Global AI Certification Council

ISO/IEC 27001

LEAD AUDITOR CERTIFICATION

Examination Content Outline
v1.1 | 11 June 2026

Global AI Certification Council
(GAICC)

GAICC-ECO-27001-LA-001

Examination Content Outline

GAICC Certified ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor

Standards: ISO/IEC 27001:2022, ISO 19011:2018, ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015
Accreditation reference: ISO/IEC 17024:2026 (Third Edition) · IAS AC474 (June 2024) · IAF MD25

Contents

This Examination Content Outline is the authority for item writing, blueprinting and the modified-Angoff standard-setting study for the GAICC ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor examination, and is read with the Structural Reference & Control Map (GAICC-REF-27001-001).

1 Purpose of this Examination Content Outline

This ECO defines what the GAICC ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor examination assesses: the competence to plan, lead and report ISMS audits under ISO 19011 and ISO/IEC 17021-1, evaluating conformity to ISO/IEC 27001:2022. It finalises version 0.9 against the standards and comparable benchmark schemes, and is read with the Structural Reference & Control Map (GAICC-REF-27001-001).

> This document is an original GAICC reference compiled from publicly available information and verified for accuracy against GAICC's licensed copy of the standard. It lists clause and control references and titles only; it does not reproduce the normative text of ISO/IEC 27001:2022, which must be obtained from ISO or an authorised reseller.

2 Target candidate and competence

The candidate can lead second-party and initial third-party ISMS audits at Stage 1 and Stage 2: audit-team leadership, programme management, evidence collection, findings classification, closing meetings and audit reporting — applying audit principles impartially and ethically.

3 Eligibility and formal training

GAICC certifications are developed in alignment with ISO/IEC 17024. Candidates for the GAICC ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor certification must meet the formal-training requirement below. Training contact hours are counted as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours.

Educational background	Professional experience	Formal training requirement
Open entry. Prior ISO/IEC 27001 Foundation knowledge is recommended.	Relevant audit experience recommended but not mandatory.	Completion of at least 32 contact hours of structured ISO/IEC 27001 lead-audit training delivered by GAICC-authorised providers or equivalent recognised institutions. Students can also fulfil this requirement by completing GAICC self-paced courses.

Training may be delivered online or in person and must be evidenced by a certificate of completion stating the provider, programme title, duration (contact hours) and completion date. Applications may be selected for audit to verify training documentation.

4 Domains and weightings

#	Domain	Weight	Items (of 60)
I	Audit Principles, ISO 19011 and Audit Programme Management	25%	15
II	Conducting the ISMS Audit	40%	24
III	Evaluating Conformity: Clauses 4–10 and Annex A Controls	20%	12
IV	Reporting, Nonconformities, Follow-up and Ethics	15%	9
	Total	**100%**	**60**

5 Domains, tasks and enablers

Each domain below sets out the tasks a Lead Auditor candidate is expected to perform and the illustrative enablers from which examination items are drawn. Enablers are indicative, not exhaustive.

Domain I Audit Principles, ISO 19011 and Audit Programme Management — 25%

Task	Illustrative enablers / examples
Apply the principles of auditing (ISO 19011).	Integrity, fair presentation, due professional care, confidentiality, independence, evidence-based approach, risk-based approach.
Manage an audit programme.	Objectives, risks and opportunities, resources, auditor competence, programme monitoring and review.
Distinguish audit types and the certification framework.	First-, second- and third-party audits; ISO/IEC 17021-1 certification process; Stage 1 and Stage 2.
Establish auditor competence and impartiality.	Competence criteria; conflicts of interest; impartiality and confidentiality of audit information.

Domain II Conducting the ISMS Audit 40%

Task	Illustrative enablers / examples
Plan and initiate the audit.	Audit plan, scope and criteria; document review; checklists; opening meeting.
Collect and verify audit evidence.	Interviews, observation, sampling; sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence; audit trails.
Audit the Statement of Applicability and risk process.	Verify risk assessment / treatment and SoA justification against Clause 6 and Annex A.
Identify and grade audit findings.	Conformity, nonconformity (major / minor), opportunities for improvement; evidence-based reasoning.
Communicate during the audit.	Auditee liaison; managing access and restrictions; on-site conduct; closing meeting.

Domain III Evaluating Conformity: Clauses 4–10 and Annex A Controls 20%

Task	Illustrative enablers / examples
Audit the management-system clauses (4–10).	Context, leadership, planning / risk, support, operation, performance evaluation, improvement.
Audit Annex A control implementation and effectiveness.	Verify selected controls across the four themes against the SoA and risk treatment.
Evaluate documented information and records.	Document and records control (Clause 7.5); integrity, availability, retention.

Domain IV Reporting, Nonconformities, Follow-up and Ethics 15%

Task	Illustrative enablers / examples
Prepare the audit report and conclusions.	Findings, conclusions, recommendations; draft and final report; certification recommendation.
Manage nonconformities and follow-up.	Corrective-action review and verification of effectiveness; audit closure.
Apply professional ethics and impartiality.	Conflict-of-interest management; confidentiality; cultural sensitivity; professional behaviour.

6 Examination structure

Attribute	Detail
Number of items	60 scored items (45 single-answer MCQ + 15 multi-answer)
Format	MCQ (4 options A–D); multi-answer (5 options A–E, select all that apply, no partial credit)
Duration	90 minutes
Delivery	Online AI-proctored or test-centre; closed book; randomised
Pass mark	70% scaled (provisional; to be confirmed by a modified-Angoff study)
Cognitive level	Predominantly Apply / Analyse / Evaluate; scenario-based

7 Benchmark note

Comparable Lead Auditor schemes organise the body of knowledge into seven domains spanning ISMS fundamentals, audit principles, audit preparation, conducting, closing and audit-programme management, grounded in ISO 19011 and ISO/IEC 17021-1. GAICC consolidates these into four domains weighted 25/40/20/15, aligned with the GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Auditor scheme.

8 Fees & Pricing

Examination, membership and renewal fees are published in the applicable GAICC Candidate Handbook and on the GAICC website (www.gaicc.org). To maintain a single source of truth, fee amounts are not reproduced in this Examination Content Outline.

About the Global AI Certification Council

The Global AI Certification Council (GAICC) develops vendor-neutral, role-anchored professional credentials, developed in alignment with ISO/IEC 17024 and maintained through transparent psychometric and continuing-education processes.

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Competence to plan, lead and report ISMS audits under ISO 19011 and ISO/IEC 17021-1, evaluating conformity to ISO/IEC 27001:2022.

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