

ASQ CQA

ASQ QUALITY AUDITOR CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS &
ANSWERS

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CQA

[ASQ Certified Quality Auditor \(CQA\)](#)

165 Questions Exam – 550/750 Cut Score – Duration of 330 minutes

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Discover More about the CQA Certification

Are you interested in passing the ASQ CQA exam? First discover, who benefits from the CQA certification. The CQA is suitable for a candidate if he wants to learn about Auditing. Passing the CQA exam earns you the ASQ Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) title.

While preparing for the CQA exam, many candidates struggle to get the necessary materials. But do not worry; your struggling days are over. The CQA PDF contains some of the most valuable preparation tips and the details and instant access to useful [CQA study materials just at one click](#).

ASQ CQA Quality Auditor Certification Details:

Exam Name	ASQ Certified Quality Auditor
Exam Code	CQA
Exam Fee ASQ MEMBERS	USD \$433
NON-MEMBERS	USD \$533
RETAKES	USD \$333
Exam Duration	Total appointment time - 330 Exam time - 318 Minutes
Number of Questions	165
Passing Score	550/750
Format	Multiple Choice Questions
Books / Trainings	The ASQ Auditing Handbook, Fifth Edition
Schedule Exam	Book Your Exam
Sample Questions	ASQ Quality Auditor Exam Sample Questions and Answers
Practice Exam	ASQ Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) Practice Test

CQA Syllabus:

Topic	Details
I. Auditing Fundamentals (28 Questions)	
A. Types of Quality Audits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define, differentiate, and analyze various audit types by method: product, service, process, desk, department, function, element, system, management, and integrated (combined and joint). (Analyze) 2. Auditor-auditee relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define, differentiate, and analyze various audit types by auditor-auditee relationship: first-party, second-party, third-party, internal and external. (Analyze) 3. Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define, differentiate, and analyze various audit types by purpose: verification of corrective and preventive action (CAPA), risk-based, accreditation (registration), compliance, surveillance, and for- cause. (Analyze) 4. Common elements with other audits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify elements such as audit purpose, data gathering techniques, and tracing that quality audits have in common with environmental, safety, financial, and other types of audits. (Apply)
B. Purpose and Scope of Audits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elements of purpose and scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe and determine how the purpose of an audit can affect its scope. (Apply) 2. Benefits of audits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze how audits can be used to provide an independent assessment of system effectiveness and efficiency, financial risks, cybersecurity risks, and other organizational measures. (Analyze)
C. Criteria to Audit Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define and distinguish between various audit criteria, such as external (industry, national, international) standards, contracts, specifications, quality awards, policies, internal quality management system (QMS), sustainability, and social responsibility. (Analyze)
D. Roles and Responsibilities of Audit Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define and describe the functions and responsibilities of various audit participants, including audit team members, lead auditor, client, auditee, etc. (Apply)
E. Professional Conduct and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional conduct and responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define and apply the ASQ Code of Ethics, concepts of due diligence and due care with respect to confidentiality and conflict

Topic	Details
Consequences for Auditors	<p>of interest, and appropriate actions in response to the discovery of illegal activities or unsafe conditions. (Apply)</p> <p>2. Legal consequences - Identify potential legal and financial ramifications of improper auditor actions (carelessness, negligence, etc.) in various situations, and anticipate the effect that certain audit results can have on an auditee’s liability. (Apply)</p> <p>3. Audit credibility - Identify and apply various factors that influence audit credibility, such as auditor independence, objectivity, and qualification. (Apply)</p>
II. Audit Process (44 Questions)	
A. Audit Preparation and Planning	<p>1. Elements of the audit planning process - Evaluate and implement the basic steps in audit preparation and planning: verify audit authority; determine the purpose, scope, and type of audit; identify the criteria to audit against, such as customer-specific requirements, applicable standards, and regulations (laws), and identify the necessary resources, including the size and number of audit teams, and documentation requirements. (Evaluate)</p> <p>2. Auditor selection - Identify and examine various auditor selection criteria, such as education, experience, industry background, subject-matter or technical expertise, and independence from the activity being audited. (Analyze)</p> <p>3. Audit-related documentation and considerations - Identify the sources of pre-audit information and examine audit-related documentation, such as audit criteria references and results from prior audits. Recognize situations where evaluation of data integrity, electronic documents and records, and/or use and control of computerized systems (cybersecurity) is appropriate to include in the audit. (Analyze)</p> <p>4. Logistics - Identify and organize audit-related logistics including travel, safety and security considerations, the need for escorts, translators, confidentiality agreements, clear right of access, and facility accommodations such as internet access, printers, work space, and personal protective equipment (PPE). (Analyze)</p> <p>5. Auditing tools and working papers - Identify the sampling plan or method and procedural guidelines to be used for the specific audit. Select and prepare working papers (checklists, log sheets, and forms) to document the audit and the method of documentation (manual or electronic). (Create)</p>

