



ACCA



# ACCA Study Hub

GUIDANCE AND TOP TIPS

Think Ahead



# About the **ACCA Study Hub**

The ACCA Study Hub provides eligible students studying for the following Strategic Professional exams with access to study material:

- Advanced Audit and Assurance (INT)
- Advanced Financial Management
- Advanced Performance Management
- Strategic Business Leader
- Strategic Business Reporting (INT)

For each of the exams listed above, the Study Hub contains:

- Textbook material delivered in a digital platform covering the whole syllabus
- Short quizzes to test your understanding as you progress through the chapters
- Practice and revision questions, to help prepare you for your exam.



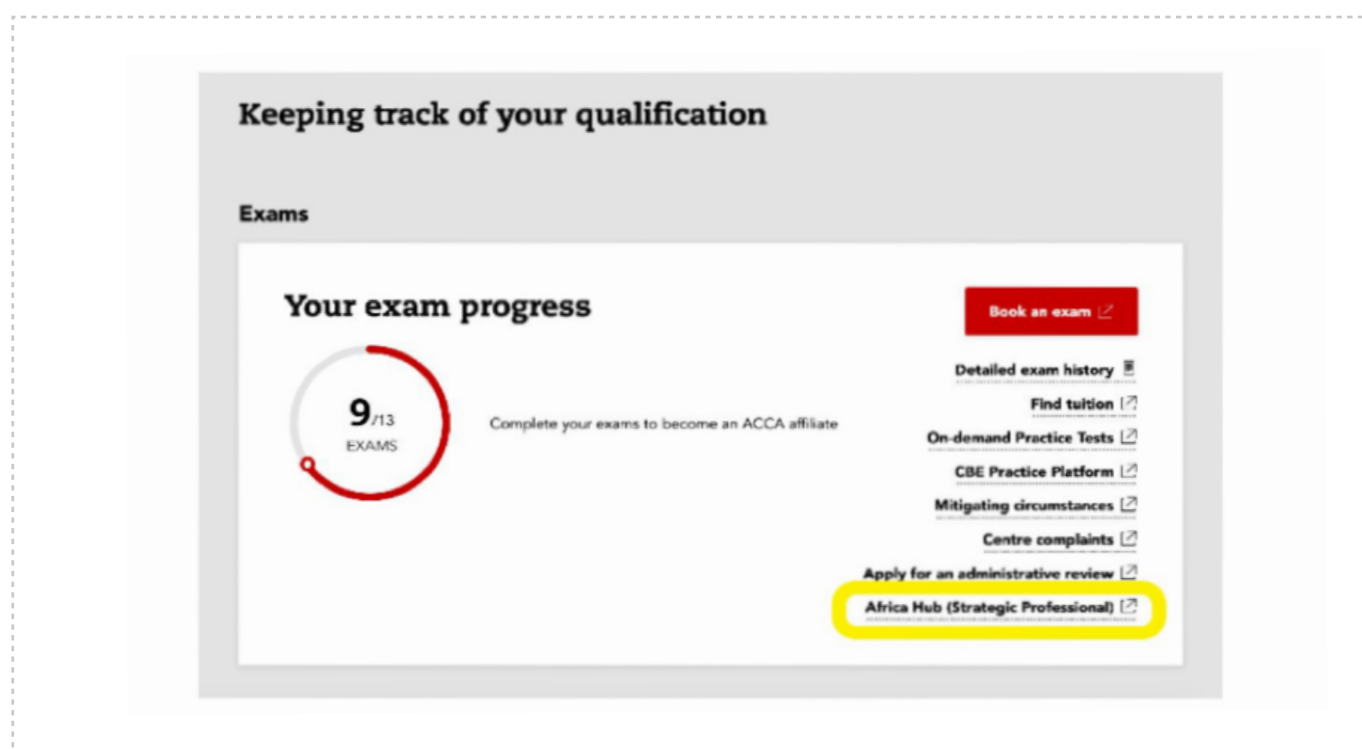
**THIS GUIDE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE KEY FEATURES OF THE STUDY HUB TO GET YOU STARTED, AND ALSO PROVIDE SOME TOP TIPS TO ENSURE YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME WHEN USING THE HUB.**

## Logging in

### RECOMMENDED STUDY HUB ACCESS METHOD: via MyACCA

The quickest way to access the Study Hub by **logging in** to MyACCA using your MyACCA username and password.

Once on the landing page, look for the link named 'Africa Hub (Strategic Professional)'. Selecting this link will take you into the Study Hub.



