

www.ITSec.org.za

Your IT Audit and Information Security Partner

CISA Exam Preparation June 2015
Session 1 : 10 March 2015



Agenda

- **Introductions**
 - Facilitator
 - Participants
- **Expectations**
 - Why are we all here?
- **CISA**
 - What is the CISA exam all about?
- **Approach to studies**
 - Timing
 - Commitment
 - Self Assessment
- **Next Week**
 - What you need to do
- **Questions** And contacts



Introductions

- **Facilitator**
- Justin Williams B.Com, B.Compt (Hons), CA(SA), MBA, CISSP, CGEIT, CRISC, CISA
- 1st in the World, CISA Dec 2014
- Director at ITSec
- Previously Head of Risk, Security, Governance and Compliance for Transnet Group

- **Participants**
- Name
- Where you work
- Where and what you have studied



Expectations

- Why are we here ?
- Justin Williams (Director at ITSec)
- Passionate about studying
- Enjoy helping others
- Want the ITSec team to succeed

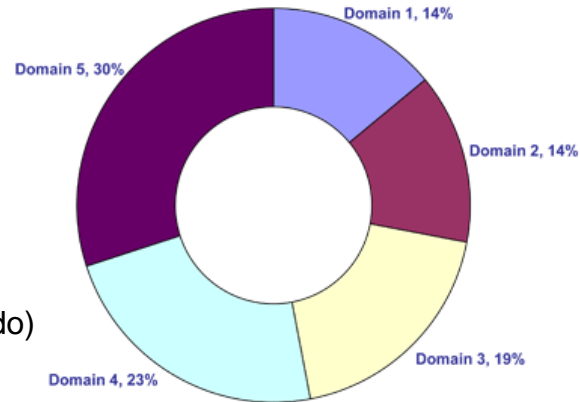
- Participants
- Name
- Why you signed up for CISA
- How you think CISA will help you
- Have your written CISA or an ISACA exam before
- What you hope to get out of the sessions



CISA Exam

- CISA
- Certified Information Systems Auditor
- What is the exam all about?
 - 13 June 2015
 - Four hour exam
 - 200 multiple choice questions
 - Five practice domains
 - Task statements (what you need to know how to do)
 - Knowledge statements (things you need to know)
- The five job practice domains:
 - Domain 1—The Process of Auditing Information Systems
 - Domain 2—Governance and Management of IT
 - Domain 3—Information Systems Acquisition, Development and Implementation
 - Domain 4—Information Systems Operations, Maintenance and Support
 - Domain 5—Protection of Information Assets

CISA Certification Job Practice Areas by Domain



Ten steps to acing the exam

1. Read up on learning styles and figure out what works best for you. Study how to study.
2. View your studies as part of your wider professional development. CISM is a way point, not an endpoint.
3. Don't try to do it alone—become a member of ISACA and join your local chapter. Take advantage of the resources available. Find a mentor.
4. Read the ISACA CISM Review Manual but realise it is not a comprehensive body of knowledge. More (much more) reading will be required.
5. Build your own glossary—whenever you come across a concept that you are not completely familiar with and that is not fully explained in the manual, jot it down, Google for information and write your own definition.
6. Use the ISACA sample exam questions—study the questions you get wrong and use those to guide further review.
7. Prepare a plan and stick to it, lest you risk spending your last week cramming and walking into the exam a nervous wreck. After reading the first few sections of the Review Manual and doing related reading (plan on four hours of outside reading for every hour spent reading the manual), estimate the total hours needed to complete the manual; add twenty hours for practice questions and then map it out on a calendar.
8. Reduce stress by stopping studying two days before the exam. Get plenty of sleep for several nights before the exam. Eat regularly in the days before and have a healthy, moderately-sized breakfast on the morning of the exam.



Ten steps to acing the exam

9. Write the exam in four passes:
 - Go through and answer every tenth question (maximum one minute per question) — this is to avoid off-by-one transcription errors
 - Try to answer all remaining questions, one minute per question at most
 - Go through and answer all questions you skipped or marked for review in the first two passes (maximum two minutes)
 - Spend whatever time is left reviewing questions you were not sure about; guess if necessary

10. Attack each question methodically:
 - Read the question and all the answers very carefully
 - Eliminate the obviously wrong answers
 - Pick the most general, correct answer from a management perspective (or the least worst answer)
Making the commitment to become a Certified Information Security Manager is worthy and laudatory for many reasons. It forces you to study your known unknowns.
 - It helps you discover your unknown unknowns. It brings discipline and completeness to your work. And it lends you credibility.

