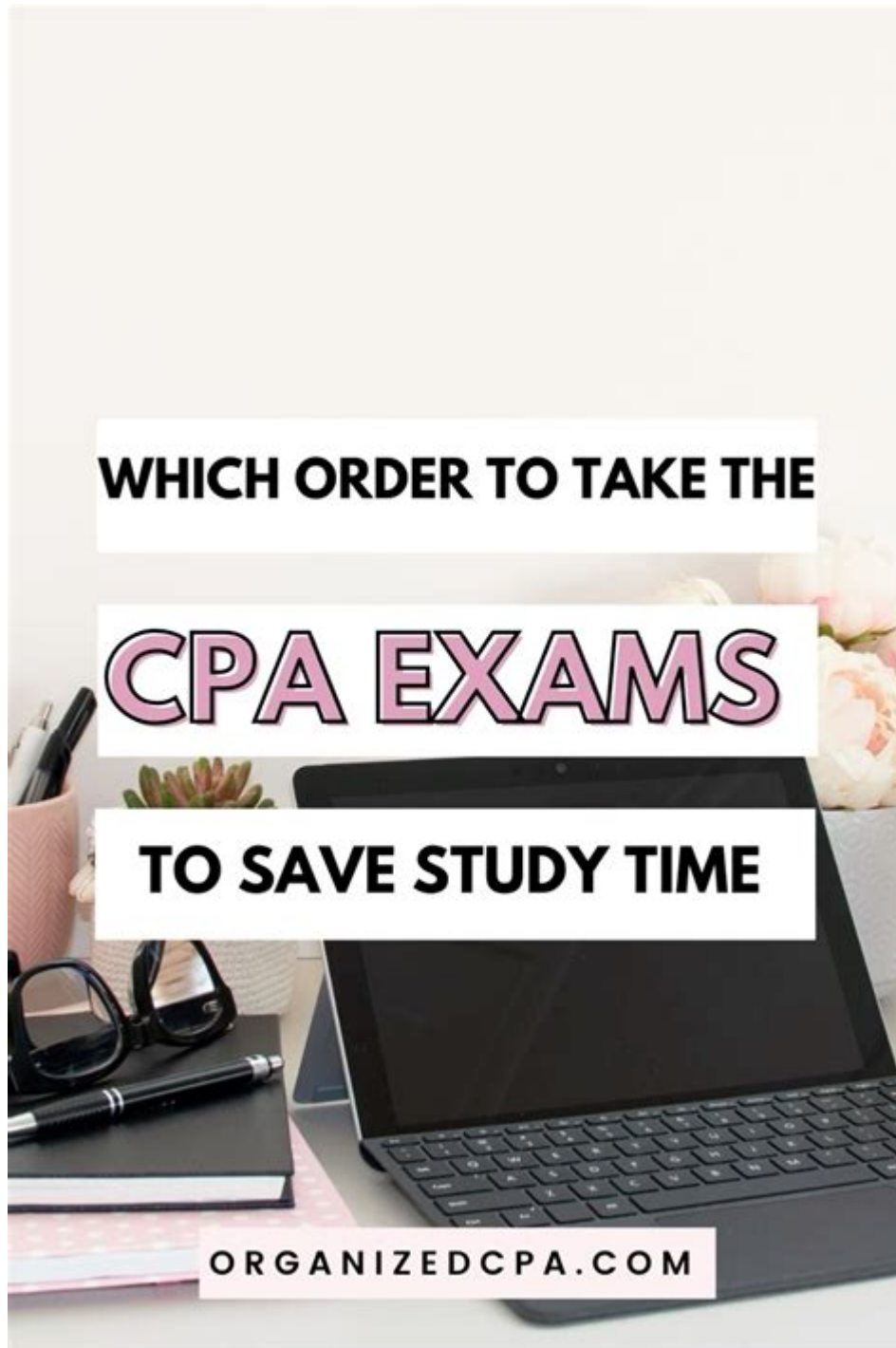# Best Order To Take Cpa Exams Reddit

Best order to take CPA exams Reddit discussions often center around the most effective strategies to tackle the CPA exam sections. The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) credential is a significant milestone for professionals in the accounting field. The CPA exam consists of four sections: Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Business Environment and Concepts (BEC), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), and Regulation (REG). Each section is distinct in content and format, and the order in which you take them can greatly influence your success. In this article, we will explore the best order to take the CPA exams based on insights from Reddit discussions and expert recommendations.

Understanding the CPA Exam Structure

Before diving into the best order to take the CPA exams, it's essential to grasp the structure and content of each section. This understanding will help you make an informed decision about the sequence in which to take the exams.

1. Auditing and Attestation (AUD)

AUD focuses on the auditing process, including the planning, execution, and reporting of audits. It covers topics such as:

- Audit planning and risk assessment
- Internal controls
- Evidence and documentation
- Audit reports

2. Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)

BEC addresses the broader business environment and its implications for accounting. Key topics include:

- Corporate governance
- Economic concepts and analysis
- Financial management
- Information technology

3. Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)

FAR is often considered the most challenging section due to its extensive content. It includes:

- Financial statements and reporting
- Transactions and events
- Accounting standards
- Governmental and not-for-profit accounting

4. Regulation (REG)

REG covers the legal aspects and regulations impacting the accounting profession. Important areas include:

- Ethics and professional responsibilities
- Business law
- Federal taxation

Factors Influencing the Order of CPA Exams

When considering the best order to take CPA exams Reddit users often highlight several factors that can affect the decision. These include personal strengths, content overlap, and scheduling considerations.

1. Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

Every candidate has unique strengths and weaknesses. If you excel in certain areas, it may be beneficial to tackle those sections first. For example:

- Candidates strong in auditing might choose AUD as their first exam.
- Those comfortable with taxation could start with REG.

2. Content Overlap

Some sections have overlapping content, and taking them in a particular order can help reinforce your knowledge. For instance:

- BEC provides foundational knowledge that can be useful for FAR.
- FAR includes topics relevant to REG, particularly regarding corporate taxation.

3. Scheduling and Time Management

Consider your availability and study schedule. If you have a busy period approaching, you might want to take a less intensive section first. Also, each section requires a different amount of study time:

- AUD: Approximately 200–300 hours
- BEC: Approximately 150–250 hours
- FAR: Approximately 300–400 hours
- REG: Approximately 200–300 hours

Popular CPA Exam Order Recommendations

Based on insights gathered from Reddit discussions and expert opinions, several popular sequences emerge for the best order to take CPA exams.

1. FAR → AUD → REG → BEC

Many candidates recommend starting with FAR due to its extensive content and foundational nature. Here's a breakdown of this order:

- FAR: Begin with the most challenging section while your study habits are fresh.
- AUD: Follow up with AUD, which builds on some FAR concepts.
- REG: Next, tackle REG, as it often feels more manageable after the previous two.
- BEC: Finally, end with BEC, which many find less intensive and more

straightforward.

2. BEC → FAR → AUD → REG

An alternative recommendation is to start with BEC to build confidence before facing the tougher sections:

- BEC: Eases you into the exam format and helps familiarize you with exam strategies.
- FAR: Next, take on the heavy content of FAR while the concepts from BEC are still fresh.
- AUD: Move to AUD, which has some overlap with FAR.
- REG: Finish with REG, which can be less overwhelming after the prior sections.

3. AUD → REG → FAR → BEC

Some candidates prefer to tackle auditing first due to their familiarity with it:

- AUD: Starting with AUD can give a solid grounding in the audit process.
- REG: Proceed to REG, which also relies on concepts from AUD.
- FAR: Follow up with FAR, which can be easier after understanding the regulatory environment.
- BEC: Conclude with BEC, allowing for a lighter final exam.

Tips for Preparing for the CPA Exams

Regardless of the order you choose, effective preparation is key to success. Here are some tips to enhance your study efforts:

1. Create a Study Schedule

- Allocate specific times each week for study sessions.
- Break down the material into manageable sections.
- Set milestones and goals for each week.

2. Use Quality Study Materials

- Invest in reputable CPA review courses.
- Utilize textbooks, practice questions, and study groups.

3. Practice with Real Exam Questions

- Familiarize yourself with the exam format through practice exams.
- Focus on multiple-choice questions and simulations to build confidence.

4. Stay Consistent and Avoid Burnout

- Study regularly rather than cramming.
- Take breaks and engage in activities that help you relax.

5. Seek Support

- Join online forums and study groups for motivation and advice.
- Connect with other CPA candidates on platforms like Reddit for shared experiences and tips.

Conclusion

Determining the best order to take CPA exams Reddit discussions highlight the importance of personal strengths, the interrelationship of exam content, and strategic scheduling. While there is no one-size-fits-all answer, the popular sequences discussed above provide valuable guidelines. Ultimately, the best approach is one that aligns with your study habits, strengths, and professional goals. By preparing effectively and choosing a thoughtful order, you can navigate the CPA exam journey with confidence and achieve your certification. Remember to stay motivated, seek support, and maintain a balanced study routine. Good luck!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the recommended order to take CPA exams according to Reddit users?

Many Reddit users suggest starting with the FAR exam first, as it covers a broad range of topics and forms the foundation for other sections. After FAR, a common sequence is AUD, REG, and finally BEC.

Why do some CPA candidates prefer taking the AUD exam before REG?

Some candidates find that the AUD exam is easier to approach after FAR because it has a more straightforward structure, while REG involves more complex tax laws and regulations, which can be more challenging.

How do I decide the best order for my CPA exams based on my strengths?

Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses in accounting subjects. If you're strong in audit, consider taking AUD first. If tax law is your strength, starting with REG may be beneficial. Personalizing your order can enhance your chances of success.

Is it better to take CPA exams back-to-back or spread them out?

Many Redditors advise spreading the exams out to allow time for studying and retaining information. However, if you can handle the pressure, some candidates choose to take them back-to-back to stay in 'exam mode' and maintain momentum.

What are common pitfalls to avoid when planning the order of CPA exams?

Common pitfalls include underestimating the time required to study for each section, not considering personal study habits, and failing to account for the exam schedule and any personal commitments. Avoid rushing into the next exam without adequate preparation.

How do study materials influence the order in which I should take CPA exams?

Study materials and their availability can greatly influence your order. If you have access to comprehensive materials for a particular exam, it may be advantageous to take that exam first. Additionally, some materials may align better with your current knowledge base.

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