Interpreting CPA Examination Results

The following information is designed to help you interpret your performance on the Core module examination.

OVERALL PASS/ FAIL RESULT – If you achieved a "Pass with distinction", a "Pass" or a "Marginal pass", you are eligible to proceed to the next module of the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP). If you received a FAIL, you are allowed to rewrite the next offering of the examination without repeating the module. You will be required to repeat the module prior to a third attempt at the module examination.

This overall result is based on:

- how you performed on the case portions of the examination; and
- how you performed as compared to a **competency profile and fair pass mark** set by the Board of Examiners.

Overall Result	Next Steps
Pass with distinction	You are eligible to proceed to the next module of the CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP)
Pass	You are eligible to proceed to the next module of the CPA PEP
Marginal pass	You are eligible to proceed to the next module of the CPA PEP
Fail	You are allowed to rewrite the next offering of the examination without repeating the module. You will be required to repeat the module prior to a third attempt of the module examination. See *Examination Appeals* for an additional option.

FEEDBACK BY EXAMINATION PORTION –The transcript also provides information with respect to *your performance*, by specific competency area as compared to the *group* of candidates on the **same sitting** of the examination. This feedback information is **not** comparable to other sittings and it is **independent of the fair pass decision**. *Your performance* in each relevant technical competency area (i.e. Financial Reporting; Strategy and Governance; Management Accounting; Audit and Assurance; Finance; and Taxation) is indicated by the shading of the assessed level for each area. This can be compared to the *group performance,* which represents the percentage of candidates that attained each competency level for this examination.

Please note that all competency areas are not assessed on every examination, and therefore you may not receive feedback on all technical competency areas.

Weighting of Competency Areas

Keep in mind the coverage (%) of each competency area when interpreting your results.

Performance

Performance on each competency area of each case has been assessed in one of the following levels:

Performance Levels	Definitions
Not Addressed [1]	*A response that failed to address the issue*
Nominal competence[1]	*A response with very little "value" added; a failing response*
Reaching competent	*A reasonable attempt, but one that lacks an essential element of the board's expectations and therefore shy of being assessed Competent*
Competent	*A response that meets the expectations, as defined by the Board of Examiners for Core*
Competent with distinction	*A response that provides additional information or insight, beyond the expectation set for Core.*

1 reported as "Not competent' on the transcript

Each candidate is judged in relation to pre-established expectations of what an entry-level CPA is able to perform by the end of Core 1 or Core 2, as applicable. Before the opening of the marking centre the evaluation guide for each case is reviewed and applied to randomly selected candidate responses to test the pre-established passing profile, and make necessary adjustments.

<u>In setting the passing profile, the following factors are considered:</u>

- The level of difficulty of the examination questions.
- The design and application of the marking guide.
- Comments from markers regarding any marking difficulties encountered or any time constraints noted.
- Possible ambiguity of wording in the case.

FOR FAILING CANDIDATES ONLY:

Examination results appeals

- Candidates who receive an **Overall Result** of **Fail** may appeal. Candidates may only apply for a review of their entire examination results, not individual cases.

Decile Ranking Provided for Failing Candidates

A grouping of 1 to 10 will appear, for failing candidates only, at the top of the transcript. This means that failing candidates are classified in one of ten groupings with the lowest number being closest to the passing standard and the highest number being furthest away. The decile ranking is provided to help candidates decide if they should appeal. The higher the decile ranking, the further away the candidate is from the passing standard and therefore the lower the chance of a change in status on appeal.

Before submitting your request, please note the following:

- An appeal does not provide any additional feedback on your result; it does ensure that you received credit for all competencies demonstrated.
- After original results were recorded, the cases were marked again for candidates whose performance was within a set range of the passing standard. Any differences between the first and second marking was arbitrated by a third marker, ensuring fairness in marking the candidates' responses around the passing standard.

The following procedures are applied to an appealed result:

- Competency-based assessment is applied. A change to the assessment is made only if one or more of the following errors occurred. The marker:
  - misapplied the marking guidelines
  - failed to consider a relevant section of the candidate's response (e.g. the markers missed a relevant discussion somewhere, etc.)
  - exhibited poor application of judgment

Candidates appealing their examination results must forward their request to the Board of Examiners through their provincial body within three business days from results release. Appeals requests will be handled:

- For CPA West candidates, through the My CPA portal.
- For Ontario candidates, through the My CPA portal.
- For Quebec candidates, email: examens@cpaquebec.ca
- For International candidates, email: KScarlett@cpacanada.ca
- For CPA Atlantic, email: programs@cpaatlantic.ca

If an appeal is successful, the fee will be refunded.

Appeals results will be released as they become available.