

Global Learning Providers' Conference 2017

P6 Advanced Taxation

This document summarises the Question and Answer discussion which took place in the examiner's workshop at the Global Learning Providers' Conference on 26-27 April 2017.

- **What approach do UK learning providers take to teaching P6 in the UK?**

Given the large amount of content in the P6 syllabus, it is advisable to provide candidates with lots of resources and to set a number of topics as self-study. There are a number of resources available on the ACCA website which candidates can use to prepare for the examination. It is also advisable to offer update or revision courses where a lot of time has passed between candidates sitting F6 and P6.

- **You mentioned that the P6/ Advanced Taxation exam will change so that Section B will consist of two compulsory questions from June 2018. Is this the same for the other new Strategic Professional exams?**

No. The changes come in for the other new Strategic Professional exams in September 2018.

- **Is ACCA planning to make the Section B questions easier given that all questions will be compulsory from June 2018?**

There are currently no plans to reduce the difficulty level of the Section B questions. One of the problems with giving candidates a choice of questions to answer was that they often wasted time deciding which to answer, or only revised certain areas, opting for a cherry picking approach. It is expected that changing Section B so that it consists of two compulsory questions will address these issues and the standard of the exam should not change.

The examining team have carefully considered whether there were any areas of the syllabus that could be removed given the change to two compulsory questions in Section B and made some minor amendments to remove some peripheral areas.

- **Will the change of structure for P6 be impacted given the announcement of the general election on 8 June 2017? Will ACCA change the exam year?**

ACCA has considered this point carefully in addition to the impact of the truncated Finance Act 2017 which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. ACCA has made the decision not to change the tax exam year. There will therefore be no impact on the timing of the change of structure for P6 which will continue to be in place for examinations from June 2018 onwards.

- **When will the Strategic Professional exams be available as computer based exams (CBE)?**

The move for Strategic Professional exams to CBE is targeted for Autumn 2019.

- **Are there any plans to change the format of Advanced Taxation when it moves to CBE? Will it continue to be 100% human marked?**

There are currently no plans to change the format of P6 and it will continue to be 100% human marked.

- **Will the P6 exams to March 2018 stay the same given the recent truncated Finance Act 2017 and the announcement of the general election on 8 June 2017?**

Yes. Finance Act 2016 will be examined until March 2018 in line with the tax exam year.

Given the unexpected General Election in June 2017, in order to provide certainty to learning providers and students, the latest Finance Act which will be examined in P6 (UK) in examinations falling within the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 is the Finance Act 2017 which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. Finance (No. 2) Act 2017 and any further Finance Acts 2017 will not be examinable in examinations falling within this exam year, regardless of when they receive Royal Assent.

- **The answers published on the website are very long and detailed, particularly where a report or memorandum is required in the Section A questions. Are candidates expected to be able to produce such detailed answers or can they use shorter sentences and bullet points?**

The answers published are meant to cover the wide variety of valid points that candidates could make and are by no means meant to be representative of what a candidate could write under exam conditions. The answers are also intended to be used for tutorial purposes, which is why they are more detailed than would be expected under exam conditions.

Candidates can use headings, bullet points etc. but it is important that they think about who they are writing to as this is a key skill examined at P6.

- **The P6 specimen exam is still in the old format. Will this be updated?**

The P6 specimen has been updated, and provided to publishers, and will be made available on the website on due course. The standard and style of the questions under the new format will not change so the questions in the updated specimen are very similar, albeit with some differences to ensure balance across syllabus areas.