Describe eight concerns evident from document A; and 1(a)(i) For each concern raised, provide an appropriate policy recommendation in terms of International Standard of Quality (a)(ii) Control 1 Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements. Use the following format for your answer, based on the example below: (ii) Appropriate policy recommendations Element Concern 'Promoting a culture of quality control' is not a Responsibility for development and Leadership arrangements clearly defined role. The scope of responsibilities documentation of the firm's quality control and underlying duties related to roles are policies and procedures should be undefined. assigned to a designated quality control officer. **Appropriate policy recommendations** Element Concern Marks Marks Leadership Example: Example: responsibilities 'Promoting a culture of quality control' Responsibility for development and documentation is not a clearly defined role. The scope of the firm's quality control policies and procedures for quality of responsibilities and underlying should be assigned to a designated quality control within the firm officer (ISQC 1.18). (ISQC 1.18 to duties related to roles are undefined. ISQC 1.19) Quality control officers should have the appropriate 1 Janine Werksmans (office manager) 1 1.1 level of experience and authority with respect to both is not of the appropriate level of the professional and regulatory obligations of the seniority to undertake the leadership firm (ISQC 1.19). of quality control at GMA. George Mwangi did not maintain 1 Appointed partners (George Mwangi) may delegate 2.1 specific functions and authority to other senior staff regular oversight of Janine Werksmans' (e.g., Janine Werksmans), but must retain quality control responsibility for their respective oversight roles responsibilities. (ISQC 1.18). The firm's chief executive officer (or equivalent) or if 2.2 appropriate, the firm's managing board of partners (or equivalent), which was George Mwangi, should have assumed ultimate responsibility for GMA's quality control (ISQC 1.18).

1

3.1

Delegating the responsibility for

quality control to a seemingly

unqualified office manager (Janine

1 © SAICA 2022

Individuals who take on specific responsibilities and

duties should be the most qualified and experienced

1

ITC JUNE 2022 PAPER 2 QUESTION 1

SUGGESTED SOLUTION

and		greater emphasis on fee generation and did not embed a formal process			the <u>acceptance and continuance of client</u> relationships and specific engagements, which	
Acceptance	7.	Seemingly George Mwangi placed	1	7.1	The firm should establish policies and procedures for	1
	6.	Given that ethical requirements responsibilities are assigned to inexperienced and unqualified individuals (e.g., the trainee accountant), there is no evidence that a formal disciplinary process for independence violations exist.	1	6.1	<u>Disciplinary policies</u> should be developed to promote compliance with independence policies and processes, and to report and address any <u>breaches</u> of independence requirements (ISQC 1.22 and ISQC 1.23).	1
	5.	Appropriate ethical procedures are not in place to satisfy the firm's independence requirements as the trainee accountant only performs the role to achieve the SAICA ethics competency requirements and trainee accounts are assignment to the same client for the duration of their time at the firm, which could cause a threat to objectivity.	1	5.1	Engagement partners should provide the firm with relevant information about client engagements to enable the firm to evaluate the overall impact on independence requirements., e.g., an ethics risk assessment should be prepared annually to ensure that all risks are identified and plans are in place to mitigate them (ISQC 1.22). At least annually, the firms shall obtain written confirmation of compliance with it policies and procedures on independence from all firm personnel required to be independent by relevant ethical requirements (ISQC 1.24).	1
Relevant ethical requirements (independence considerations) (ISQC 1.20 to ISQC 1.25)	4.	Werksmans) does not seem to convey the right 'tone at the top' that would convey that GMA promotes a strong culture of quality work and strong controls. It is unlikely that a trainee accountant, every 6 months, would have sufficient knowledge, experience, consistency and seniority to fulfil the role of ethics as part of the firm's quality control.	1	4.1	in both professional and regulatory obligations (ISQC 1.19). The firm, which includes a sole practitioner like George Mwangi, should appoint a person of sufficient experience and seniority within the firm with a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing threats to independence of the firm and its staff as well as the capacity and capability to design policies and procedures to respond to those threats (ISQC 1.20 and ISQC1.21).	1

