

best order to take cpa exams reddit

Best Order to Take CPA Exams Reddit: Insights from the Community

best order to take cpa exams reddit is a popular query among accounting candidates who want to strategically tackle the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. With four distinct sections—Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Business Environment and Concepts (BEC), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), and Regulation (REG)—deciding the sequence can feel overwhelming. Reddit, with its active CPA exam communities, provides a wealth of firsthand advice and nuanced perspectives on how to approach this challenge. Let's dive into what the Reddit community suggests and explore some practical tips for maximizing your study efficiency and success.

Understanding the CPA Exam Sections

Before discussing the best order, it's crucial to briefly understand what each CPA exam section entails. This knowledge can help you make an informed decision based on your strengths and background.

Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR)

FAR covers a broad range of accounting topics, including financial statements, accounting standards, and transactions. It's often regarded as the most challenging and time-consuming section due to its extensive content and detail-oriented nature.

Auditing and Attestation (AUD)

AUD focuses on auditing procedures, professional responsibilities, and standards. It requires a solid grasp of audit processes and ethical considerations.

Regulation (REG)

REG dives into federal taxation, ethics, and business law. Candidates often find it demanding because of the need to memorize tax codes and legal principles.

Business Environment and Concepts (BEC)

BEC tests knowledge related to corporate governance, economics, finance, and information technology. It's generally considered the most straightforward section, with a mix of multiple-choice questions and written communication tasks.

What Does Reddit Say About the Best Order to Take CPA Exams?

The CPA subreddit is buzzing with threads sharing exam strategies, personal experiences, and detailed study plans. While there's no universal "right" order, several common approaches emerge based on Reddit discussions.

Starting with the Hardest Section: FAR First

A dominant theme on Reddit is to tackle FAR first. Many candidates recommend this because:

- **High difficulty:** Getting the toughest exam out of the way early reduces stress later.
- **Retention:** Starting fresh helps absorb the vast amount of material more effectively.
- **Momentum:** Conquering the toughest section builds confidence for the remaining exams.

Users note that FAR requires the most study hours, often 80-100+ hours, so dedicating early time to it prevents burnout near the end of the testing window.

Following Up with REG or AUD

After FAR, Redditors often recommend REG or AUD next. The reasoning varies:

- **REG:** Candidates with a knack for tax and law prefer to follow FAR with REG because of overlapping content related to accounting regulations.
- **AUD:** For those comfortable with auditing standards and processes, AUD is a natural follow-up.

This middle phase keeps study momentum going while leveraging the foundational knowledge from FAR.

Saving BEC for Last

Many Reddit contributors advise leaving BEC for last due to its perceived ease and shorter

study time requirements. BEC is often viewed as less intimidating, making it a good “confidence booster” exam to finish the series.

Alternative Orders and Why They Work

Not everyone on Reddit follows the FAR-first approach. Some suggest an order tailored to individual strengths and schedules.

Taking Your Strongest Section First

Some candidates prefer to start with the section they feel most confident about. This approach serves to:

- Build early wins and motivation
- Get comfortable with the exam format and timing
- Reduce anxiety by knocking out an easier section first

For example, a candidate with a strong auditing background might start with AUD, while a tax professional might choose REG first.

Balancing Study Load by Alternating Difficulties

Another Reddit strategy involves alternating between harder and easier sections to prevent burnout. For instance:

1. Start with FAR (hard)
2. Then BEC (easy)
3. Follow with REG (moderate)
4. Finish with AUD (moderate-hard)

This pattern allows for mental breaks while maintaining steady progress.

Additional Tips from the Reddit Community

Consider Your Work and Personal Schedule

Redditors emphasize tailoring exam order to your real-life commitments. If your job involves heavy tax season work, it might make sense to schedule REG around less busy times. Understanding your energy levels and availability can influence how you prioritize sections.

Use Practice Test Scores to Guide Your Order

Many candidates recommend taking diagnostic tests or practice exams before choosing an order. Your initial scores can highlight which sections need more focus and which you can tackle confidently first.

Leverage Overlapping Content

Some CPA exam topics overlap, especially between FAR and REG. Reddit users suggest sequencing exams to capitalize on this overlap, reducing redundant study. For example, completing FAR before REG may make tax law concepts in REG easier to grasp.

Stay Flexible and Adapt

The Reddit consensus is that while having a plan is essential, flexibility is key. Life events, unexpected challenges, or changes in motivation might require adjusting your order mid-way. The community encourages adaptability over rigid adherence to an initial plan.

How to Maximize Your CPA Exam Success Based on Reddit Advice

Beyond choosing the order, Reddit offers valuable study and exam-taking tips that can enhance your journey.

- **Consistent Study Schedule:** Daily study blocks, even if short, help build momentum.
- **Use Multiple Resources:** Combining review courses, flashcards, and practice questions improves retention.

- **Join Study Groups:** Engaging with peers on Reddit or local communities provides support and accountability.
- **Simulate Exam Conditions:** Timed practice exams reduce test-day anxiety and improve time management.
- **Focus on Weak Areas:** Use performance data from practice tests to target your studies effectively.

