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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD FOR AUDITORS**  
**EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**Official statement accompanying the release**  
**of the results of the**  
**Public Practice Examination (PPE)**  
**2009**

Johannesburg / 26 February 2010

**Overall results**

The Public Practice Examination (PPE) was written on 18 November 2009. Entry to the PPE is a culmination of a long and rigorous academic, training and assessment process aimed at developing the core and professional competence of prospective accountants and auditors. Success in the PPE allows candidates the opportunity to register as a Registered Auditor (RA) and a Chartered Accountant (CA).

The IRBA is proud to announce that of the **2798** candidates who wrote the 2009 PPE, **2320** passed resulting in a record pass rate of **83%**. Of the **1849** candidates who wrote for the first time, **1596** passed, representing a first time pass rate of **86%**.

All top ten candidates who achieved the top ten places were awarded honours for achieving a pass mark of 75% and over. The names of the top ten candidates are:

1	Mr Ruan Greef
2	Ms Carmen Lindsay Krull
3	Miss Tessa Alice Germishuizen
4	Ms Andrea Jane Osborne
5	Ms Cara Lee Botha
Joint 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Carel Johannes Malan Mr Akash Dowra Mrs Lisa Claire Beattie
Joint 7th	Ms Birte Schneider Ms Claudia Hein Ms Saadiya Adam
Joint 8th	Ms Freda Venter Ms Karine Kakoma
9	Mr Jacques van Ravesteyn
10	Mr James John De Smidt

A further 6 candidates were awarded honours.

**Transformation of the profession**

Transformation of the auditing profession remains a priority for the IRBA. Of the **1094** Black (African, Coloured and Indian) candidates who wrote the 2009 PPE, **849** passed, representing a pass rate of **78%**. This is the highest number of Black candidates to pass in the history of the examination.

In an endeavour to increase the number of Black auditors, the IRBA facilitates a programme for Black repeat candidates who have been unsuccessful in previous attempts to pass the PPE. The 2009 Support Programme was offered from June until November 2009. Of the **131** candidates who attended the programme and wrote the PPE, **104** passed, resulting in a pass rate of **79%**. Black, repeat candidates who did not attend the Support Programme achieved a pass rate of **75%**, thus indicating that the Support Programme offers repeat candidates an

improved chance of passing the PPE.

### **The examination objective**

The objective of the examination is to assess the professional competence of candidates at entry point to the auditing profession. In recent years, the IRBA has paid close attention to the assessment tool, in order to ensure that it is appropriate for this purpose and that it reflects the multi-disciplinary public practice environment.

The statutory auditor performs a very responsible function and the IRBA has a duty to ensure that only those who have demonstrated an appropriate degree of professional competence are registered as auditors. The examination, which aims to assess professional competence, takes the form of two, 2½ hour written assessments consisting of two scenarios reflecting the public practice environment. Candidates must demonstrate an ability to solve multi-disciplinary practical problems in an integrated manner and to do so must analyse and interpret information and provide viable solutions to address specific client needs. The ability to demonstrate logical thought and exercise professional judgement is an integral part of the examination.

### **Admission requirements**

Admission requirements to the PPE are onerous, requiring completion of a recognised academic and education programme. In addition, entrants must also have passed Part I of the Qualifying Examination of SAICA. Completion of the academic requirement under a full-time study programme ordinarily takes at least four years. Given the practical focus of the assessment, candidates are required to have served at least 18 months of a registered training contract in the service of a Registered Auditor before being admitted to write the PPE.

The minimum total duration of a training contract is three years, which usually follows the four-year period of full-time study. The period of qualification for most students is therefore at least seven years. The IRBA believes that this is in keeping with its duty to ensure that standards at entry point are maintained and that only those who are able to meet prescribed competency standards are registered as auditors. The qualification period is similar to that of other highly regarded professions and internationally recognised accounting bodies.

### **Conclusion**

The IRBA is confident that candidates who successfully demonstrated their professional competence in the 2009 PPE will contribute positively to the profession and the economy of South Africa. The IRBA also wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution made by the various educational institutions, training offices and professional bodies towards the success of the candidates.