relationships and specific		when approaching each new potential client engagement.			the associated approval process for audit services (ISQC 1.26).	
engagements (ISQC 1.26 to ISQC 1.28)	8.	Client relationships are not regularly assessed for threats to independence, reputation, due to client integrity, or whether GMA had the requisite competencies and capacity to perform client services in compliance with prevailing professional standards or regulatory requirements.	1	8.1	The firm should establish policies and procedures for the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements, where client acceptance and continuance assessments should be conducted regularly to determine if risks related to client integrity or the relevant ethical requirements are limited and/or if the firm has the competence to perform the engagement and compliance with ethical and regulatory requirements can be achieved (ISQC 1.26). The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to ensure that the team providing assurance services should be separate to the team providing non-audit services to the same client (ISQC 1.22).	1
	9.	Trainee accountants are assigned to clients when joining the firm and remain on those clients, and are not assigned based on their competence, including sufficient time to perform quality engagement.	1	9.1	The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to ensure that <u>eligible staff is assigned</u> to each audit engagement based on <u>capabilities</u> , including the <u>time</u> and <u>resources</u> to provide quality engagement for that specific audit client (ISQC 1.26).	1
Human resources (ISQC 1.29 to ISQC 1.31)	10.	The firm's budgeting process does not take into account if sufficient staff personnel will be available to perform the engagement as the budget for revenue is a 20% increase, compared the increase in staff costs in line with the annual average inflation rate of the previous year.	1	10.1	The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that it has <u>sufficient personnel with the competence</u> , <u>capabilities</u> necessary to perform engagements in accordance with the relevant standards and requirements (ISQC 1.29 to ISQC 1.31).	1

11.	It is inappropriate not to invest in the training of the staff on the basis that trainee accountants never seem to stay with the firm very long as this will undermine the quality of the work produces.	1	11.1	The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to ensure that there will be <u>sufficient training for staff on a regular basis</u> with the competencies to cope with the number and complexity of audit assignments (ISQC 1.29 and ISQC 1.31). The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to ensure that there will be <u>sufficient training for staff as some of the SAICA competencies that are not exposed on the job can only be simulated through training (ISQC 1.29 and ISQC)</u>	
12.	Several staff have left the firm (and trainees are not retained in the business for very long) raising the concern that current engagements will not be sufficiently staffed to reach completion within agreed timelines and an appropriate level of quality.	1	12.1	1.31). The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to ensure that from a human resources perspective, there will be sufficient suitably qualified staff with the competencies to cope with the number and complexity of audit assignments, e.g., a policy to recruit and retain staff (ISQC 1.29 to ISQC 1.31).	1
13.			13.1	The firm shall establish policies and procedures designed to ensure that eligible staff participate in a bonus scheme based, in part, on the achievement of quality goals and objectives (ISQC 1.29).	1

14.	Charleston seems to be given too	1	14.1	Individuals who take on specific responsibilities and	1
	many leadership responsibilities			duties should be the most qualified and experienced	
	and may not have sufficient time to			and ensure they have sufficient time and planning to	
	manage the workload with the right			execute all their duties (ISQC 1.29).	
	quality as he is responsible for setting			, , , , ,	
	budgets, leading audit engagements,				
	and ensuring that trainee accountants				
	meet their competencies.				

Engagement	15.		1	15.1	There should be a policy to establish the necessary	1
performance		relates to engagement performance			policies and procedures that is designed to provide	
(ISQC 1.32 to		(e.g., consultation; engagement			the firm with <u>reasonable assurance that</u>	
ISQC 1.47)		quality control review including the			engagements undertaken by the firm are performed	
		criteria and documentation,			in accordance with both applicable professional	
		differences of opinion, engagement			standards and laws (ISQC 1.32). Examples of what	
		documentation),			could be addressed, include:	
		,,,			• promoting consistency in the quality of the	
					engagement performance, outline supervision	
					responsibilities per engagement and then equally	
					review the responsibilities and their relevance (ISQC 1.32).	
					Quality Control Reviewers be included where	
					applicable depending on the type of engagement	
					that requires these (ISQC 1.35).	
					• standard documentation of applicable	
					engagement quality control reviews that have	
					. ,	
					been completed and these items should perhaps	
					be logged as evidence of being done and signed off by applicable persons (ISQC 1.42).	
					any <u>differences of opinions</u> and indicate how	
					these differences amongst the reviews and	
					engagement partners were resolved (ISQC	
					1.43).	
					,	
					detailed <u>engagement documentation for the</u>	
					assembly of final engagement files,	
					confidentiality, accessibility and irretrievability of	
					engagement documentation as well as the	
					retention of engagement documentation. These	
					internal protocols must be established and	
					applied by all staff and reviewers and the entire	
					engagement team (ISQC 1.45).	
				15.2	The firm should review responsibilities at various	
					time intervals as deemed appropriate for the firm	
					examples could include annual, bi-annual or cyclical	
					responsibility reviews (ISQC 1.37).	