Topic	Details
	<p>6. Auditing strategies - Identify and use various tactical methods for conducting an audit, such as forward and backward tracing, discovery, etc. (Apply)</p> <p>7. Auditing plan - Create an audit plan using information obtained during the audit planning process, provide plan to the client and/or auditee, and distribute the plan to defined stakeholders. (Create)</p>
<p>B. Audit Performance</p>	<p>1. On-site audit management for the auditor - Interpret situations throughout the performance of the audit to determine whether time is being managed well and when changes need to be made, such as revising planned audit team activities, reallocating resources, adjusting the audit plan, and communicating audit status and potential findings and observations to the auditee on a timely basis. (Analyze)</p> <p>2. On-site audit management for the auditee - Identify and apply techniques for managing and facilitating the audit process on behalf of the auditee organization, such as serving as a liaison between auditee management and the auditing organization, accompanying the auditor through the data-collection portion of the audit, providing clarifying information, and confirming or denying the existence of observations, nonconformities, and findings. (Analyze)</p> <p>3. Opening meeting - Manage the opening meeting of an audit by identifying the audit's purpose and scope, describing any scoring or rating criteria that will be used during the audit, creating a record of the attendees, reviewing the audit schedule, and answering questions as needed. (Apply)</p> <p>4. Audit data collection and analysis - Use various data collection methods to capture information: conducting interviews, observing work activities, taking physical measurements, and examining documents. Evaluate the results to determine their importance for providing audit evidence. (Evaluate)</p> <p>5. Establishment of objective evidence - Identify and differentiate characteristics of objective evidence, such as observed, measured, confirmed or corroborated, and documented. (Analyze)</p> <p>6. Organization of objective evidence - Classify evidence in terms of significance, severity, frequency, and level of risk. Evaluate the evidence for its potential impact on product, process, system, and cost of quality, and determine whether additional investigation is required to meet the scope of the audit. (Evaluate)</p>

Topic	Details
	<p>7. Exit and closing meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formally manage these meetings: reiterate the audit's purpose, scope, and scoring or rating criteria, and create a record of the attendees. Present the audit results and obtain concurrence on evidence that could lead to an adverse conclusion. Discuss the next steps in the process (follow-up audit, additional evidence- gathering), and clarify who is responsible for performing those steps. (Apply)
<p>C. Audit Reporting</p>	<p>1. Report development and content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group observations into actionable findings of significance and identify the severity and risk to the client and the auditee. Use appropriate steps to generate the audit report: organize and summarize details, review and finalize results, emphasize critical issues, and establish unique identifiers or codes for critical issues to facilitate tracking and monitoring. (Create) <p>2. Effective reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and evaluate components of effective audit reports, including background information, executive summary, prioritized results (observations, findings, opportunities for improvement). Present information in an effective manner, using graphical or simple analytical tools to emphasize conclusions and develop a timeline for auditee response and/or corrections. (Create) <p>3. Final audit report steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain necessary approvals for the audit report and distribute it according to established procedures. Identify the contents of the audit file and retain the file in accordance with established policies and procedures. (Apply)
<p>D. Audit Follow-Up and Closure</p>	<p>1. Elements of the corrective and preventive action (CAPA) process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and evaluate various elements: assignment of responsibility for problem identification; the performance of root cause analysis and recurrence prevention. (Evaluate) <p>2. Review of corrective and preventive action (CAPA) plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate the acceptability of proposed CAPA and schedule for completion. Identify and apply strategies for negotiating changes to unacceptable plans. (Evaluate) <p>3. Verification of corrective and preventive action (CAPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine the adequacy of CAPA taken by verifying and evaluating new or updated procedures, observing revised processes, and conducting follow-up audits. (Evaluate) <p>4. Follow-up on ineffective corrective and preventive action (CAPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop strategies to use when CAPAs are not implemented or are not effective, such as communicating to the next level of

