

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE BS ACCOUNTANCY MOCK BOARD AND LICENSURE EXAMINATION RESULTS FROM YEAR 2013-2016: A BASIS FOR PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

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Abstract: The study aims to identify the relationship between the retention policy and mock board examination of BS Accountancy of LPU-C and the LPU-C graduates' performance in the CPA Licensure Examination. The study covers all the graduates of LPU-C who took the CPALE of October 2013 to May 2015 or a five accountancy board examinations. The study take into considerations the performance of the students on retention examination and compared to their actual CPALE board per subject. The significance of the study includes the development of retention policy and retention examination by examining its relevance and effect to actual board. The study revealed that there are several in the mock retention subjects that are significantly related to more than one subject to CPALE examination. The study recommends the standardization and continuous development of mock retention examination aligned with the BOA syllabus for CPALE with focus subjects that reflect low performance of the BSA graduates of LPU-C.

Keywords: LPUC, Mock Exam, CPA Mock Board, Retention Exam, Retention Policy, Qualifier, CPALE, BSA.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bachelor of Science in Accountancy program at the Lyceum University Cavite Campus is a five-year program. Students who enrolled in the BS Accountancy programs must meet the grade requirements as provided for in the retention policy for BS Accountancy students, and must pass the retention examination.

The program has retention grades of 87 for major subjects and 84 for subjects classified under Math, Computer, Science, Economics, English and Finance. They have to pass the qualifying examinations in the 2nd year, comprehensive examination 1 and 2 during 3rd and 4th year respectively and culminates in the mock board exam during their last semester in the college. The mock board examination contains all the subjects that are given in the Licensure Examination.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the relationship of the mock board exam results and the licensure examination. The evaluation covered all graduates of BSA who took the national licensure exam from 2013-2015.

Significance of the Study

The national passing rate for the Certified Public Accountants Examination on a per exam period basis has not exceeded a 50% passing percentage since 2005. The BSA Accountancy program which started in 2008 has its first batch of graduates in 2013. While the Lyceum of the University Philippines-Cavite Campus has usually exceeded the National Passing Percentage, those who did not pass is also consequently significant. Thus, the school has implemented programs to ensure the preparation of the students in taking the board exam. The culmination of a five-year program culminates in a BSA student taking the mock board examination. The mock board, similar in nature to that of the national licensure exam helps

the student acclimatize themselves in taking a board exam; motivate the students to study and assess themselves in their preparedness in taking the board exam. The researchers would want to know if there is a relationship with the mock board exam results and that of the national licensure exam. In addition, it would be of outmost important to pinpoint the subjects where the BSA students got low grades in.

Statement of the Problem:

This study will evaluate the comparative results of the mock board exams and CPA board examination results of the Lyceum of the Philippines' board exams takers from years 2013-2015 by answering the following questions

- a. Is there a relationship of mock board exam results with the licensure exam ratings?
- b. What are the subjects that a Lyceum of the Philippines University-Cavite Campus, CPA board exam taker has low grades?
- c. Recommendations that may be proposed to enhance the passing rate in the CPA board exams of LPU BSA graduates

