GAICC

ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation

Examination Content Outline

This Examination Content Outline defines what the ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation examination assesses. Every scored item on every form traces to a task listed here. Candidates should treat it as the definitive statement of scope; anything not derivable from this outline is not examined.

Field	Value
Document ID	GAICC-ECO-FND42001-001
Version	1.2
Issued	30 October 2026
Credential	ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation
Subject standard	ISO/IEC 42001:2023, First edition, 2023-12
Scored items	40
Time allowed	60 minutes
Pass mark	70%
Scheme document	GAICC-SCH-FND42001-001
Fact authority	GAICC-QMS-FR-42001-001 (Standard Fact Register v1.0)

This document contains no fee information. Examination and membership fees are published in the Candidate Handbook and on certifications.gaicc.org, which is the single source of truth for fees. Training prices never appear in any GAICC certification document.

1. How to use this outline

The outline is organised into domains. Each domain contains tasks, and each task is supported by enablers that describe the knowledge required to perform it.

Element	What it means
Domain	A major area of competence. Its weighting fixes how many items it contributes to a form.
Task	Something the certified person can do. Items are written to tasks, never to topics in the abstract.
Enabler	The knowledge or evidence that makes the task performable. Enablers are illustrative, not exhaustive.
Clause reference	The ISO/IEC 42001:2023 clauses and Annex A controls the task draws on.

An item may address more than one enabler, but it is tagged to exactly one domain and one task for blueprint purposes.

2. Domains and weightings

Domain	Title	Weighting	Items
I	Fundamentals of AI Governance and the ISO/IEC 42001 Framework	40%	16
II	Core Components of the Artificial Intelligence Management System	40%	16
III	Responsible AI, Ethics and Stakeholder Awareness	20%	8
	TOTAL	100%	40

2.1 Cognitive depth

Items are distributed across cognitive levels as follows. This distribution reflects what the credential asserts about its holder: awareness and comprehension. The learner must be able to state what the standard requires, why an AI management system differs from other management systems, and where each requirement sits. They are not yet expected to design or judge an implementation.

Cognitive level	Share	Items
Remember	15%	6
Understand	35%	14
Apply	30%	12
Analyse	15%	6
Evaluate	5%	2

Difficulty. easy to hard, centre of gravity moderate. The permitted difficulty vocabulary is easy, moderate, hard and very-hard.

3. Domains, tasks and enablers

Domain I. Fundamentals of AI Governance and the ISO/IEC 42001 Framework

Property	Value
Weighting	40% (approximately 16 items)
Curriculum modules	M1, M2, M3
Clauses covered	1, 2, 3
Annex A coverage	A, B, C, D

Task I.1 Explain what an AI management system is and what problem it solves

Module M1 | Clauses 1

Task I.2 State the scope of ISO/IEC 42001 as set out in Clause 1

Module M1 | Clauses 1

Task I.3 Describe why AI systems present governance challenges that conventional controls do not address

Module M1 | Clauses 1

Task I.4 Identify the place of ISO/IEC 42001 within the ISO management system family

Module M1 | Clauses 1

Task I.5 Describe the certification lifecycle from application to recertification

Module M2 | Not clause specific

Task I.6 Distinguish accreditation from certification, and organisational certification from personnel certification

Module M2 | Not clause specific

Task I.7 Explain the purpose of Stage 1 and Stage 2 audits

Module M2 | Not clause specific

Task I.8 Identify what a major and a minor nonconformity mean

Module M2 | Not clause specific

Task I.9 State that Clause 2 contains exactly one normative reference and name it

Module M3 | Clauses 2, 3 | Annex A, B, C, D

Task I.10 Distinguish a normative reference from a SOURCE attribution and from a Bibliography entry

Module M3 | Clauses 2, 3 | Annex A, B, C, D

Task I.11 State that Clause 3 defines 26 terms as a flat list and identify the two terms original to ISO/IEC 42001

Module M3 | Clauses 2, 3 | Annex A, B, C, D

Task I.12 Identify which annexes are normative and which are informative

Module M3 | Clauses 2, 3 | Annex A, B, C, D

Task I.13 State that Annex A contains 38 controls across 9 control clauses with 10 objectives

