

ABCo USA Inc

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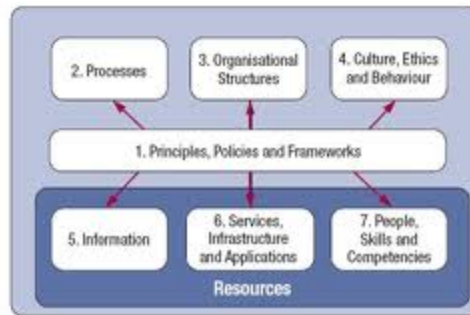
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How to prepare and pass CGEIT Exam.

Writer has appeared in exam, results are not announced. Regardless of ability to pass, the writer feels confident.



COBIT 5 Enablers



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How to prepare and pass (?) CGEIT Exam

1. First, You have to have a drive and urge to love IT Governance as a way, and only way, to improve IT operations. Most important framework in this area, I believe, is Cobit 5. Its not ITIL, PRINCE2, TOGAF, DoDAF, CMMI, Agile and/or any other. In my case, I stumbled upon it, invested a lot of my time, loved it, applied it and am fascinated to see the results everyday. I have not been able to land a big job so far, so be careful in using this as an advice.
2. Second, you want to improve your standing through certifications and ready to work hard on in depth Cobit 5 study. I believe, a professional training can multiply your efforts but cannot replace. In my case, I did not go through any professional advice. Just fell in love and used it practically in my small business scenarios and results were so amazing that I kept going.
3. Third, If you need it as part of your job. Company gives you training and then you get lots and lots of question/answer sheets and you do them over and over. Honestly, I am not sure how you can gain enough confidence this way as exam is about practical scenarios with complex business needs, enablement options and action variations. One cannot go through all possible scenarios (questions). I find this very hard but above all, if it does not make you fall in love with the thing, not sure how effectively you can use it. If talking terminology inside your professional circle can help, go for it.
4. Forth, very important, "Find what you love and let it kill you". It almost or has already killed my chances for CGEIT so be very careful. Once you are in love, you really like to play deep. Sitting in an exam, you do not have liberty to do that. This is where practice with lots and lots of questions can help you achieve efficiency needed to complete questions in allotted time.
5. Fifth, when someone has extensive experience dealing with all practical scenarios. This is is not-applicable as such an experienced person would not normally need a certificate in CGEIT.

Having said all that, here is my formula:

$A = E + E + I$, Where A is for action, first E for Element, 2nd E for Enabler, and I for Implementation.

Running an IT Organization is about taking specific and most appropriate action that matches a particular situation. All situations involve one of five Cobit-5 elements supported by one of seven most suitable Cobit-5 enablers. Exception to this rule is, when action is only about implementation sequence. In which case, both Element and Enabler are missing and scenario is about sequence of things at implementation.

All CGEIT questions are about scenarios in IT Organization or its parent Corporate Environment. Out of four choices, always two are clearly wrong and rest of the two can be resolved based on specificity (PRIMARILY assigned, FIRST, MAIN reason, BEST choice) of action. As I said, one must have already fallen in love for Governance Practices so, finding the two wrong becomes fairly easy. Rest of the two are a bit harder but understanding action and specificity always makes it quite obvious.

I cannot put specific questions from ISACA Manuals for copyright reasons, I however try something to clarify my point.

Question 1: Which of the following “A-action” should “specifically” be done with “E2-enabler”.

- A. Specific action-1
- B. Specific action-2
- C. Specific action-3
- D. Specific action-4

Scenario is about a “specific” “action” about E2. Here are the steps to resolve.

1. **Read only action and understand.** This will eliminate so many other things in your mind, even residual thoughts from previous questions. Understand that every action is unique just like a practical situation. Getting rid of all previous thoughts is important. Reading action only will help you get to the mindset of the new question. If your mind is still stuck somewhere (about previous question), repeat this step until it becomes an overriding thing in your mind. Read only action, excluding enabler is important. Another important aspect is that the question is almost all the time about “action”. It is important to know action before thinking enabler.
2. **Read action combined with Enabler-2 without specificity.** Now almost all the times the enabler will have one of Cobit5 processes (37 processes) in context. That gives indication of missing E1 (the Element). It tells a lot if the question is at governance level (EDM), Planning level (APO), building things (BAI), running services (DSS) or evaluation (MEA). It also leads to E1 (the element not mentioned in the question, Value Delivery, Strategic Alignment, Risk Management, Resource Management, Performance Measurement). This second read really sets the whole “high level” scenario in place (without specificity). That is all you need to reject two obvious wrong options.
3. **Read all four options and reject two wrong ones.** If you try to select one out of two remaining, they will appear very close and hard to decide. It will appear that both are applicable and true.
4. **Read specificity.** The moment you read it, the most appropriate option out of two will magically become obvious and you will say, “oh, I love it”.

5. If the genie still does not come out of the bottle, think of element E1 and related enabler process together one more time and the magic will definitely occur. It might consume more time, which is important.
6. Now all this is at the expense of time. The best I could do was 1 minute and 10 seconds. If you run questions repeatedly before exam then your mind will really resolve it in 2 steps instead of 4. It happened to me in most of the cases but not all the time so I remained tight. As I said, by this time I do not know if I will pass.

Question 2: Action with E1 (Element) without Enabler. These are fairly simple if love of IT Governance has already occurred and you know very well its fundamental cause of Delivering value leveraging rest of four elements with appropriate importance.

Question 3: Implementation questions. Most time consuming are the ones that involve enablers and they are I guess over 85% for understandable reasons. You cannot implement something until you understand the complexity of the needed thing and available enablers. Implementation, however, is not that simple either. Cobit 5 implements a continuous improvement process with proper steps in each improvement cycle. To me you cannot get it without going through Cobit5 implementation guide. I have done only this way but you can try without. Another important thing is Cobit 5 Capability Maturity Model which helps in implementation. It is important to go through this for complete love story. You might live without it risking a few questions.

Note: Cobit 5 has another important guide on Information Enablement. It is a lovely document if you want to change your perceptions on Database Management. For CGEIT, you might go without it if some fundamental understanding of data governance is there. This however, might change in near future keeping in view the increased focus on BIGDATA. For now, ISACA/CGEIT appears to be less concerned with data related decisions. I do not agree but that is what I found. Be careful though as situation is changing in the industry rapidly and ISACA revises its publications each year.