

Analytical Audit Skills and Evidence Training Course

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Overview

The Analytical Audit Skills and Evidence Training Course is a one-week advanced course for internal auditors, audit supervisors, risk and compliance professionals, finance assurance staff, and control specialists who leave with an Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack. The course develops problem framing, risk analysis, evidence evaluation, data reliability, audit sampling, root-cause analysis, professional judgment, finding development, and audit reporting. Agile Leaders Training Center delivers this course on analytical audit skills and evidence.

Who Should Attend

- Internal audit functions responsible for engagement planning, testing, findings, and reporting
- Audit supervision functions responsible for reviewing evidence, judgments, and workpapers
- Risk and compliance functions responsible for control evaluation and exception analysis
- Finance assurance functions responsible for transaction testing and data reliability
- Control functions responsible for root-cause analysis and corrective action follow-up

The course assumes participants perform or review audit procedures and leaves out foundation-level audit concepts, certification preparation, and organization-specific policy approval.

Departments and Industries

The course supports analytical audit execution across regulated, asset-intensive, and service organizations.

- Internal audit, risk, compliance, and governance departments
- Finance, controllership, quality, and operational assurance functions
- Banking, insurance, manufacturing, and energy organizations
- Healthcare, education, hospitality, and public service organizations
- Technology, telecommunications, logistics, and retail organizations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Analyze audit problems, objectives, risks, and evaluation criteria
- Evaluate relevance, reliability, sufficiency, and contradictory evidence
- Apply data profiling, exception analysis, and audit sampling methods
- Use root-cause tools and professional judgment to assess findings
- Build concise audit findings, conclusions, and reporting messages

- Build an Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack

Course Agenda

Day 1: Analytical Audit Framing

- Audit Problem Statement and Objective Canvas
- Process Risk and Control Mapping Method
- Engagement Criteria and Assertion Matrix
- Professional Skepticism Questioning Protocol
- Audit Hypothesis and Test Design Sheet

Day 2: Evidence and Judgment

- Evidence Relevance Reliability and Sufficiency Matrix
- Corroborative and Contradictory Evidence Review Method
- Data Accuracy Completeness and Applicability Test
- Source Traceability and Chain-of-Evidence Map
- Professional Judgment Decision Record

Day 3: Analytics and Sampling

- Audit Data Profiling and Quality Checklist
- Trend Ratio and Variance Analysis Method
- Duplicate Gap and Outlier Detection Rules
- Risk-Based Audit Sampling Selection Matrix
- Exception Prioritization and Follow-Up Register

Day 4: Causes Findings and Reports

- Five Whys Root-Cause Analysis Worksheet
- Cause Condition Criteria Effect Finding Model
- Finding Significance and Risk Rating Matrix
- Evidence-to-Conclusion Reasoning Map
- Concise Audit Message and Executive Summary Structure

Day 5: Analytical Audit Practice

- Suggested Exercise: Problem Framing and Risk Map Review
- Suggested Exercise: Evidence Reliability and Judgment Challenge
- Suggested Exercise: Data Exception and Sampling Analysis
- Suggested Exercise: Root-Cause Finding and Report Simulation
- Capstone Exercise: Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack

Practical Exercises

The course includes suggested activities that connect analytical decisions to traceable audit evidence and reporting.

- Suggested activity: frame an audit problem and link objectives, risks, controls, criteria, and procedures.
- Suggested activity: assess a mixed evidence set for reliability, contradiction, sufficiency, and documentation gaps.
- Suggested activity: profile data, select a risk-based sample, and prioritize exceptions for follow-up.
- Suggested activity: present an Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack containing findings, conclusions, and reporting messages.

FAQs

Who suits the Analytical Audit Skills and Evidence Training Course?

Internal auditors, supervisors, risk and compliance professionals, finance assurance staff, and control specialists suit the course; it assumes experience performing or reviewing audit procedures.

How do analytical audit skills differ from foundation-level internal audit training?

Analytical audit skills focus on framing problems, challenging evidence, analyzing exceptions, exercising judgment, and developing findings, while foundation-level training focuses on core roles, terminology, and engagement stages.

How is audit evidence evaluated during an analytical audit?

Audit evidence is evaluated by testing its relevance, reliability, sufficiency, source traceability, consistency, and relationship to the engagement objective and risk.

How does audit sampling support analytical audit work?

Audit sampling supports analytical work by selecting items according to risk, population characteristics, objectives, and expected exceptions, then linking results to defensible conclusions.

What belongs in an Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack?

An Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack links the problem statement, risks, criteria, tests, evidence, samples, exceptions, judgments, root causes, findings, conclusions, and reporting messages.

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Conclusion

Participants leave with an Analytical Audit Workpaper Pack that connects problem framing, evidence evaluation, analytics, sampling, judgments, findings, and reporting. The work product improves how engagement decisions are documented and reviewed. It supports traceable conclusions and concise communication across financial, operational, compliance, and technology audits.

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