Module M3 | Clauses 2, 3 | Annex A, B, C, D

Enablers

- What problem an AI management system solves that existing controls do not
- Scope of ISO/IEC 42001 (Clause 1) and what it deliberately excludes
- Why AI needs a management system: opacity, drift, data dependence, autonomy, distributed accountability
- The management system family and the harmonised structure (formerly Annex SL)
- The regulatory and assurance landscape the standard sits inside
- How management system certification works: accreditation, certification body, audit stages
- ISO/IEC 42006 and requirements for bodies auditing AI management systems
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 audits, surveillance and recertification
- Nonconformity grading and corrective action
- The distinction between organisational certification and personnel certification
- Clause 2: exactly one normative reference, ISO/IEC 22989:2022
- The difference between a normative reference, a SOURCE attribution and a Bibliography entry
- Clause 3: 26 defined terms, 3.1 to 3.26, a flat list with no groups
- The four SOURCE attributed terms and the two terms original to ISO/IEC 42001
- Annex status: A and B normative, C and D informative
- Annex A: 38 controls, 9 control clauses, 10 objectives, identifiers A.2.2 to A.10.4
- The harmonised structure and Clauses 4 to 10

Forward looking enablers

These are examined at awareness level and are reviewed at each scheme review so the credential does not go stale.

- Why conformity with ISO/IEC 42001 demonstrates organisational readiness, not conformity with any law
- Why a management system approach outlasts any single regulation
- ISO/IEC 42006 and what it changes for certification bodies auditing an AIMS
- Why the auditor competence question is unusually hard for AI
- How the ISO/IEC 22989 vocabulary evolves and why 42001 inherits it by reference rather than reprinting it
- The wider standards family: ISO/IEC 23894:2023 for risk, ISO/IEC 42005:2025 for impact assessment, ISO/IEC 42006:2025 for certification bodies

Domain II. Core Components of the Artificial Intelligence Management System

Property	Value
Weighting	40% (approximately 16 items)
Curriculum modules	M4, M5
Clauses covered	4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3
Annex A coverage	A.2, A.3

Task II.1 Describe what Clause 4.1 requires, including the climate change determination

Module M4 | Clauses 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Task II.2 Identify typical interested parties for an AI management system and their requirements

Module M4 | Clauses 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Task II.3 Explain what determines the scope of an AIMS under Clause 4.3

Module M4 | Clauses 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Task II.4 Describe the AI roles an organisation can hold and why role affects applicability

Module M4 | Clauses 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Task II.5 Describe what Clause 5.1 requires of top management

Module M5 | Clauses 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | Annex A.2, A.3

Task II.6 State what an AI policy must contain under Clause 5.2

Module M5 | Clauses 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | Annex A.2, A.3

Task II.7 Explain how roles, responsibilities and authorities are assigned under Clause 5.3

Module M5 | Clauses 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | Annex A.2, A.3

Task II.8 Identify the Annex A controls that support leadership requirements

Module M5 | Clauses 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | Annex A.2, A.3

Enablers

- Clause 4.1 external and internal issues, including the climate change determination
- Clause 4.2 interested parties and their relevant requirements
- Clause 4.3 determining the scope of the AI management system
- Clause 4.4 the AI management system itself and its processes
- AI roles as NOTE 1 to Clause 4.1 lists them: AI provider, AI producer, AI customer (including AI user), AI partner, AI subject, relevant authority
- How role determines which requirements and controls apply
- Clause 5.1 leadership and commitment
- Clause 5.2 the AI policy
- Clause 5.3 roles, responsibilities and authorities
- Controls A.2.2 AI policy, A.2.3 alignment with other organisational policies, A.2.4 review of the AI policy
- Controls A.3.2 AI roles and responsibilities, A.3.3 reporting of concerns
- The governing body (3.22) and its relationship to top management (3.3)

Forward looking enablers

These are examined at awareness level and are reviewed at each scheme review so the credential does not go stale.

- Governing body oversight of AI, as ISO/IEC 38507:2022 describes it

Domain III. Responsible AI, Ethics and Stakeholder Awareness

Property	Value
Weighting	20% (approximately 8 items)
Curriculum	M6, M7

Property	Value
modules	
Clauses covered	4.2, 6.1.4, 4, 5
Annex A coverage	A.5, A.9, A.2, A.3

Task III.1 Explain the difference between an ethical principle and a management system requirement

Module M6 | Clauses 4.2, 6.1.4 | Annex A.5, A.9

Task III.2 Describe what an AI system impact assessment considers under Clause 6.1.4

Module M6 | Clauses 4.2, 6.1.4 | Annex A.5, A.9

Task III.3 Identify the Annex A controls covering impact assessment and responsible use

Module M6 | Clauses 4.2, 6.1.4 | Annex A.5, A.9

Task III.4 Describe the common trustworthiness properties and why they can conflict

Module M6 | Clauses 4.2, 6.1.4 | Annex A.5, A.9

Task III.5 Apply Clauses 4 and 5 to a described organisation and produce an outline scope and policy position

Module M7 | Clauses 4, 5, 6.1.4 | Annex A.2, A.3, A.5, A.9

Task III.6 Identify the interested parties and their requirements for the case organisation