Monitoring (ISQC 1.48 to	16.	There is no monitoring if engagements are sufficiently staffed	1	16.1	The firm shall establish a monitoring process to provide reasonable assurance that the quality	1
ISQC 1.56)		and reallocation of personnel from			control policies and procedures are relevant,	
		over-staffed engagements to less			adequate and operating effectively (ISQC 1.48) e.g.,	
		staffed engagements as employees			proper planning and scheduling of staff on clients	
		remain on those engagements until			and the oversight hereof by senior staff could help	
		they have completed their training contracts.			alleviate this problem.	
	17.	It is inappropriate to allocate the general accountants to clients based on whoever was free at the time instead of looking at the resource	1	17.1	The firm shall establish a monitoring process to provide reasonable assurance that the quality control policies and procedures are relevant, adequate and operating effectively, e.g., proper	1
		requirements of each engagement.			planning and scheduling of staff with the sufficient competence and capabilities to perform the engagement (ISQC 1.48).	
	18.	Performance appraisals does not occur at the end of each engagement, on a formalised basis but only when needed - this could be ambiguous.		18.1	The firm shall establish a monitoring process to provide reasonable assurance that the quality control policies and procedures are relevant, adequate and operating effectively, e.g., by performing performance appraisals at the end of each engagement where the KPI should include quality and not rely purely on commercial arrangements (ISQC 1.48).	1
		Available	18		Available	18
	Maximum 8 Maximum					8
					Communication skills – layout and structure	1
Total for part (a)						17

Pai	rt (b) Criticise the audit workpaper B135-0 in terms of International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 230 <i>Audit Documentation</i>	Marks
1.	The audit working paper does not indicate who reviewed and the date of the review of the audit work done by the trainee (ISA 230.9).	1
2.	The audit documentation does not appear to be <u>timely</u> as it was documented ± 2.5 months (15/03/2022) after year-end (31/12/2022) (ISA 230.7).	1
3.	The audit working paper does not indicate all relevant identifying characteristics and therefore could indicate any of the following (ISA 230.8 and ISA230.9):	
	 incomplete <u>objectives</u> have been stated in the working paper which also does not indicate which assertions are being tested. 	1
	 it could be argued that the <u>subject</u> area in the heading is also missing and is a characteristic. 	1
	 the working paper is <u>not complete</u> as the working paper requests that ten high-value items should be selected, but the audit working paper only shows five recorded items. 	1
	 there is no <u>conclusion</u> for the results of the audit procedures. 	1
4.	The audit working paper has no cross referencing to another working paper on the sampling selection methods (ISA 230.A12) to enable a reasonable auditor with no experience of the client / engagement to select the same samples:	
	there is no explanation of the rationale of why only 10 items were chosen.	1
	 there is no explanation why only the <u>large storage warehouses are</u> <u>visited</u>. 	1
5.	The audit working paper contains possible significant matters that have not been explained, addressed or concluded on (ISA 230.8, ISA 230.10 and ISA230.11): • there are no documented discussions with management, those charged	1
	with governance and others regarding the possible significant matters , e.g., the difference in quantities or possible impairment of inventory, that have been identified.	
	 the working paper does not show the <u>prices</u> of the selected items and consequently the misstatement / difference can't be quantified 	1
	 some anomalies have been recorded on the working paper, but there is no <u>explanation what the anomalies were and how these were addressed</u> as required. 	1
	 not all of the <u>inventory codes</u>, <u>descriptions</u>, <u>quantities</u> seem to have been completed by the trainee although the keys / tick marks have been completed. 	1
	 there is no clear explanation of what the different <u>keys</u> in the audit working paper indicates. 	1
6.	In order to address the objective of determining the value of the inventory , more audit procedures need to be performed to address for example the cost or the net realisable value which seems inconsistent with typical audit procedures for testing value of inventory as neither been performed nor documented in the working paper (ISA 230.11).	1
	Available	14
	Maximum	6
	Total for part (b)	6