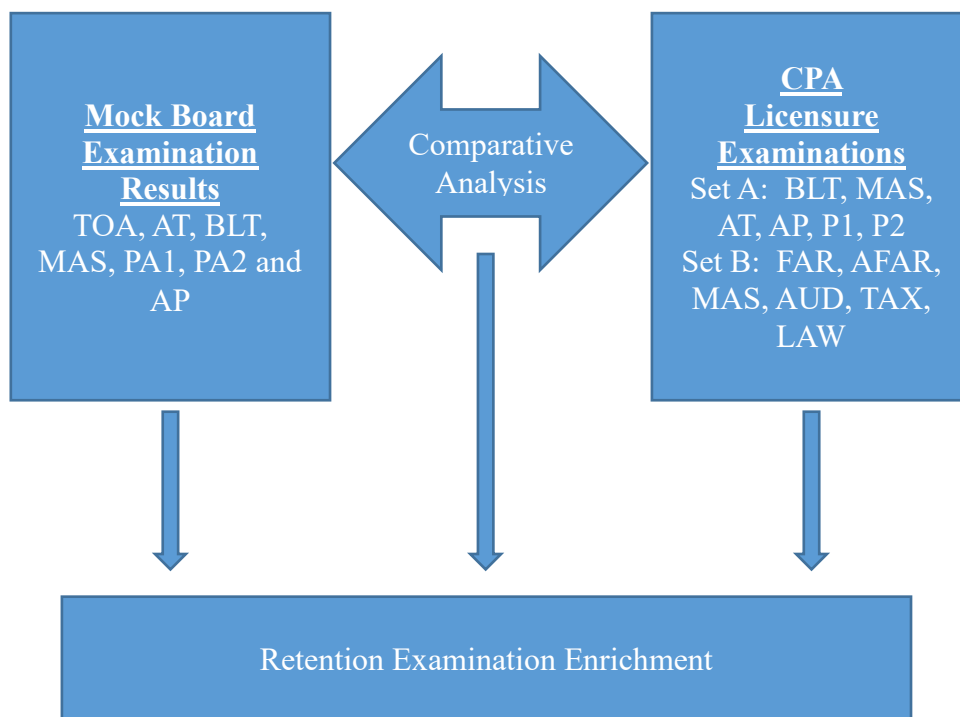


Fig. 1: Conceptual Framework

Significance of the Study

The research will benefit the BSA program and the undergrads for the study will focus on the relationship of mock board against the national licensure exam and the subjects taken in the CPA board exam that has low grades. This will aid the researchers towards the program enhancement of the BSA program and the preparation of the BSA students towards the licensure examinations.

Assumptions of the Study

- a. This study assumes that since LPU has retention, all CPA board examinees met the retention grades

Scope and Delimitation

The researchers study will cover the 1st batch of LPU graduates taking the board examinees up to October 2015 board takers.

Data will be collected from the College of Business Administration for the board exam and the results of the CPA board ratings given to the school.

List of Acronyms:

AFAR-Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting

AP- Auditing Theory

AUD- Auditing

AT- Auditing Theory

BLT- Business Law and Taxation

CPA – Certified Public Accountant. A graduate of BS in Accountancy who passed the licensure exam.

FAR- Financial Accounting and Reporting

LAW- Regulatory Framework for Business Transaction

MAS- Management Advisory Services

TOA- Theory of Accounts

TAX- Taxation

PA1- Practical Accounting Part 1

PA2- Practical Accounting Part 2

II. METHODOLOGY

Research Design.

- This study employed the quantitative technique.
- The study covers the Bachelor of Science Accountancy graduates who took the board exam from 2013 to 2015.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

The whole population was used in the study which covers the alumni who took the licensure examination from October 2013 to October 2015, 5 licensure examinations.

Data Collection.

Mock board examination results per student and their corresponding CPA Licensure Exam rating was secured from the College of Business Administration.

Data Analysis

Data analysis for this study was done by SPSS (Scientific Packages for Social Sciences). Correlations and analysis of variance were used to analyze relationship between the mock and the licensure examination results.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Licensure Exam

A total of eighty-one (81) students took the board examinations. Out of eighty-one students, there are fifty-six (56) students who took the seven subjects board exam under the old Board of Accountancy set up. The remaining twenty-five students took the board exam under the six-subjects board examination which started last 2016.

Mock Board Exam

The mock board examination was also taken by eighty-one (81) students. There are thirty-eight students who took the 7 subjects coverage (TOA, AT, BLT, MAS, PA1, PA2 and AP). Twenty-two students took the 6 subjects coverage (TOA, AT, BLT, MAS, AP) and twenty-one students took the five (5) subjects coverage (TOA, AT, BLT, MAS, PA1, PA2).

