GUIDELINE

Examination Integrity Guideline

Securing the validity of qualifying assessments in an AI-enabled era

DOCUMENT CODE
ICPA-GUI-001

VERSION
2026.1

EFFECTIVE
1 January 2026

International Commission for Professional Accreditation
Fremont, California, USA · www.i-cpa.org · info@i-cpa.org

Document Code	ICPA-GUI-001
Version	2026.1
Effective Date	1 January 2026
Review Cycle	Biennial
Document Owner	ICPA Examinations Working Group
Classification	Public

Assessment integrity is foundational to the credibility of any professional qualification. This guideline supports accredited bodies in designing, delivering, and defending qualifying examinations that withstand the new attack surface created by generative AI, remote proctoring, and global candidate mobility. The 2026 edition reflects a year of public consultation, peer review, and alignment with the International Standard for Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (ISO/IEC 17011:2017) and the International Education Standards (IES) framework. It supersedes all prior editions and remains in force until the next biennial revision.

1. Design principles

Assessments should be constructively aligned to learning outcomes, calibrated to the cognitive level claimed by the qualification, and designed to resist trivial automation. Item banks should be sufficiently large that no single item carries disproportionate weight, and items should be retired on a planned cycle.

2. Delivery modes

Accredited bodies may deliver examinations on-site in invigilated centres, remotely with live proctoring, or via hybrid models. Each mode carries a distinct risk profile and shall be supported by a documented threat model.

- On-site: identity verification, secure question delivery, controlled materials
- Remote: live human proctor, environment scan, locked-down browser, biometric matching
- Hybrid: well-defined transitions between modes, with re-identification at each

3. AI-era risks

Generative AI tools can answer many traditional examination items competently and silently. Accredited bodies should: shift weight toward authentic, scenario-based assessments; introduce viva voce components for high-stakes qualifications; ban personal devices in secure-mode delivery; and audit a sample of submissions for stylistic anomalies.

Banning AI tools is necessary but not sufficient. The strongest defence is assessment design that meaningfully tests judgement, not recall.

4. Incident handling

Suspected breaches shall be documented at the time, investigated promptly, and adjudicated under the body's published rules. Candidates are entitled to be heard before any adverse finding. Outcomes shall be logged centrally and reviewed annually for patterns.

5. Reporting to ICPA

Accredited bodies shall report the following to ICPA in their annual return: total examinations delivered, breach rate per thousand candidates, mean time to adjudicate, and the count of qualifications voided as a result of integrity breaches.

Approved by	Chair, ICPA Examinations Working Group
Issued by	International Commission for Professional Accreditation, Fremont, California, USA
Contact	info@i-cpa.org · www.i-cpa.org

© 2026 International Commission for Professional Accreditation. All rights reserved. This document is published for the international accreditation community and may be reproduced for non-commercial educational purposes with attribution.