Module M7 | Clauses 4, 5, 6.1.4 | Annex A.2, A.3, A.5, A.9

Task III.7 Recognise nonconformities in a described AIMS against the clauses studied

Module M7 | Clauses 4, 5, 6.1.4 | Annex A.2, A.3, A.5, A.9

Task III.8 Consolidate Foundation knowledge in preparation for the certification examination

Module M7 | Clauses 4, 5, 6.1.4 | Annex A.2, A.3, A.5, A.9

Enablers

- What responsible AI means inside a management system, as distinct from ethical aspiration
- Clause 6.1.4 AI system impact assessment as a requirement
- Controls A.5.2 to A.5.5 on assessing impacts to individuals, groups and societies
- Controls A.9.2 to A.9.4 on responsible use of AI systems
- Fairness, transparency, explainability, robustness and safety as engineering properties, not slogans
- Where ISO/IEC 23894 and ISO/IEC 42005 supply method
- End to end application of everything covered so far to a single worked organisation
- From context and scope through policy and roles to a first impact assessment
- Identifying where the organisation is not yet conformant and what it would take

Forward looking enablers

These are examined at awareness level and are reviewed at each scheme review so the credential does not go stale.

- How ISO/IEC 42005:2025 guidance relates to the Clause 6.1.4 impact assessment
- Why fairness cannot be satisfied by a single metric

- A case set drawn from current deployment patterns including generative and assistive systems

4. Examination structure

Property	Value
Scored items	40
Format	40 single answer multiple choice with four options A to D
Time allowed	60 minutes
Pass mark	70%, confirmed per form by a modified Angoff standard setting study
Delivery	Online only, AI proctored on the GAICC hub (no test centre option)
Open book	No, closed book
Languages	English, other languages on request
Attempts	One attempt per registration, plus one free resit within 12 months of registration
Results	Provisional result on screen at completion; the Certification Decision Authority confirms the certification decision within 72 hours

5. Reference material

Candidates are expected to work from the standard itself and the GAICC course materials. The following are the references from which examinable content is drawn.

Reference	Status
ISO/IEC 42001:2023	The subject standard. Primary source for every item.
ISO/IEC 22989:2022	The single normative reference of ISO/IEC 42001. Vocabulary applies by reference.
ISO/IEC 23894	Guidance on AI risk management. Examined at awareness level only.
ISO/IEC 42005	Guidance on AI system impact assessment. Examined at awareness level only.
ISO/IEC 42006	Requirements for certification bodies. Context only.
GAICC course materials	Slides, class handouts and student workbook for this credential.

Candidates must obtain a licensed copy of any ISO standard they wish to read in full. GAICC materials do not reproduce the normative text.

6. Factual governance

Every item and every rationale is checked against GAICC-QMS-FR-42001-001 (Standard Fact Register v1.0) before it can appear on a form. The following facts are stated here because they were previously taught incorrectly in GAICC materials, and because they are commonly stated incorrectly across AI governance training generally.

Fact	Correct position
Clause 2 normative references	Exactly one: ISO/IEC 22989:2022
ISO 9000	Does not appear anywhere in ISO/IEC 42001:2023
ISO 31000 and ISO/IEC 27000	SOURCE attributions for terms 3.21 and 3.23, and Bibliography entries. Not normative references.
Clause 3 defined terms	26 terms, 3.1 to 3.26, a flat list with no groups
Annex A controls	38 controls, 9 control clauses, 10 objectives
Annex status	A and B normative; C and D informative
Control identifiers	A.2.2 to A.10.4. A.6.1 contains only A.6.1.2 and A.6.1.3.

No item may assert otherwise, including in its answer key or rationale. An item found to contradict the register is withdrawn, and every candidate whose result was affected is identified and remediated.

7. Revision history

Version	Date	Change
1.0	25 August 2026	Reissued against the corrected fact base. Tasks now trace to curriculum modules and clauses. Fee sections removed so that fees have a single source of truth.
1.1	12 October 2026	Reissued to match the corrected Foundation course. The outline names no law: the forward looking enablers on the EU AI Act, its role taxonomy and its impact assessment obligations are removed or reworded, and governing body oversight now cites ISO/IEC 38507:2022. The harmonised structure is described as formerly Annex SL. The AI roles follow NOTE 1 to Clause 4.1, including AI customer (including AI user). The wider standards family is cited with dates. Task numbering, domains and weightings are unchanged. Any item written to a removed or reworded line is withdrawn or rekeyed before the next form is assembled.
1.2	30 October 2026	Examination structure updated: delivery is online only, AI proctored on the GAICC hub, with no test centre option; each registration includes one attempt plus one free resit within 12 months of registration. Exam content, domains and weightings are unchanged.