



CANDIDATE Q&A ON THE ECBA EXAM



1. Why is IIBA updating the ECBA exam?

The Entry Certificate in Business Analysis (ECBA) exam is being updated to serve the IIBA global community's vision for a foundational exam in business analysis.

This vision is centered on the practical application of business analysis, equipping credential holders with job-ready competencies to contribute effectively, produce actionable outcomes, and make an impact within their organizations.

2. What is new with the ECBA?

The ECBA has been redesigned to enhance job readiness, making it more practical and aligned with real-world business analysis work. The updated ECBA:

- Features validated, industry-backed content reflecting the latest professional expectations
- Incorporates insights from IIBA's global business analysis community
- Serves as a resource for organizations aiming to establish a standardized approach to business analysis by equipping their teams with a structured and credible framework

3. Is the ECBA still recognized by employers?

Yes! The ECBA remains an industry-recognized credential, and these updates enhance its relevance. Employers value professionals who can apply business analysis concepts effectively, making ECBA credential holders even more in demand.

4. What has changed in the exam?

The exam updates ensure a stronger connection between business analysis knowledge and practical application:

- Greater emphasis on real-world situations to encourage critical thinking
- Stronger focus on the Business Analysis Core Concept Model (BACCM) concepts for a deeper understanding of business analysis
- Extended to 75 minutes, allowing candidates more time to read, process, and respond

5. What is the last day to take the current version of the exam in English?

The last day to take the current version is July 20, 2025, at 23:00 EST (UTC-4).

6. What is the first day to register for the new version of the exam in English?

Registrations for the new version of the exam will begin on July 21, 2025.

7. What is the last day to take the current version of the exam in a language other than English? (Standard French, Canadian French, Chinese, Japanese, or Brazilian Portuguese)?

The current version of the translated exams will continue to be available after July 21, 2025. We will communicate launch dates for translations of the new exam once the translation work has been completed and the content is ready for publication.

8. If a candidate has their ECBA exam scheduled after July 21, do they need to reschedule?

No, nothing changes with the exam booking. Candidates can proceed with their exams as scheduled, keeping in mind that all exam administrations in English will be on the new version beginning July 21.

Refer to the ECBA Certification Handbook for details.

9. Will candidates get exam results immediately with the exam that starts on July 21, 2025?

No. The updated exam will go through a passing standard study to define the score required to pass the exam. Once a statistically sufficient number of candidates have taken the new exam, a panel of subject matter experts will recommend the passing score. In collaboration with PSI, IIBA will then implement the approved passing score within its systems and automatic scoring will begin. Candidates will get their results beginning October 6, 2025.

Questions? Contact IIBA's Certification Team at info@iiba.org.

10. What are the main differences between the current exam and the new exam?

The main differences include the exam blueprint, question types, and reference materials. These differences are detailed below.

Current ECBA Exam Blueprint

50 Standard Multiple-Choice Questions

Key Reference Material:

- *A Guide to the Business Analysis Body of Knowledge (BABOK) Guide*

Knowledge Areas	Description	Percentage of Questions on the Exam
1	Business Analysis Planning and Monitoring	5%
2	Elicitation and Collaboration	20%
3	Requirements Life Cycle Management	20%
4	Requirements Analysis and Design Definition	25%
5	Business Analysis Knowledge	
	Business Analysis and the BA Professional	2.5%
	Business Analysis Key Concepts	5%
	Underlying Competencies	5%
	Techniques	17.5%

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New ECBA Exam Blueprint – Available beginning July 21, 2025

Question Types: Situation-Based and Standard Multiple-Choice Questions

Key Reference Material:

- *The Business Analysis Standard*
- *The BABOK Guide*

Domains	Description	Percentage of Questions on the Exam
1	Understanding Business Analysis	20%
2	Mindset for Effective Business Analysis	14%
3	Implementing Business Analysis	6%
4	Change	10%
5	Need	10%
6	Solution	10%
7	Stakeholder	10%
8	Value	10%
9	Context	10%

11. How can candidates prepare for the new ECBA?

Learners are encouraged to:

- Review the latest updates to ECBA candidate materials
- Participate in study groups and discussions within the IIBA community
- Practise with questions that emphasize situation-based reasoning
- Apply concepts in business settings to reinforce learning

12. What do candidates need to reference and study for the exam?

The sources for study are *The Business Analysis Standard* and *the BABOK Guide*.

- The *Standard's* BACCM framework, understanding and implementing business analysis, and mindset for effective business analysis are leveraged for the application of business analysis knowledge
- The knowledge areas and business analysis tasks from the *BABOK Guide* are organized and expressed through the exam's new content domains to address the practical application of the BACCM

13. What resources are available for focused study for the new ECBA exam?

- The Syllabus Map references specific sections of the *Standard* and the *BABOK Guide* for focused study.
- The Learning Outcomes document provides examples of how to perform the activities within each domain. Note that the learning outcomes are illustrative, not exhaustive, and are provided to help candidates demonstrate their competency in a given domain.
- The Sample Exam Questions demonstrate the situation-based and standard multiple-choice questions that make up the new exam.