

Simulations: 30% of your exam...

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In April 2004, the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam went computerized.

Sounds simple enough, but there are significant changes – the least of which is that candidates now sit in front of a computer.

Candidates are being hit hard by:

- Newly tested content,
- A new testing medium called “Simulations,”
- And the added pressure of a countdown clock.

Simulation Preparedness

Simulations are now tested in all sections of the exam, except for Business Environment & Concepts. The cost of failure went up with the increased exam price, so it is vitally important to be very familiar with simulations BEFORE sitting for the exam.

Simulations are case studies that present a student with various types of questions focused on a given set of data called a “Situation.” Each simulation contains a number of spreadsheet-like tabs on which questions appear. Candidates must answer

in many formats including drop-down menus, numeric/monetary inputs, written communication, forms completion, and multiple choice/multiple select – except on the Research tab.

Be Prepared for Research

Currently one tab appears in all simulations, the Research tab.

According to candidates and feedback from the AICPA, this area seems to be the major source of anxiety, concerns and complaints during actual testing situations.

On the Research tab, candidates are required to answer questions by researching the answer in a given database of material. This database differs based upon the exam section. In each exam the answer itself takes a different format. For example, a candidate may need to copy and paste multiple paragraphs – one at a time – and in another section only



one paragraph may be pasted. But in Regulation, candidates must type in the answer and may not use the copy and paste function.

30% of your exam grade is too much to risk by not being completely familiar with the format and functionality of simulations. Becker CPA Review offers the most exam-like software available to prepare you for success. For more information, please visit beckerCPA.com or call 1-877-CPA-EXAM.