### ALTERNATE STUDY HUB ACCESS METHOD: via ACCAGlobal

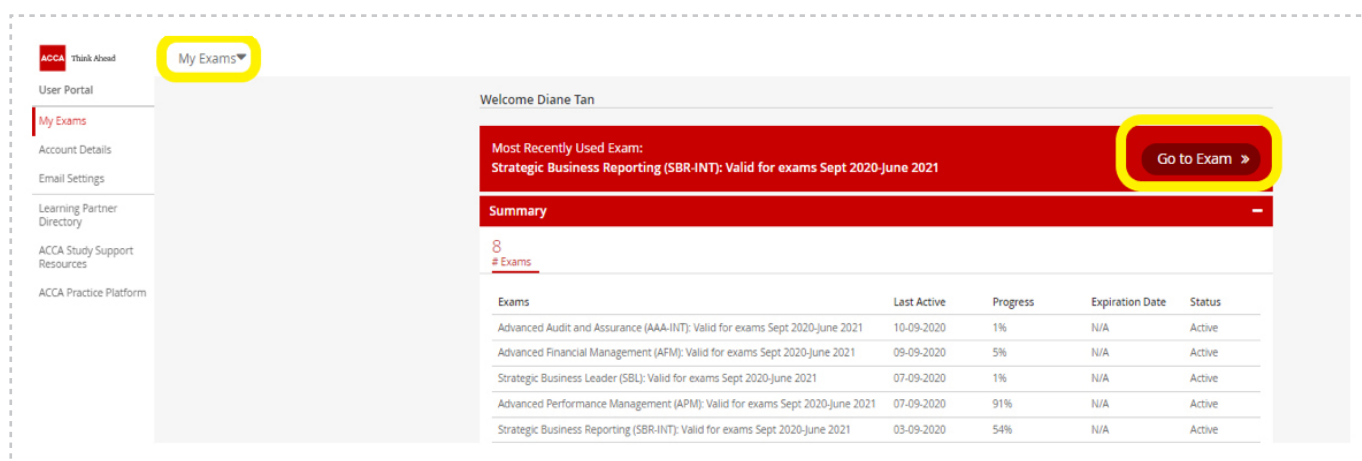
Another way to login to the Study Hub is from the Study Hub Information page on the Africa instance of the ACCAGlobal website. After clicking the link provided on the page, use your MyACCA credentials to access the Hub.

## User Portal

After logging in to the Study Hub, you see the Study Hub User Portal. The 5 exams included in this pilot are listed on this page.

The left margin provides quick links to ACCA’s learning Provider directory, to other ACCA resources and to ACCA’s Practice Platform. These will open up in a separate page on your browser.

To access the study materials for an exam, either select the exam name from the My Exams drop down menu, or, if you have already accessed the exam previously, you may use the Go to Exam button.



ACCA Think Ahead

My Exams

User Portal

Account Details

Email Settings

Learning Partner Directory

ACCA Study Support Resources

ACCA Practice Platform

Welcome Diane Tan

Most Recently Used Exam:  
Strategic Business Reporting (SBR-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021

Go to Exam »

Summary

8  
# Exams

Exams	Last Active	Progress	Expiration Date	Status
Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021	10-09-2020	1%	N/A	Active
Advanced Financial Management (AFM): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021	09-09-2020	5%	N/A	Active
Strategic Business Leader (SBL): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021	07-09-2020	1%	N/A	Active
Advanced Performance Management (APM): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021	07-09-2020	91%	N/A	Active
Strategic Business Reporting (SBR-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021	03-09-2020	54%	N/A	Active

The exam will load, and you will then see the Table of Contents of the study text.

