Mastering Research Task-Based Simulations on the CPA Exam
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Introductions

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Webinar Agenda

- What is the Research Task-Based Simulation (TBS)?
- Authoritative Literature
- Approaching the Research TBS
  - Searching the Authoritative Literature
  - Table of Contents
  - Record Your Citation!
- Test Drive the Research TBSs
- Tips to Master the Research TBSs
- How to Best Prepare
- Raffle!
- Ask the Expert
Lanny Financial offers credit cards to college students at a variable rate on outstanding balances. The company also charges an annual fee for using the line of credit. Which section of the authoritative literature best defines how and when Lanny should recognize the annual fee revenue?

Enter your response in the answer fields below. Unless specifically requested, your response should not cite implementation guidance. Guidance on correctly structuring your response appears above and below the answer fields.

Source: www.aicpa.org
Authoritative Literature Provided on the CPA Exam

- REG Federal Taxation: Internal Revenue Code (IRC)
- AUD: Auditing, Attestation, and Ethics:
  - AICPA Auditing Standards
  - PCAOB Auditing Standards
  - AICPA Code of Professional Conduct
  - AICPA Standards on Accounting and Review Services
  - AICPA Attestation Standards

Source: AICPA Sample Test
Approaching Research TBSs

1. Read situation and determine question asked
2. Determine if you will search or if you will use the Table of Contents
   a) Search
      1) What is an appropriate search term?
      2) Basic and advanced searches
   b) Table of Contents – What is the main topic?
3. Find citation and enter into work tab

Source: www.aicpa.org
Searching the Authoritative Literature

What is the Appropriate Search Term?

• Identify the research question
• What keywords are in the authoritative literature?
• Remember – this is not your typical internet search engine!

A company's current CEO and CFO were not present during all periods covered by the auditor's report. Which citation in the professional standards outlines the auditor's responsibility regarding obtaining a written representation letter from management under these circumstances?

Enter your response in the answer fields below. Guidance on correctly structuring your response appears above and below the answer fields.

Source: www.aicpa.org

Keywords: written representation letter
Searching the Authoritative Literature

Basic Search

- Individual words
- “Phrases”
- Accepts 0-9, a-z, A-Z
- Hint: “not for profit” for “not-for-profit”

Source: www.aicpa.org
Searching the Authoritative Literature
Advanced Search

- Enter one or more words
- 0-9, a-z, A-Z
- Use one or more of these search boxes

Use a space for special characters
Within five words of each other

= Grammatical variations

Source: www.aicpa.org
Searching the Authoritative Literature

Search Results

Source: www.aicpa.org
Searching the Authoritative Literature

Other Functionality

Table of Contents

AICPA Professional Standards
U.S. Auditing Standards—AICPA (Clarified) [AU-C]
AU-C Sections 500–599 – Audit Evidence
AU-C Section 560 – Subsequent Events and Subsequent Audits
AU-C Section 580 – Written Representations

Search Results

1 - 2 of 2 Results for: ("not" And "present" And "written" And "representation" And "letter")


This section addresses the auditor’s responsibility to obtain written representations from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance in an audit of financial statements.

Source: www.aicpa.org
Table of Contents
What is the Main Topic?

Source: www.aicpa.org
Record Your Citation!

A company's current CEO and CFO were not present during all periods covered by the auditor's report. Which citation in the professional standards outlines the auditor's responsibility regarding obtaining a written representation letter from management under these circumstances?

Enter your response in the answer fields below. Guidance on correctly structuring your response appears above and below the answer fields.

**Type the paragraph here.**

Correctly formatted AU-C paragraphs are 1, 2, or 3 digits, preceded in some cases by an upper case letter.

AU-C § 580 . A26

Source: www.aicpa.org
Test Drive Research TBSs
Tips and Tricks to Maximizing Points!

- Read situation and determine the question being asked
- Identify key search words
- Start with what you already know
- Filter down search results using logic
- Utilize the “pop-up guides” found within the software to correctly enter in your citation
- Time management
  - Spend approximately ten minutes on research TBSs
  - Do not get caught up in the authoritative literature
  - Potential chance to make-up time!
- Leave nothing blank!
How to Prepare

• Do your research beforehand
  – *Generally* one research TBS: AUD, FAR, REG appearing in third, fourth, or fifth testlet
  – Time management: Keep an eye on the clock and limit the time you spend on research TBSs
  – Be comfortable with the functionality of the exam-research software
  – Be comfortable with the professional standards
    • Presentation of content and structure/layout of the various standards
    • Citation formatting
How to Prepare (Cont’d)

- **Resources**
  - AICPA sample test: [http://www.aicpa.org/BecomeACPA/CPAExam/ForCandidates/TutorialandSampleTest/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.aicpa.org/BecomeACPA/CPAExam/ForCandidates/TutorialandSampleTest/Pages/default.aspx)
  - Free six-month subscription to professional literature used in the computerized CPA Examination with valid NTS (note interface may be different from actual exam): [https://nasba.org/proflit/](https://nasba.org/proflit/)
  - Wiley CPAexcel: [https://www.efficientlearning.com/cpa/](https://www.efficientlearning.com/cpa/)
Raffle Time!
Ask the Expert