Topic	Details
	<p>management, reissuing the CAPA request, and re-auditing. (Create)</p> <p>5. Audit closure - Identify and apply various elements of, and criteria for, audit closure. (Apply)</p>
<p>III. Auditor Competencies (24 Questions)</p>	
<p>A. Auditor Characteristics</p>	<p>- Identify characteristics that make auditors effective: interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills, attention to detail, cultural awareness and sensitivity, ability to work independently as well as in a group or on a team, etc. In addition, apply lead auditor characteristics including: negotiation skills and the ability to direct an audit team by balancing strengths and weaknesses of the team members. (Apply)</p>
<p>B. On-Site Audit Resource Management</p>	<p>- Identify and apply techniques for managing audit teams, scheduling audit meetings and activities, making logistical adjustments, etc. (Apply)</p>
<p>C. Conflict Resolution</p>	<p>- Identify typical conflict situations (mild to vehement disagreements, auditee delaying tactics, interruptions, etc.) and determine appropriate techniques for resolving them: clarification of the question or request, reiteration of ground rules, intervention by another authority, and use of cool-down periods. (Analyze)</p>
<p>D. Communication and Presentation Techniques</p>	<p>- Select and use written, oral, and electronic communication techniques for presentations made during audits for opening, closing, and ad hoc meetings. Use technical and managerial reporting techniques, including graphs, charts, diagrams, and multimedia aids in various situations: domestic, global, in-person, and multiple sites, etc. (Evaluate)</p>
<p>E. Interviewing Techniques</p>	<p>- Select and use appropriate interviewing techniques and methodologies. (Apply)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use open-ended or closed question types. 2. Use active listening, paraphrasing, and empathy. 3. Recognize and respond to non-verbal cues: body language, the significance of pauses and their length. 4. Determine when and how to prompt a response: when supervisors are present, when interviewing a group of workers, when using a translator.
<p>F. Team Dynamics</p>	<p>Define, describe, and apply various aspects of team dynamics. (Apply)</p>

Topic	Details
	<p>1. Team-building: - clarifying roles and responsibilities for participants and leaders to ensure equitable treatment for all team members, providing clear direction for deliverables, identifying necessary resources, and ensuring their availability.</p> <p>2. Team facilitation: - providing coaching and guidance, defusing clashes between members, eliciting input from all, cultivating objectivity, overseeing progress, and encouraging diverse views and consensus.</p> <p>3. Stages of team development: - forming, storming, norming, and performing</p>
<p>IV. Audit Program Management and Business Applications (30 Questions)</p>	
<p>A. Audit Program Management</p>	<p>1. Senior management support - Identify and explain management’s role in creating and supporting the audit function. (Understand)</p> <p>2. Staffing and resource management - Develop staffing budgets that provide adequate time for auditors to plan, conduct, and respond to scheduled audits, including time and resources that internal auditees need to participate. Identify any special equipment resources needed and ensure their adequacy and availability. Consider the use of and requirements for special audits (outsourced or contracted audits, shared audits, integrated audits) as driven by costs, geography, etc. Evaluate results and adjust resources as needed on a regular basis. (Evaluate)</p> <p>3. Auditor training and development - Identify minimum audit knowledge and skill requirements for auditors. Provide training on the audit process and relevant (industry-specific) standards, regulations, and legal requirements. Include training on diversity and cultural influences (ethnicity, gender, age, organized labor, etc.) and facilitation techniques. Examine how such factors can affect communications and other interactions among audit participants. Define requirements for continuing education to maintain auditor qualifications. (Analyze)</p> <p>4. Audit program evaluation - Select the correct metric to evaluate the audit program, including tracking its effect on the bottom line and the risk to the organization. (Evaluate)</p> <p>5. Internal audit program management - Develop policies, procedures, and schedules to support the</p>

