No. 160

CERTIFICATION GUIDE

ISACA AAIA Study Guide

A plain-language guide to Advanced in AI Audit



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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to use this guide

What this guide covers, who it is for, and how to use it.

ISACA Advanced in AI Audit (AAIA) is an advanced credential for auditors who give assurance over AI: its governance, its operations and how it is tested. It builds on an existing audit credential such as CISA.

This guide explains AAIA in plain language: exam facts, the three domains with diagrams, a fairness test example, a study plan, original practice questions and exam-day advice.

What this guide is, and is not

- An independent study companion written in its own words.
- **Not** official ISACA material; it does not reproduce exam questions or the content outline.
- Use ISACA's official exam content outline as your checklist.

Who this guide is for

- **IT and internal auditors** asked to audit AI.
- **CISA holders** adding AI expertise.
- **Risk and compliance professionals** working with auditors.

How the guide is organized

- **Part I — The certification** (Chapters 1–6): what AAIA is, format, domains, prerequisites and a plan.

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- **Part II — Governance and operations** (Chapters 7–21): Domains 1 and 2.
- **Part III — Audit tools and techniques** (Chapters 22–32): Domain 3.
- **Part IV — Exam success** (Chapters 33–39): practice questions, exam day and next steps.
- **Reference**: checklists, glossary and further reading.

Callouts

TIP
Practical study and exam advice.

IN PRACTICE
How a concept looks in a real AI audit.

WATCH OUT
Common traps and misunderstandings.

KEY IDEA
The one thing to remember from a section.

A note on screens

Screens are **illustrations**, not real ISACA exam screens or product screens.

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PART I

The certification

These chapters explain what AAIA is and how to prepare.

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CHAPTER 1

What AAIA is

Auditing AI.

A definition

AAIA validates the ability to evaluate AI governance and risk, understand how AI systems are built and run, and apply audit tools and techniques to AI.

The auditor's mindset

The exam assumes you already know how to audit; it tests applying that discipline to AI. Independence, evidence and criteria still rule.

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CHAPTER 2

Exam format

The exam.

Item	Detail
Prerequisite	active CISA or another ISACA-approved credential
Questions	90 multiple choice
Time	150 minutes
Passing score	450 on a 200-800 scale
Delivery	PSI test centre or remote proctoring
Launched	2025

Figure 2.1 AAIA at a glance

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CHAPTER 3

The domains

Three domains.

Domain	Weight
1 AI Governance and Risk	33%
2 AI Operations	46%
3 AI Auditing Tools and Techniques	21%

Figure 3.1 AAIA domains

WATCH OUT

AI Operations is nearly half the exam and the least familiar to many auditors; give it the most time.

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CHAPTER 4

Prerequisites

Prerequisites.

You need an active qualifying credential, such as CISA; ISACA also accepts certain other audit designations, so check its current list. Candidates may be able to sit the exam first, but the certification is awarded only once the prerequisite is in place.

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RISE with SAP Security
Ransomware and Incident Response for SAP
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