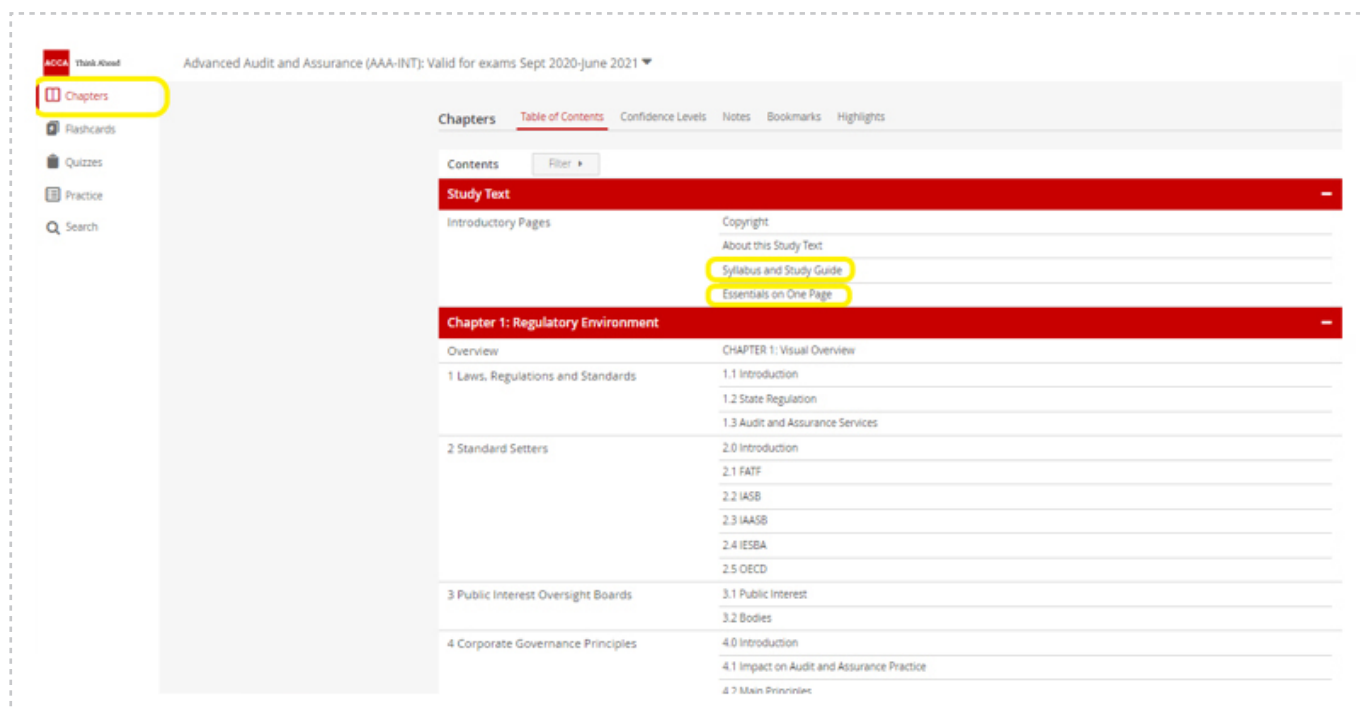
**TIP:** Once an exam has been fully loaded, all the content for the exam can be accessed offline as long as you do not navigate out of the exam. Your progress will be synced once internet connection is re-established.

## Table of Contents

On the left of this screen you will see that the content for each exam is organised into Chapters, Flashcards, Quizzes and Practice. There is also a Search function where you will be able to search for key words. The Chapters link will always take you back to the Table of Contents.

The middle section of the Table of Contents screen lists the study text Chapters for the exam, including chapter sections and subsections. Use these entries to navigate directly to any chapter or section within the study text, enabling you to jump in and out of chapters and sections as you please.

Every exam includes a downloadable 'Syllabus and Study Guide' and our handy 'Essentials on One Page' document.



ACCA Think Smart Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-june 2021

Chapters Table of Contents Confidence Levels Notes Bookmarks Highlights

Contents Filter

**Study Text**

Introductory Pages	Copyright
	About this Study Text
	<b>Syllabus and Study Guide</b>
	<b>Essentials on One Page</b>

