

Global Learning Providers' Conference February 2015

F5 Performance Management

This document summarises the Question and Answer discussion which took place in the examiner's workshop at the Global Learning Providers' Conference on 11-12 February 2015.

- **How are candidates marked if they round incorrectly in their answers?**

It depends on the question. If the rounding has a material effect on the answer, eg learning curves, then this has to be considered in the final marks. Otherwise candidates are not penalised.

- **Is requirement (a) in Q4 from the December 2014 session a good example of a purely knowledge question?**

Yes.

- **What is the balance between narrative and calculative marks in F5?**

It is normally aimed to be between 40-60% and can vary from paper to paper depending on the syllabus areas being examined.

- **When we move to CBE will the candidates still be expected to perform long calculations as they currently do in the 15 mark questions in the exam?**

Yes. We still expect to be examining detailed calculations and narrative answers going forward.

- **There are different methods to performing planning and operating variances. How is this accounted for in the marking process and does this mean that this area won't appear in Section A?**

Both methods are valid and are so given full credit. The examining team will be writing an article very soon on this particular area. In terms of Section A, planning and operating variances will still be examined but ACCA is aware that these questions will need to be carefully written to avoid any potential problems arising from the different methods.

- **Will there be any significant syllabus changes for September 2015?**

The F5 syllabus is very comprehensive. Any changes will mainly be clarification on learning outcomes if identified as necessary.

- **Is one of the long questions in Section B always going to be on syllabus area D?**

Not necessarily.

- **How should candidates best prepare for answering MCQs?**

The examining team's recommendation could be to cover the four possible answers and do the question without looking at them. Then look at the answers and see if the distractors pose anything that may have been missed. Then it is practice, practice, and practice.

- **Should candidates spend their reading time starting the MCQs?**

It appears the general consensus that it is better to do this. Calculators can be used in the reading time and candidates can make notes on their question paper. They must however, remember to transfer their answers to the answer sheet once the exam commences.

- **Is there an example of the answer sheet for MCQs on the website?**

Yes. An FAQs article was written prior to the December 2014 examination session which includes an image of the sheet. It also includes a lot of good advice to candidates which would help in response to the previous two questions, so it would be useful to recommend its use.

See the following link:

<http://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/student/acca-qual-student-journey/qual-resource/acca-qualification/f4/technical-articles/mcq-dec14.html>