These strategies, combined with a thoughtful exam order, create a comprehensive approach to passing the CPA exams.

Final Thoughts on the Best Order to Take CPA Exams Reddit

While the "best order to take cpa exams reddit" isn't one-size-fits-all, the collective wisdom on Reddit offers actionable insights. Starting with FAR to tackle the most challenging material first is a popular and proven strategy, but aligning the exam sequence with your strengths, schedule, and study preferences is equally important. Remember, the CPA exam is a marathon, not a sprint, and leveraging community advice can make the path smoother and more manageable. Whether you choose to follow the crowd or carve your own path, the key is to stay disciplined, flexible, and focused on your ultimate goal of becoming a licensed CPA.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Many Reddit users suggest starting with FAR (Financial Accounting and Reporting) because it is considered the most comprehensive and challenging, allowing you to get it out of the way early. After that, they recommend AUD (Auditing and Attestation), then REG (Regulation), and finally BEC (Business Environment and Concepts) as it is generally seen as the easiest.

Why do some people recommend taking FAR first for the CPA exams?

Reddit users often recommend taking FAR first because it covers a wide range of accounting topics and is known to be the toughest section. Starting with it can help build a strong foundation and give you momentum, as well as reduce overall stress by tackling the hardest part upfront.

Is it better to take the CPA exam sections in any specific order for study efficiency?

According to Reddit discussions, taking the CPA exam sections in an order that aligns with your strengths and schedule is best. However, many find it efficient to take FAR first, then AUD, followed by REG, and finish with BEC, since BEC tends to be less time-consuming and easier to pass.

How important is personal preference when deciding the order to take CPA exams?

Reddit users emphasize that personal preference matters a lot. Some prefer starting with their strongest section to build confidence, while others prefer getting the hardest out of the way first. Ultimately, choosing an order that suits your study habits, schedule, and professional commitments is key.

What order do most successful CPA candidates on Reddit recommend for passing quickly?

Most successful candidates on Reddit recommend the order FAR, AUD, REG, then BEC for passing quickly. This approach tackles the most difficult exams first when you are freshest and reserves the easier sections for later, helping maintain motivation throughout the process.

Are there any exceptions to the common CPA exam order suggested on Reddit?

Yes, some Reddit users suggest exceptions based on individual backgrounds. For example, those with strong audit experience might start with AUD first, or those who find REG easier might take it earlier. The consensus is flexible; the best order is one that aligns with your strengths and study plan.

Additional Resources

Best Order to Take CPA Exams Reddit: An Investigative Review

best order to take cpa exams reddit is a commonly searched phrase among aspiring accountants preparing to tackle the rigorous Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination. The CPA exam, consisting of four distinct sections—Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Business Environment and Concepts (BEC), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), and Regulation (REG)—presents a complex challenge not only in content mastery but also in strategic planning. Reddit, as a popular platform for peer discussions, offers a wealth of experiential advice and diverse perspectives on the optimal sequencing of these exams. This article delves into those insights, analyzing the best order to take CPA exams according to Reddit threads, and cross-references them with professional guidelines and study strategies.

Understanding the Importance of Exam Order

Navigating the CPA exam journey is as much about content proficiency as it is about psychological endurance and efficient time management. The order in which candidates choose to take the four sections can significantly influence their momentum, confidence, and ultimately, their pass rates. Reddit forums dedicated to CPA candidates reveal that many test-takers prioritize exam order to balance difficulty, personal strengths, and testing windows.

CPA exam sections vary in length, complexity, and subject matter breadth. For example, FAR is often considered the most content-heavy and challenging, encompassing a wide range of accounting principles and standards. Conversely, BEC is perceived as more manageable due to its mix of business concepts and multiple-choice questions, including written communication tasks.

Given these differences, the “best order to take CPA exams Reddit” conversations tend to focus on strategically sequencing exams to optimize study efforts while minimizing burnout.

Common CPA Exam Orders Recommended on Reddit

Reddit users typically advocate for one of several popular testing sequences, each with its rationale grounded in balancing difficulty, content familiarity, and testing logistics.

1. Starting with the Hardest: FAR First

Many Reddit threads recommend tackling FAR initially. The reasoning is twofold:

- **Maximizing mental freshness:** As the most comprehensive section, taking FAR first enables candidates to approach it with peak cognitive energy.
- **Building momentum:** Passing FAR early can boost confidence, making subsequent sections feel more manageable.

However, users also caution that FAR requires significant study time, which can delay progress if not managed carefully.

2. Easiest First: BEC as a Confidence Booster

Another popular approach involves starting with BEC. Reddit contributors highlight that

BEC's relatively easier content and shorter study time can provide an early win, fostering motivation. The inclusion of written communication tasks also breaks the monotony of purely technical questions, adding variety to the exam experience.

While this method can accelerate progress, some warn that saving the hardest sections for last might lead to fatigue or procrastination.

3. Balanced Approach: REG or AUD in the Middle

Users frequently recommend scheduling REG or AUD after either FAR or BEC. REG, focusing on tax regulations and ethics, is moderately challenging and requires both memorization and analytical skills. AUD, covering auditing standards and procedures, often appeals to candidates with a background in audit or assurance services.