	(c) Describe, with reference to Document B, non-compliance by the auditors with their responsibility with regard to fraud in terms of ISA 240 The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements	Marks
1.	The following fraud considerations are not evident: An auditor needs to maintain his / her professional scepticism before and during the execution of the audit (ISA 240.22 – ISA240.26):	
	 Thuli, the audit partner, has stated that the management of TSC are very upstanding and law abiding but there is no discussion / evidence about how she came to this conclusion therefore illustrating poor application of professional scepticism. 	1
2.	There have been no considerations relating to fraud discussions among the engagement team before the start of the audit (ISA 240.27):	
	 Thuli has not held discussions with the entire audit team about any areas of the financial statements that may be susceptible to fraud only discussion with Catherine was held during the planning meeting where opposite is evident. 	1
	• Thuli specifically stated that she will not hold any such discussion as she does not have time, she also does not request Catherine to hold such discussions. Therefore, illustrating direct non-compliance with the standard.	1
3.	There have been no considerations relating to fraud risk assessment procedures and related activities (ISA 240.33 to ISA240.56):	
	 Thuli has limited any access to management by telling Catherine to only ask management questions if absolutely necessary, therefore it appears as if a fraud risk assessment is not possible as Catherine is not allowed to ask management questions. 	1
	 Furthermore, <u>Thuli stated that she wants to review all questions before they go to management</u>, therefore as Thuli has already stated that fraud procedures are not necessary she will not approve fraud risk assessment questions. 	1
	 Thuli is not considering the fraud risk relating to changes in the client, new transactions, new system, etc. that will influence the risk assessment as this could create opportunities for fraudulent activities as no other matters regarding fraud risk considerations were discussed. 	1
	 Thuli stated that management is busy with takeover deals and therefore should not be bothered, Thuli is not considering that this is not appropriate as management needs to be available for questions prior to the commencement of the audit in order to effectively identify any fraud risk considerations. 	1
	 No information has been provided to illustrate whether Thuli considered / assessed whether those charged with governance (if they are not involved in the management of the entity) exercise oversight of managements processes of identifying risks. 	1
	It is doubtful, based on the <u>comment made by Thuli to Catherine that no fraud procedures are necessary</u> , that <u>risk assessment</u> analytics have been performed and the preliminary results discussed with the engagement team.	1

4.	There has been no consideration about any unusual / unexpected relationships within the organisation's structure that could be possible	
	indicators of fraud risk (ISA 240.53 to ISA240.54):	
	• TZ Commodity Traders has recently been acquired by TSC and not much is known about the transaction or the business rationale, this could be a	1
	possible indicator of fraud.	
	TSC CEO is a personal friend of Muzi CEO, therefore there is a further risk	1
	of collusion considering the business rescue status of the company.	
5.	There were no considerations relating to classes of transactions, account	
	balances, etc., where fraud risk could potentially exist as evidenced by the	
	following (ISA 240.57 to ISA240.59):	
	The fact that TSC <u>acquired the aluminium inventory from MZ Commodity</u>	1
	Traders for no consideration. This transaction does not appear to be at	
	arms-length and could potentially be a fraudulent transaction.	
	• Since TSC has never traded in aluminium and the operations are in	1
	Mozambique, there is a risk of potential fraud owing to the operations not	
	being in South Africa, unfamiliar control environments, as well as the	
	company being in business rescue.	
	• The issue of what <u>value the inventory should be recorded</u> at should also	1
	be considered as it was possibly fraudulently obtained at no cost.	
	Another example could be the fact that TCS installed a new inventory	
	system (six months into the current financial year). Potential fraud	
	considerations to be made:	
	 There is an <u>element of manual intervention</u> which opens the possibility 	1
	of fraud risk. The inventory management system does not integrate	
	with the accounting software and manual processing has to take place.	
	 Temporary staff could easily be influenced by management to capture 	1
	fraudulent transactions as they do not seem to be qualified as they are	
	temporary staff.	
6.	No consideration has been made regarding the other information obtained by	1
	the auditor; this seems to be a potential limitation as management appears to	
	be very busy dealing with other takeovers and therefore it is unlikely that the	
	auditors will be granted access to any other information that may impact	
7	consideration for fraud (ISA 240.25, ISA240.33, ISA 240.55 to ISA240.56).	4
7.	There is no evidence that Thuli or the audit team have considered significant	1
	estimates and judgements made by management and whether there is any indication of management bins, especially the impact of IERS 3 and the	
	indication of management bias, especially the impact of IFRS 3 and the determination of NRV of inventory (ISA 240.80 to ISA240.82).	
	Available	18
	Maximum	12
	Total for part (c)	12
	Total for part (c)	ıZ