Topic	Details
	<p>organization’s objectives. Review internal audit results to identify systemic trends. (Create)</p> <p>6. External audit program management - Develop procedures, policies, and schedules in support of the supplier management program, including supplier qualification surveys, surveillance audits, and supplier improvement. (Create)</p> <p>7. Best practices - Analyze audit results to standardize best practices and lessons learned across the organization. (Analyze)</p> <p>8. Organizational risk management - Analyze how the audit program affects an organization’s risk level and how the risk level can influence the number and frequency of audits performed. (Analyze) [Note: Tools and techniques for managing risk are covered in BoK area V.H.</p> <p>9. Management review input - Examine and summarize audit program results, trends, and changes in risk to provide input to management reviews. (Evaluate)</p> <p>10. Electronic records and computerized system considerations - Define and apply techniques to identify data integrity, fraud, and cybersecurity issues when auditing systems that include electronic records and/or computerized systems. (Apply)</p>
B. Business and Financial Impact	<p>1. Auditing as a management tool - Use audit results to monitor continuous improvement, supplier management, and customer satisfaction, and to provide management with an independent view of the strategic plan’s effectiveness and how well it is deployed. (Analyze)</p> <p>2. Interrelationships of business processes - Identify how business units (receiving, product and process design, production, engineering, sales, marketing, field support, etc.) and multiple sites are interrelated, and recognize how their unique metrics and goals potentially conflict with one another. (Understand)</p> <p>3. Cost of quality (COQ) principles - Identify, describe, and analyze the audit program’s effect on the four COQ categories: prevention, appraisal, internal failure, external failure. (Analyze)</p>
V. Quality Tools and Techniques (24 Questions)	
A. Basic Quality and Problem-solving Tools	- Identify, interpret, and analyze: 1) Pareto charts; 2) cause and effect diagrams; 3) flowcharts; 4) statistical process control (SPC) charts; 5) check sheets; 6) scatter diagrams; 7)

Topic	Details
	histograms; 8) root cause analysis; 9) plan-do-check-act (PDCA). (Analyze)
B. Process Improvement Techniques	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six Sigma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, interpret, and apply the Six Sigma DMAIC phases: define, measure, analyze, improve, control. (Apply) 2. Lean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, interpret, and apply lean tools: 5S, standard operations, kanban (pull), error-proofing, value- stream mapping, etc. (Apply)
C. Basic Statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measures of central tendency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, interpret, and use mean, median, and mode. (Apply) 2. Measures of dispersion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, interpret, and use standard deviation and frequency distribution. (Apply) 3. Qualitative and quantitative analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe qualitative data in terms of the nature, type, or attribute of an observation or condition. Describe how quantitative data is used to detect patterns or trends and how such analysis can indicate whether a problem is systemic or isolated. (Understand)
D. Process Variation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Common and special cause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and distinguish between common and special cause variation. (Apply) 2. Process performance metrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe elements of C_p and C_{pk} process capability studies (process centering and stability, specification limits, underlying distribution, etc.), and how these studies and other performance metrics are used in relation to established goals. (Understand) 3. Outliers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe their significance and impact. (Understand)
E. Sampling Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acceptance sampling plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and interpret these plans for attributes and variables data. (Understand) 2. Types of sampling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe and distinguish between random, stratified, and cluster sampling. Identify the uses and potential problems of nonstatistical sampling. (Understand) 3. Sampling terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define related terms including consumer and producer risk, confidence level, etc. (Understand)

Topic	Details
F. Change Control and Configuration Management	- Identify the principles of change control and configuration management systems as used in various applications: hardware, software (including security considerations), product, process, and service. (Understand)
G. Verification and Validation	- Define, distinguish between, and use various methods of verifying and validating processes. (Analyze)
H. Risk Management Tools	- Identify methods for managing risk, including risk avoidance, mitigation, tradeoffs, etc., and describe tools and methods for estimating and controlling risk: process/design failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA, PFMEA, DFMEA), hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP), and critical to quality (CTQ) analysis. (Understand) [Note: Organizational risk management is covered in BoK area IV.A.8.]

