaia

Go deeper

Free notes, puzzles and practice for AAIA at

auditcertdesk.com/aaia, with study packs, flashcards and timed mock exams when you want to go further.

Chidambaram Narayanan, CISA Coach

CISA trainer and mentor, and recipient of the Richard Chambers Internal Audit Beacon Award (2024, 2025). He has coached audit professionals through CISA, CIA and AAIA with one idea: learn how the examiner thinks, then learn the content.

Facts checked October 2026. Fees, formats and rules change, so confirm them with ISACA before you book. CISA and AAIA are trademarks of ISACA. CIA is a registered trademark of The Institute of Internal Auditors. This guide is independent and isn't endorsed by either body. Free to share, unchanged.