Descriptive Statistics:

Table I: Mock exam results for 56 students who took the seven licensure

	Mc TOA	Mc BLT	Mc PA1	Mc MAS	Mc AT	Mc PA2	Mc AP	Mc Ave
Mean	65.61	76.14	86.53	85.14	66.16	80.42	86.57	77.54
Mode	63.00 ^a	83.00	90.00	93.00	72.00	80.00	88.00	77.80
Std. Dev.	16.18	8.08	7.64	7.45	6.58	7.87	8.35	5.08
Skwns.	.659	-.857	-1.366	-1.068	-.110	-.703	-2.054	-.330
Std. Err.	.319	.319	.393	.319	.319	.393	.319	.319
Min.	34.00	53.00	60.00	58.00	52.00	55.00	53.00	65.14
Max.	100.00	95.00	95.00	94.00	80.00	95.00	95.00	87.57

There are twenty (20) students do not have Mock Exam- PA1, PA2. Table above show the central tendency scores, mean and mode, and also the dispersion of points of the mock examinations of the 56 students who took the seven board licensure examination. The Mean shows the average scores. Mode shows the majority of the scores. Standard Deviation is the spread, the distance of scores from one score to another. Minimum and maximum rows show the minimum and maximum scores.

The table shows that the average score for the mock examinations ranges forms 65 to 87, whereas the average highest mock board exam result is from Auditing Problem and the average lowest score is Theory of Accounts. It is also to be highlighted that a student had a perfect score in mock examination in TOA at the same subject garnered the lowest grade in the mock which is 34%.

Table II: Descriptive Statistics of Licensure Examination

	TOA	BLT	MAS	AT	AP	P1	P2	AVE
Mean	77.09	75.57	80.86	72.98	77.36	78.64	73.11	76.52
Mode	84.00	76.00	87.00	66.00 ^a	79.00	90.00	82.00	80.43
Std.Dev.	9.33	8.00	9.05	8.59	9.41	14.52	12.54	8.56
Skew.	-.399	-.558	-1.334	-.640	-.332	-1.495	-.716	-.903
Std. Err.	.319	.319	.319	.319	.319	.319	.319	.319
Min.	54.00	55.00	50.00	49.00	52.00	29.00	46.00	53.00
Max.	95.00	93.00	96.00	86.00	95.00	95.00	93.00	89.29

The table above shows the BOA licensure examination subjects to passed which include Theory of Accounts (TOA), Business Law and Taxation (BLT), Management Advisory Services (MAS), Auditing Theory (AT), Auditing Problem (AP), Practical Accounting Part 1 (P1), and Practical Accounting Part 2(P2) with the averages, dispersions, maximum, and minimum score of examinees from LPU-Cavite. Furthermore it revealed that the participant had the highest average score from MAS (mean of 80.86) and the lowest average score from AT (mean score of 72.98). Ranges of scores from highest to lowest score is around on the average 40points (e.g, maximum of TOA 95.00 to lowest of TOA 54 range of 41points). Hence, as presented on the table above, the average score of the examinees passed the required grade of 75.00 having mean score of 76.52.

Table III: Mock Board and New CPA Licensure Subjects Examination Results

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
mcTOA	25	40.00	87.00	77.7600	11.92784
mcAT	25	52.00	93.00	80.6800	9.26787
mcBLT	25	53.00	92.00	84.0400	8.41368
mcMAS	25	56.00	89.00	76.0400	5.35786
mcPA1	24	73.00	88.00	81.7500	3.42941
mcPA2	24	70.00	90.00	82.5000	4.77311
mcAP	3	76.00	93.00	81.6667	9.81495
mcAverage	25	63.14	85.67	80.6648	5.38468

FAR	25	50.00	95.00	84.4000	8.99537
AFAR	25	55.00	92.00	75.5600	9.62670
MAS	25	61.00	90.00	81.4800	7.00071
AUD	25	46.00	89.00	79.0000	9.72111
TAX	25	39.00	88.00	73.2000	10.84743
LAW	25	52.00	87.00	77.9200	8.30120
AVERAGE	25	53.67	89.17	78.5948	7.83748