	 whether the liss statement level r when an assertion and one audit proced 	isk or an assertion level on level risk is identified, lure that could be performer in the following tabulant is in the following ta	ould be classified as a financial risk; which assertion(s) will be affected; med to mitigate the risk.
A	Financial statement level (1) Alternative: Assertion level (1)	n / a Alternative: Accuracy, valuation and allocation (1) Completeness (1) Existence (1)	Perform a system walk through of the IMS through inspection of source documents/system descriptions and observation and enquiries of staff in order to obtain and understanding and identify controls in new system (Completeness; Accuracy, Validity). (1) Enquire from management: 1. That a sufficient conversion process was followed to convert from the old to new IMS (planned process, testing, balancing of data, post implementation review) and corroborate through inspection of the appropriate system documentation. (Completeness; Accuracy, Validity) (1) 2. Staff members were properly trained on the new system and corroborate through inspection of training documentation or enquiries of staff. (Completeness; Validity) (1) Inspect management's postimplementation review reports to consider the success of implementation and to address any difficulties encountered with integration. (Completeness; Accuracy, Validity) (1)

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			Max 1
В	Financial statement level (1)	n/a	Reperform/Inspect if regular (monthly) reconciliations are performed between the IMS and AS system (1) Inspect that reconciliations have been reviewed and errors followed up by management (1) Inspect that the AS has been updated for the latest IFRS and changes to legislation to ensure transactions are recorded correctly on old system. (1)
С	Assertion level (1)	Accuracy, valuation and allocation (1) Completeness (1) Existence (1)	Select an increased sample of inventory transactions during 6 months of temporary staff, and inspect source documents (e.g. IMS orders and transactions on the IMS system (order, delivery note / invoice)) to ensure that the details of the transactions agree to the AS system (Existence, Accuracy, valuation and allocation): Description of the inventory (1) Date of the transaction (1) Quantity of transaction (1) Price of the transaction (1) Enquire from management about the access control in place for temporary staff to prevent unauthorised changes being made to the system. (Completeness; Accuracy, Validity) (1) Perform analytical procedures comparing revenue transactions against inventory to determine if all inventory transactions have been captured (Completeness) (1)
D	Assertion Level (1)	Accuracy, valuation & allocation (1)	For damaged goods identified during the inventory count: • Confirm through inspection / observation that these inventory items are clearly marked / kept separately

			from other items (Accuracy) (1) • Enquire from management the process they are following with regards to identifying obsolete inventory and the removal of the inventory from IMS. (Completeness; Accuracy, valuation and allocation) (1) • Enquire of management if a second hand-market exist for any damaged items to determine if inventory can be written down or should be scrapped and corroborate though inspection of market data. (Accuracy, valuation and allocation) (1) • Inspect the latest inventory listing and determine whether the damaged goods are accounted for at the lowest of cost or NRV. (Accuracy, valuation, allocation) (1) • For inventory that is scrapped, ensure through inspection it is correctly accounted for as such in P/L. (Accuracy, valuation, allocation) (1) Max 1
E	Assertion level (1)	Rights and obligations (1) Existence (1)	For consignment inventory identified during the inventory count: • Confirm through inspection / observation that all consignment inventory is kept separate from other inventory in the warehouse (Rights and obligations). (1) • Inspect the purchase agreement / invoice to confirm that the inventory does not belong to TSC. (Rights and obligations) (1) • Request management to remove consignment

F	Assertion level (1)	Accuracy, valuation and	inventory from the inventory balance (Rights and obligations). (1) • For all consignment inventory, inspect that these items were removed from the inventory balance of TSC at period end. (Rights and obligations, Existence) (1) Max 1 Select a sample of imported		
		allocation (1) Classification (1)	inventory and perform the following: Inspect purchase documentation and recalculate all import and freight cost to determine total that should be capitalised (Accuracy, valuation and allocation). (1) Inspect the inventory costing schedule to ensure that these costs have been capitalised to the cost price of the inventory. (Accuracy, valuation and allocation) (1) Inspect if there are any conversions from foreign currency to rand on these costs and recalculate to determine tot al costs that should be capitalised (Accuracy, valuation and allocation). (1) If so, ensure that the spot rate used was correctly obtained from market data and the conversion calculation done correctly. (Accuracy, valuation and allocation) (1) Inspect statement of comprehensive income/expense accounts for other possible costs to be capitalised that has been expensed (Accuracy, valuation and allocation, classification). (1)		
	Available 24				
	Maximum 14				
	Communication skills – layout and structure 1				
Total for part (d) 15					

Total for the augstion	50
Total for the question	50

15