

MEDIA RELEASE

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ITC candidates congratulated for passing the second exam sitting

Johannesburg, Friday 5 November 2021 – Today, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) announced that 1 175 candidates (59%) who wrote the second sitting of the 2021 Initial Test of Competence (ITC) in September have passed. These candidates join the 2 507 candidates who passed in April to bring the total number of successful candidates for 2021’s ITC examination to 3 682.

The ITC is the first of two professional Qualifying Examinations university graduates must pass to become chartered accountants [CAs(SA)]. It tests the integrated application of technical competence that candidates develop during the academic programme (this consists of a three-year undergraduate programme and a one year postgraduate programme) and assesses a candidate’s ability to evaluate the underlying business challenges and problems in each scenario and, through critical thinking, apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained through the academic programme.

Written twice a year, the majority of candidates who write the second sitting are repeat candidates as well as those who either elect not to write the first sitting or whose post graduate supplementary results had not yet been released before the first sitting’s registration date closes. A small number of candidates are first timers due to having completed a mid-year intake into their Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting.

To pass the ITC, candidates must achieve an overall pass mark of 50% (and must obtain a sub-minimum of at least 40% in three of the four professional papers). Below is the racial demographic table of the September 2021 results:

By Race	Total	Failed	Passed	% Pass
African	1320	588	732	55%
Coloured	105	28	77	73%
Indian	284	121	163	57%
White	292	90	202	69%
Race not disclosed	1	0	1	100%
Grand Total	2 002	827	1 175	59%

Detailed statistics can be found on the SAICA website: www.saica.org.za.

Progress made towards the profession’s transformation objective

Commenting on these results, Freeman Nomvalo, the CEO of SAICA said: 'It is well publicised that the chartered accountancy profession aims to "create a constant flow of suitably qualified accounting professionals who represent the racial and gender composition of the country". Having reviewed the results, SAICA is encouraged by the fact that, of the total 1 175 passes for the September ITC 2021 sitting, 972 successful candidates are black. This brings the total number of black candidates passing the 2021 ITC sittings to 2 484.'

With transformation so high on its strategic priority list, SAICA is particularly pleased with the results of its Thuthuka students as their results reveal how impactful the profession's ongoing transformation achievements have been. For this sitting of the ITC, Thuthuka Bursary beneficiaries achieved a 73% pass rate, while African and Coloured students supported through the funded Thuthuka ITC Repeat Programme, on the other hand, achieved a 68% pass rate.

Nomvalo further added: 'SAICA continues to be grateful to the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of SA (ABASA), the African Women Chartered Accountants (AWCA) and other key partner organisations for collaborating on various support intervention projects that facilitate the achievement of the profession's transformation goals.'

Distance education providers continues to be a focus point for future success

A further analysis of the success of the examination population reveals that a large percentage of African candidates complete their studies via accredited distance academic providers. These providers have a significant contribution to make in order for the profession to achieve its transformation objectives.

SAICA must continue to work closely with distance academic providers to develop programmes to further assist students at these institutions to facilitate the improvement of their chances for success.

A special note of congratulations to the September ITC top performing candidate

Nomvalo added a further word of congratulations to Rune Maritz, who achieved a spot on SAICA's prestigious top candidate list for the September sitting. 'This impressive achievement is limited to the ten top candidates per sitting who obtain a pass mark of 70% or more for the examination. Anyone who manages to achieve this should be very proud of that accomplishment.'

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Notes to Editor

About SAICA

SAICA, South Africa's pre-eminent accountancy body, is widely recognised as one of the world's leading accounting institutes. The Institute provides a wide range of support services to more than 46 000 members and associates who are chartered accountants [CAs(SA)], as well as associate general accountants [AGAs(SA)] and accounting technicians [ATs(SA)], who hold positions as CEOs, MDs, board directors, business owners, chief financial officers, auditors and leaders in every sphere of commerce and industry, and who play a significant role in the nation's highly dynamic business sector and economic development.

What is the ITC and what does it measure?

The ITC examination is the first of two SAICA professional Qualifying Examinations that university graduates must pass to become a CA(SA). Written twice a year, the ITC tests the integrated application of technical competence that candidates develop during the academic programme (which consists of a three-year undergraduate programme and a one-year postgraduate programme). The ITC assesses how well a candidate evaluates the underlying problems in each scenario and, through logical thinking, applies the theoretical knowledge they have gained at university.

To pass, candidates must obtain an overall pass mark of 50% (and must get a sub-minimum of at least 40% in three of the four professional papers).

About SAICA's transformation initiatives:

One of SAICA's prime goals is to contribute towards strengthening the country's economy by playing a significant and leading role in transformation and skills development. Through Thuthuka, a pioneering initiative to promote transformation in the profession, SAICA launched its transformation efforts in the Eastern Cape in 2002 and has grown this into a national project that includes various interventions across the education value chain as well as the highly successful Thuthuka Bursary Fund.

Thuthuka's objective is to transform the demographics of the profession to reflect those of the country in terms of race and gender, and provide educational support to African learners and students for the benefit of the profession, while simultaneously helping to uplift communities. Therefore, SAICA prides itself in leading the chartered accountancy profession as a socially responsible driver of business and skills development by supporting and encouraging enterprise development initiatives.