For the twenty-five students who have taken the new BOA required six board exam subjects (starting October 2016): mock board rank mean score shows the mean grade BLT at 84.04; PA2 at 82.5; PA1 at 81.75; AP at 81.67; AT at 80.68; TOA at 77.6 and lowest at 76.04 is MAS (rank from highest to lowest scores)

The table also shows the licensure exam subjects average mean score of 84.4 for AFAR; MAS at 81.48; AUD at 79; LAW at 77.92; AFAR at 75.56 and TAX at 73.20 (presented from highest to lowest scores)

Correlation Mock Board Results against Licensure Results

Table IV: Mock Board to Seven CPA Licensure Examination Subjects

		Mc TOA	Mc AT	Mc BLT	Mc MAS	Mc PA1	Mc PA2	Mc AP	Mc Ave.
TOA	Pearson.	.411**	.357**	.077	-.156	.446**	.216	.233	.426**
	Sig (2-tailed)	.002	.007	.573	.250	.006	.206	.083	.001
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
BLT	Pearson.	.158	.301*	.113	.076	.367*	.131	.369**	.312*
	Sig. (2-ta	.246	.024	.405	.579	.028	.446	.005	.019
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
MAS	Pearson.	.075	.212	-.228	-.062	.197	-.227	-.066	.016
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.583	.117	.090	.648	.250	.183	.628	.905
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
AT	Pearson.	.226	.213	-.074	-.039	.387*	-.080	.075	.201
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.094	.116	.590	.773	.020	.643	.581	.137
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
AP	Pearson.	.361**	.125	.138	.069	.212	.172	.256	.309*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	.359	.309	.615	.214	.317	.057	.021
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
P1	Pearson.	-.027	.123	-.318*	-.053	.154	-.159	-.074	-.042
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.846	.367	.017	.699	.371	.353	.586	.760
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
P2	Pearson.	.318*	.248	.053	.196	.520**	.094	.222	.368**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.017	.065	.700	.147	.001	.585	.100	.005
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56
AVE.	Pearson.	.246	.260	-.062	.010	.391*	.021	.155	.255
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.068	.053	.648	.942	.018	.904	.254	.058
	N	56	56	56	56	36	36	56	56

Correlation matrix above shows relationship among the variables within the study the results of mock board examinations and results of seven licensure examinations.

Significant relationship of mcTOA to licensure examination displayed to TOA (r-value= 0.411, p-value<0.01), AP (r-value=0.361, p-value<0.01), P2 (r-value= 0.318, p-value <0.05).

It also shows the significant relationship of McPA1 exist to more than one licensure examination that includes significant relation to TOA (r-value = 0.446, p-value < 0.01), to BLT (r-value = .367, p-value <0.05), to AT (r-value = .387, p-value <0.05), to P2 (r-value=0.527, p-value <0.01).

A significant relationship can be seen between mcBLT to P1 and mcAP to BLT but a significant relationship from mcMAS was not determined.

Table V: For 25 students who took the six (6) subjects licensure board exam

		Mc TOA	Mc AT	Mc BLT	Mc MAS	Mc PA1	Mc PA2	Mc AP	Mc Ave
FAR	Pearson.	.069	.176	.069	-.199	.221	.230	-.655	.108
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.742	.400	.745	.340	.299	.279	.546	.609
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25
AFAR	Pearson.	-.117	-.029	-.121	-.316	.164	.020	-.803	-.101
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.578	.892	.566	.123	.444	.924	.407	.631
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25
MAS	Pearson.	-.012	.054	.044	-.204	.099	-.037	-.427	-.002
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.954	.796	.834	.328	.646	.864	.719	.993
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25
AUD	Pearson.	.261	.233	.311	-.077	.412*	.306	.500	.290
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.208	.263	.130	.715	.045	.146	.667	.160
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25
TAX	Pearson.	.147	.210	.195	.017	.134	.260	.756	.197
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.484	.314	.351	.935	.534	.219	.454	.346
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25
LAW	Pearson.	-.092	.020	-.051	.124	.029	.100	.693	.003
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.662	.926	.808	.556	.893	.641	.512	.990
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25
AVE.	Pearson.	.059	.136	.095	-.123	.211	.183	.086	.105
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.779	.517	.650	.557	.322	.391	.945	.616
	N	25	25	25	25	24	24	3	25

Table above shows significant relationship between Audit and Practical Accounting 1 at .412, and no significant relationship from other cited variables.