Broaden Your Knowledge with ASQ CQA Sample Questions:

Question: 1

An auditee is likely to be most threatened by an auditor's use of which of the following interviewing techniques?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) Paraphrasing an auditee's response while writing it down
- b) Being silent while waiting for an auditee to respond to a question
- c) Underlining key facts when recording an auditee's response
- d) Using a tape recorder to record an auditee's response

Answer: d

Question: 2

Which of the following represents a sound time-management technique?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) Scheduling interviews simultaneously at two different facilities
- b) Constantly revising the audit schedule to accommodate follow-up questions
- c) Anticipating needs and making them known to the auditee in advance
- d) Determining the detailed audit schedule at the audit opening meeting

Answer: c

Question: 3

An audit schedule is an integral part of which of the following phases of the auditing process?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) Initiation
- b) Preparation
- c) Closing
- d) Reporting

Answer: b

Question: 4

The fraction of nonconforming products is plotted on which of the following types of control charts?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) p chart
- b) u chart
- c) np chart
- d) c chart

Answer: a

Question: 5

Which of the following types of tools or techniques is considered qualitative?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) Histograms
- b) Frequency distributions
- c) Pareto charts
- d) Process observations

Answer: d

Question: 6

Who makes the final determination regarding the distribution of the audit report?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) The lead auditor
- b) The audit group manager
- c) The auditee
- d) The client

Answer: d

Question: 7

The accuracy of quality audit documentation is especially important in which of the following situations?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) One of the audit team members is aware of a possible personal bias related to the audit.
- b) The documentation is likely to be used as evidence in litigation.
- c) An audit has yielded more documentation than expected.
- d) The documentation supports an auditor's viewpoint.

Answer: b

Question: 8

Which of the following best describes a frequency distribution?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) A graph for presenting data along a scale of reference and the number of times each item occurs
- b) A time-ordered chart of subgroup averages and control limits
- c) A plot of the probability of accepting a hypothesis when it is actually false
- d) A graph indicating the difference between an actual value and its predicted value

Answer: a

Question: 9

An internal audit schedule should be prioritized on the basis of all of the following criteria EXCEPT the

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) cost of the activities
- b) risk of the activities
- c) size of the auditee's department
- d) management's requests

Answer: c

Question: 10

During the closing meeting, the lead auditor should do which of the following?

Please choose the correct answer.

- a) Accept the presentation of objective evidence.
- b) Review the auditor's qualifications.
- c) Perform a causal analysis with the auditee.
- d) Present a summary of audit results.

Answer: d

Avail the Study Guide to Pass ASQ CQA Quality Auditor Exam:

- Find out about the CQA syllabus topics. Visiting the official site offers an idea about the exam structure and other important study resources. Going through the syllabus topics help to plan the exam in an organized manner.
- Once you are done exploring [the CQA syllabus](#), it is time to plan for studying and covering the syllabus topics from the core. Chalk out the best plan for yourself to cover each part of the syllabus in a hassle-free manner.
- A study schedule helps you to stay calm throughout your exam preparation. It should contain your materials and thoughts like study hours, number of topics for daily studying mentioned on it. The best bet to clear the exam is to follow your schedule rigorously.
- The candidate should not miss out on the scope to learn from the CQA training. Joining the ASQ provided training for CQA exam helps a candidate to strengthen his practical knowledge base from the certification.
- Learning about the probable questions and gaining knowledge regarding the exam structure helps a lot. Go through the [CQA sample questions](#) and boost your knowledge
- Make yourself a pro through online practicing the syllabus topics. CQA practice tests would guide you on your strengths and weaknesses regarding the syllabus topics. Through rigorous practicing, you can improve the weaker sections too. Learn well about time management during exam and become confident gradually with practice tests.

Career Benefits:

Passing the CQA exam, helps a candidate to prosper highly in his career. Having the certification on the resume adds to the candidate's benefit and helps to get the best opportunities.

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