Good luck!

George Pajari, CISM, CISSP, CCSK



Approach to studies

- **What you need**
 - CISA 2014 / 2015 Study guide
 - Extra questions
- **Timing**
 - Weekly sessions, same time and place?
 - How much time?
 - Estimated 16 hours per week
- **Commitment**
 - Read the chapters
 - Do the sample questions in the study guide and
 - Do the extra Q&A questions
 - Get through as much as you can
 - Even if you don't get through it all, come to the study session



Approach to studies

<i>Dom</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Marks/Page</i>
1	The Process of Auditing Information Systems	14%	29	62	33	0,42
2	Governance and Management of IT	14%	78	124	46	0,30
3	Information Systems Acquisition, Development and Implementation	19%	141	219	78	0,24
4	Information Systems Operations, Maintenance and Support	23%	234	290	56	0,41
5	Protection of Information Assets	30%	306	375	69	0,43



Approach to studies

10-Mar-15 Tonight -Introduction

17-Mar-15 Chapter 1

24-Mar-15 Chapter 1

31-Mar-15 Chapter 2

07-Apr-15 Chapter 2

14-Apr-15 Chapter 3

21-Apr-15 Chapter 3

28-Apr-15 Chapter 4

05-May-15 Chapter 4

12-May-15 Chapter 5

19-May-15 Chapter 5

26-May-15 Revision

02-Jun-15 Sample Exam

09-Jun-15 Final Exam Techniques

13-Jun-15 Exam Date



Approach to studies

- Self Assessment
- 50 questions
- Should take an hour
- Do as small teams (of two or three)

<http://www.isaca.org/Certification/CISA-Certified-Information-Systems-Auditor/Prepare-for-the-Exam/Pages/CISASelfAssessment.aspx?id=100002>



Extra material

Study Materials

ISACA has prepared a variety of study resources in various languages to fully prepare for your CISA Exam. These include primary references, publications, articles, the ISACA Journal and other links.

Online Learning

ISACA eLearning Campus offers a variety of online learning courses for certification exam preparation and continuing professional education.

Review Courses

ISACA chapters in numerous countries offer CISA Review courses. View the Review Course list to determine if there is a course in your area, or contact your local chapter for additional courses. There will be courses in Durban, CapeTown & Jhb if demand exists.

Exam Preparation Community

ISACA created the CISA exam preparation community as a place for current CISA exam registrants to collaborate and study with other registrants within the ISACA environment.

Free online CISA Course

Cybrary has just launched a CISA online course, its free <http://www.cybrary.it/>



Questions and Contacts

Questions ?

Justin Williams

jwilliams@itsec.org.za or Justin.j.Williams@gmail.com

+27 82 772 9881 or +27 83 279 0998

@itsecza @jjza

www.itsec.org.za www.j-j.co.za



www.ITSec.org.za

Your IT Audit and Information Security Partner

CISA Exam Preparation June 2015
Session 2 : 17 March 2015



Prep for Next Week (17/3/2015)

- What you need to do
- Read Chapter 1 (aim for the whole chapter)
- Make notes of things you don't quite understand
- Do the sample questions
- Flag those you get wrong, even if you know why you got them wrong
- Self Assessment
 - 50 questions*
 - Should take an hour*
 - <http://www.isaca.org/Certification/CISA-Certified-Information-Systems-Auditor/Prepare-for-the-Exam/Pages/CISASelfAssessment.aspx?id=100002>*
- Arrive on time (4:45pm Tuesday 17/3/2015)
- At ITSec offices, Forest Office 6, 15 Summit Drive, Sherwood, Durban

- Re-assess
- See how things are going
- See how all doing with the time commitment
- Decide if continue with two weeks per chapter or cover some chapters in one week



Provisional Schedule

10-Mar-15	Introduction (Complete)
17-Mar-15	Chapter 1 The Process of Auditing Information Systems
24-Mar-15	Chapter 1
31-Mar-15	Chapter 2 Governance and Management of IT
07-Apr-15	Chapter 2
14-Apr-15	Chapter 3 Information Systems Acquisition, Development and Implementation
21-Apr-15	Chapter 3
28-Apr-15	Chapter 4 Information Systems Operations, Maintenance and Support
05-May-15	Chapter 4
12-May-15	Chapter 5 Protection of Information Assets
19-May-15	Chapter 5
26-May-15	Revision
02-Jun-15	Sample Exam
09-Jun-15	Final Exam Techniques
13-Jun-15	Exam Date



Location of ITSec

Forest Office 6
15 Summit Drive
Sherwood
Durban