Analysis of Variance

Table VI: ANOVA of Licensure Examination per Period

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
TOA	Between Groups	892.514	3	297.505	3.975	.013
	Within Groups	3892.039	52	74.847		
	Total	4784.554	55			
BLT	Between Groups	32.532	3	10.844	.162	.922

	Within Groups	3489.182	52	67.100		
	Total	3521.714	55			
MAS	Between Groups	226.234	3	75.411	.917	.439
	Within Groups	4276.623	52	82.243		
	Total	4502.857	55			
AT	Between Groups	78.919	3	26.306	.344	.794
	Within Groups	3982.063	52	76.578		
	Total	4060.982	55			
AP	Between Groups	899.097	3	299.699	3.920	.013
	Within Groups	3975.760	52	76.457		
	Total	4874.857	55			
P1	Between Groups	2245.410	3	748.470	4.159	.010
	Within Groups	9357.447	52	179.951		
	Total	11602.857	55			
P2	Between Groups	498.458	3	166.153	1.060	.374
	Within Groups	8152.899	52	156.787		
	Total	8651.357	55			
AVE.	Between Groups	102.889	3	34.296	.454	.715
	Within Groups	3925.305	52	75.487		
	Total	4028.194	55			

Table above shows analysis of variance (ANOVA). Sig of more than 0.05 means the mean do not vary significantly. Significant difference of mean score is for Management Advisory Services at .439. Auditing Theory at .794; Practical Accounting at .374 and Average at .715.

Table VII: New CPA licensure board subject Examination

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
FAR	Between Groups	19.64	1	19.636	.235	.632
	Within Groups	1922.36	23	83.581		
	Total	1942.00	24			
AFAR	Between Groups	20.296	1	20.296	.212	.650
	Within Groups	2203.86	23	95.820		
	Total	2224.16	24			
MAS	Between Groups	.922	1	.922	.018	.894
	Within Groups	1175.32	23	51.101		
	Total	1176.24	24			
AUD	Between Groups	122.727	1	122.727	1.316	.263
	Within Groups	2145.27	23	93.273		
	Total	2268.00	24			
TAX	Between Groups	80.742	1	80.742	.677	.419
	Within Groups	2743.26	23	119.272		
	Total	2824.00	24			
LAW	Between Groups	10.401	1	10.401	.146	.706
	Within Groups	1643.44	23	71.454		
	Total	1653.84	24			
AVE	Between Groups	6.953	1	6.953	.109	.744
	Within Groups	1467.27	23	63.795		
	Total	1474.23	24			

Table above shows there is no significant difference between the mean score per licensure examinations across the three board exam occurrence.

Analysis of Variance per Mock

Table VIII: For 56 students who took the seven (7) subjects licensure exam.

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
TOA	Between Groups	336.60	1	336.604	4.087	.048
	Within Groups	4447.95	54	82.369		
	Total	4784.55	55			
BLT	Between Groups	8.69	1	8.692	.134	.716
	Within Groups	3513.02	54	65.056		
	Total	3521.71	55			
MAS	Between Groups	172.86	1	172.857	2.156	.148
	Within Groups	4330.00	54	80.185		
	Total	4502.86	55			
AT	Between Groups	82.88	1	82.877	1.125	.294
	Within Groups	3978.11	54	73.669		
	Total	4060.98	55			
AP	Between Groups	307.30	1	307.302	3.633	.062
	Within Groups	4567.56	54	84.584		
	Total	4874.86	55			
P1	Between Groups	1331.83	1	1331.835	7.002	.011
	Within Groups	10271.02	54	190.204		
	Total	11602.86	55			
P2	Between Groups	117.43	1	117.435	.743	.392
	Within Groups	8533.92	54	158.036		
	Total	8651.36	55			
AVE	Between Groups	42.77	1	42.773	.580	.450
	Within Groups	3985.42	54	73.804		
	Total	4028.19	55			