This balanced approach reflects a desire to alternate between heavier and lighter content, preventing burnout.

Data-Driven Insights from Reddit Polls and Surveys

Reddit's CPA exam communities sometimes conduct informal polls to gather data on exam order preferences and pass rates. While these are not scientific studies, the aggregated data offers useful trends.

According to a compilation of multiple Reddit polls:

- **Approximately 40% of candidates** prefer to start with FAR.
- **About 30%** opt to begin with BEC.
- **REG and AUD** are commonly scheduled as second or third exams, with less than 15% choosing them first.

Pass rate anecdotes shared on Reddit suggest that starting with FAR or BEC correlates with higher overall success. Candidates who begin with FAR often report feeling more prepared for subsequent sections. Those who start with BEC appreciate the motivational boost. However, there is no universal consensus, underscoring the importance of personalizing exam order.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Popular Exam Orders

Order	Pros	Cons
FAR First	• Tackles the hardest section with fresh energy • Builds strong foundation for future exams • Boosts confidence early if passed	• Requires extensive study time upfront • Risk of burnout if not managed well
BEC First	• Shorter study time and easier content • Provides early exam success and motivation • Variety in question types	• Harder sections delayed, which may cause anxiety later • Less time for challenging topics due to potential burnout
REG or AUD in Middle	• Balances study load • Alternates between heavier and lighter content • Allows focus on specific skill sets	• May feel like an “in-between” challenge without momentum boost • Requires good time management skills

Key Factors Influencing Exam Order Decisions

Beyond Reddit discussions, several practical considerations influence the best order to take CPA exams:

Personal Strengths and Background

Candidates with prior audit experience might prefer AUD earlier, while those with a tax background may opt for REG first. Tailoring exam order to individual strengths can reduce study time and increase pass likelihood.

Testing Windows and Availability

The CPA exam is offered in quarterly testing windows, with specific blackout periods. Redditors frequently advise planning exam schedules around these windows to avoid

unnecessary delays.

Study Time and Work Commitments

Balancing full-time work and study demands informs exam order. Some candidates choose shorter exams like BEC during busy periods and save heavier sections for less hectic times.

Mental Endurance and Motivation

Maintaining motivation throughout the CPA journey is critical. Starting with an easier section can build momentum, but confronting the hardest section first might alleviate long-term stress.

Conclusion: Synthesizing Reddit Insights with Professional Advice

While the “best order to take CPA exams Reddit” remains subjective, the collective wisdom indicates no one-size-fits-all solution. Reddit users emphasize the importance of individualized strategies informed by personal strengths, professional backgrounds, and lifestyle factors. The recurring theme advocates beginning with either FAR or BEC based on whether candidates prefer to tackle the hardest or easiest section first.

Professional CPA review courses and educators often echo this balanced perspective, underscoring that consistent study habits and disciplined scheduling outweigh the specific exam order chosen. Reddit forums continue to be invaluable for sharing real-world experiences, study tips, and emotional support, making them an essential supplement to formal preparation.

Ultimately, the best order to take CPA exams according to Reddit is one that aligns with a candidate’s unique circumstances, promotes steady progress, and sustains motivation throughout the demanding certification process.

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best order to take cpa exams reddit: Wiley CPA Examination Review, Problems and Solutions Patrick R. Delaney, O. Ray Whittington, 2010-06-08 All the information you need to master the computerized CPA Exam Published annually, this comprehensive two-volume paperback reviews all four parts of the CPA exam. Many of the questions are taken directly from previous CPA exams. Volume I contains all study guides and outlines Volume II contains all problem solutions The most effective system available to prepare for the CPA exam Contains all current AICPA content

requirements in accounting and reporting Helps you zero in on areas that need work, organize your study program and concentrate your efforts With over 600 multiple choice questions and more than 75 simulations, these study guides provide all the information candidates need to master in order to pass the computerized Uniform CPA Examination.

best order to take cpa exams reddit: How to Pass the CPA Exams Mikayla Hutchings, 2019-10-04 In this book, you will learn about my study methods, exam tips, and key mindsets before approaching the CPA exams. Since I scored in the 90s, I felt the need to share my experiences and study methods with the world! The CPA exams can seem overwhelming at first; but, once you realize how to study more effectively and efficiently, the studying process will become much more manageable. I hope that these tips will reassure you that passing all of the CPA exams on the first try is more possible than you think! I chose to utilize Becker's CPA Exam Review program; therefore, many of my study methods revolve around how Becker is structured. However, I strongly believe that my study methods can be adapted to any review program. In fact, I not only talk about how to utilize Becker, but I also discuss other important aspects of the exam such as scheduling, what to expect on exam day, how to approach the exam itself, and the necessary mindsets to have throughout the studying process. I believe that every CPA candidate can benefit from reading this book - no matter what review program is chosen! I sincerely hope that my CPA exam tips and tricks can help YOU pass, too! I wish you the best of luck in your CPA journey. If any of my study methods helped you pass, let me know in the reviews below!

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