Table above shows the significant difference between mean score of subjects when group according to mock board taken. Significant difference computed is for Theory of Accounts (TOA) at .046, Practical Accounting 1 (P1) AT .011 and Practical Accounting 2 (P2) at .392

Table IX: For 25 students who took the six (6) subjects licensure board exam

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
FAR	Between Groups	25.64	2	12.818	.147	.864
	Within Groups	1916.36	22	87.107		
	Total	1942.00	24			
AFAR	Between Groups	93.80	2	46.898	.484	.623
	Within Groups	2130.36	22	96.835		
	Total	2224.16	24			
MAS	Between Groups	14.42	2	7.211	.137	.873
	Within Groups	1161.82	22	52.810		
	Total	1176.24	24			
AUDIT	Between Groups	146.73	2	73.364	.761	.479
	Within Groups	2121.27	22	96.421		
	Total	2268.00	24			
TAX	Between Groups	147.41	2	73.705	.606	.554
	Within Groups	2676.59	22	121.663		
	Total	2824.00	24			

LAW	Between Groups	27.07	2	13.534	.183	.834
	Within Groups	1626.77	22	73.944		
	Total	1653.84	24			
AVE	Between Groups	7.12	2	3.560	.053	.948
	Within Groups	1467.11	22	66.687		
	Total	1474.23	24			

Based on the table above, there is no significant difference between the mean score per licensure examinations across the three board exam occurrence.

Regression Analysis

Table X: For 56 students who took the seven (7) subjects licensure exam.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	
1	(Constant)	47.290	24.136		1.959	.060
	mcPA2	-.286	.230	-.272	-1.243	.224
	mcTOA	.142	.089	.345	1.583	.125
	McAT	.204	.192	.197	1.063	.297
	mcBLT	-.177	.215	-.172	-.824	.417
	mcMAS	.152	.232	.130	.655	.518
	mcPA1	.226	.217	.209	1.040	.307
	McAP	.125	.217	.153	.577	.569

Table above shows the mock examinations was taken as input in predicting the average of board examinations of 56 students. Using the model presented, we can project the board exam result will be.

Thus a linear equation is formulated below,

$$\text{Board Exam Average} = -0.272\text{mcPA2} + 0.345\text{mcTOA} + 0.197\text{mcAT} - 0.172\text{mcBLT} + 0.130\text{mcMAS} + 0.209\text{mcPA1} + 0.153\text{mcAP}$$

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

At the end of this study a number of findings have been made:

1. There was significant relationship from mock board exam results against licensure exam results for those examinees under the seven subject exam and no significant relationship for those examinees under the six subject exam;
2. For examinees under the seven subject licensure exam; lowest mean score in the mock board is for Theory of Accounts (TOA) at 65.61 and highest is Auditing Problem (AP) at 86.57. Highest mean score in the licensure examination is Management Advisory Services (MAS) at 80.85 and lowest mean score 72.98 for Auditing Theory.

For examinees under the six subject licensure exam; lowest mean score in the mock board is for Management Advisory Services (MAS) at 76.04 and highest is Business Law and Taxation (BLT) at 84.04. Highest mean score in the licensure examination is Financial Accounting and Review at 84.4 and lowest mean score 73.20 for Taxation.

V. RECOMMENDATION

1. Mock board examination should undergo a process of standardization;
2. A more rigid training, examinations be given to BSA Students. Average mean score for all licensure examination subjects for those examinees covered by the seven-subject exam are at below 80 with the exception of MAS. Average mean score for all licensure examination subjects for those examinees covered by the six-subjects exam are at below 80 with the exception of Management Advisory Services (MAS) and Financial Accounting and Reporting.

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