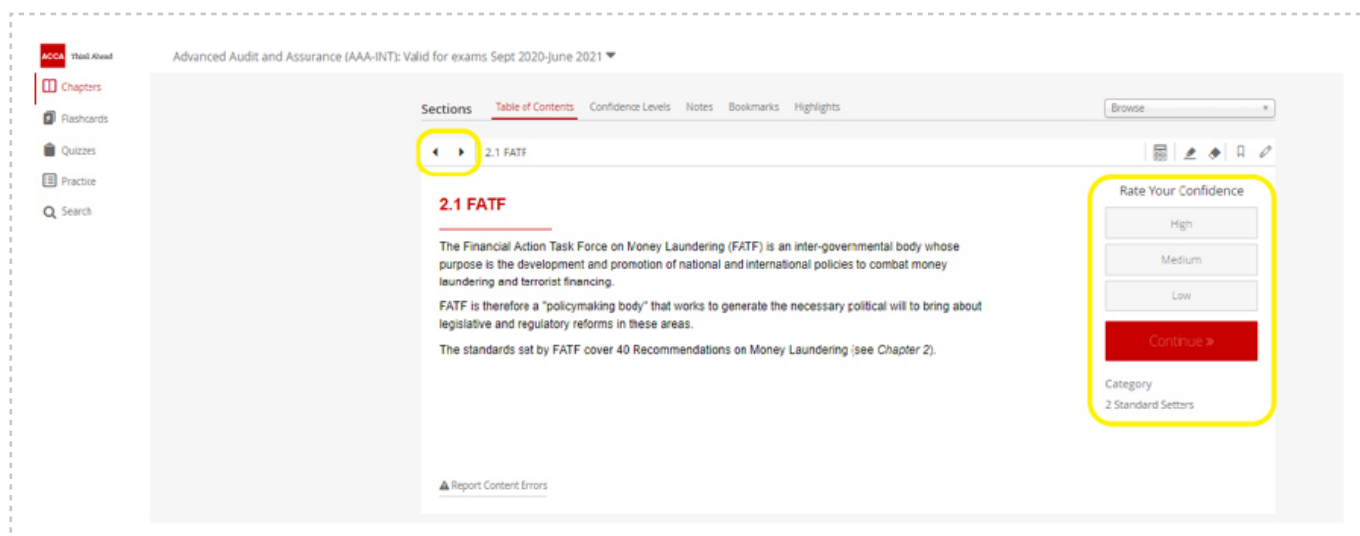
**Chapter 1: Regulatory Environment**

Overview	CHAPTER 1: Visual Overview
1 Laws, Regulations and Standards	1.1 Introduction
	1.2 State Regulation
	1.3 Audit and Assurance Services
2 Standard Setters	2.0 Introduction
	2.1 FATF
	2.2 IASB
	2.3 IAASB
	2.4 IESBA
	2.5 OECD
3 Public Interest Oversight Boards	3.1 Public Interest
	3.2 Bodies
4 Corporate Governance Principles	4.0 Introduction
	4.1 Impact on Audit and Assurance Practice
	4.2 Main Principles

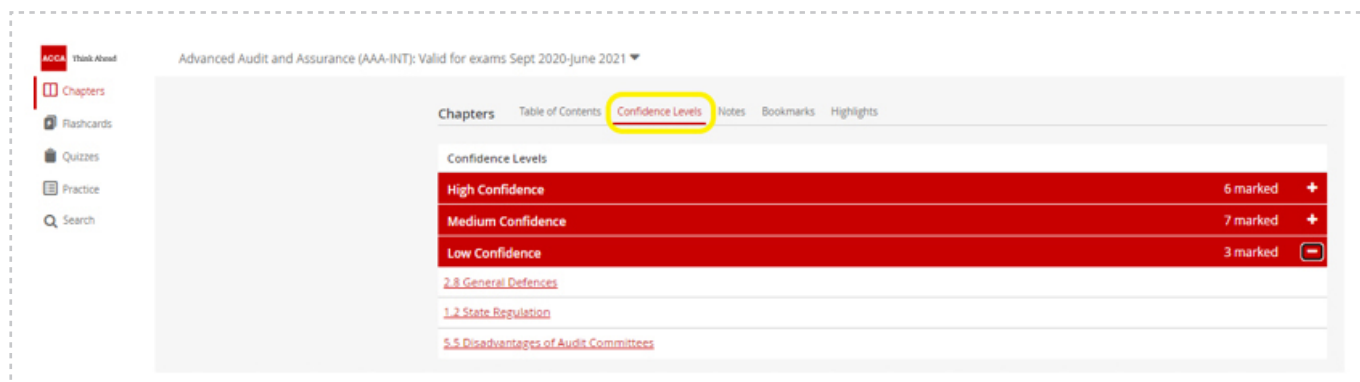
## Chapter structure and Rate Your Confidence

Every Chapter begins with a Visual Overview that links the concepts covered within the chapter.

Navigate through the sections within a chapter by using the back and next arrows. As you cover each section, use the 'Rate Your Confidence' feature to record how you are feeling about what you have just read.



As you rate more sections, a useful summary builds up which you can access using the Confidence Levels tab. This summary allows you to filter on areas of confidence, for example enabling you to return to areas of low confidence during your revision phase.



Confidence levels also appear, colour coded, in the Table of Contents.

Study Text		
Introductory Pages	Copyright About this Study Text Syllabus and Study Guide Essentials on One Page	
Chapter 1: Regulatory Environment		
Overview	CHAPTER 1: Visual Overview	
1 Laws, Regulations and Standards	1.1 Introduction	Medium
	1.2 State Regulation	Low
	1.3 Audit and Assurance Services	High
2 Standard Setters	2.0 Introduction	Medium
	2.1 FATF	Medium
	2.2 IASB	Medium
	2.3 IAASB	Medium
	2.4 IESBA	Medium
3 Public Interest Oversight Boards	2.5 OECD	
	3.1 Public Interest	
4 Corporate Governance Principles	3.2 Bodies	High
	4.0 Introduction	
5 Audit Committees	4.1 Impact on Audit and Assurance Practice	
	4.2 Main Principles	
	5.1 Guidance on Audit Committees	High
	5.2 Internal Audit	

At the end of each chapter is a mapping to the syllabus Learning Outcomes covered in the chapter.

**Syllabus Coverage**

Congratulations, you have covered the following Learning Outcomes:

**A. Regulatory Environment**

**1. International regulatory frameworks for audit and assurance services**

a) Explain the need for laws, regulations, standards and other guidance relating to audit, assurance and related services;

b) Outline and explain the need for the legal and professional framework including:

- public oversight of audit and assurance practice
- the impact of corporate governance principles on audit and assurance practice
- the role of audit committees and impact on audit and assurance practice.

[Report Content Errors](#)

**Rate Your Confidence**

High

Medium

Low

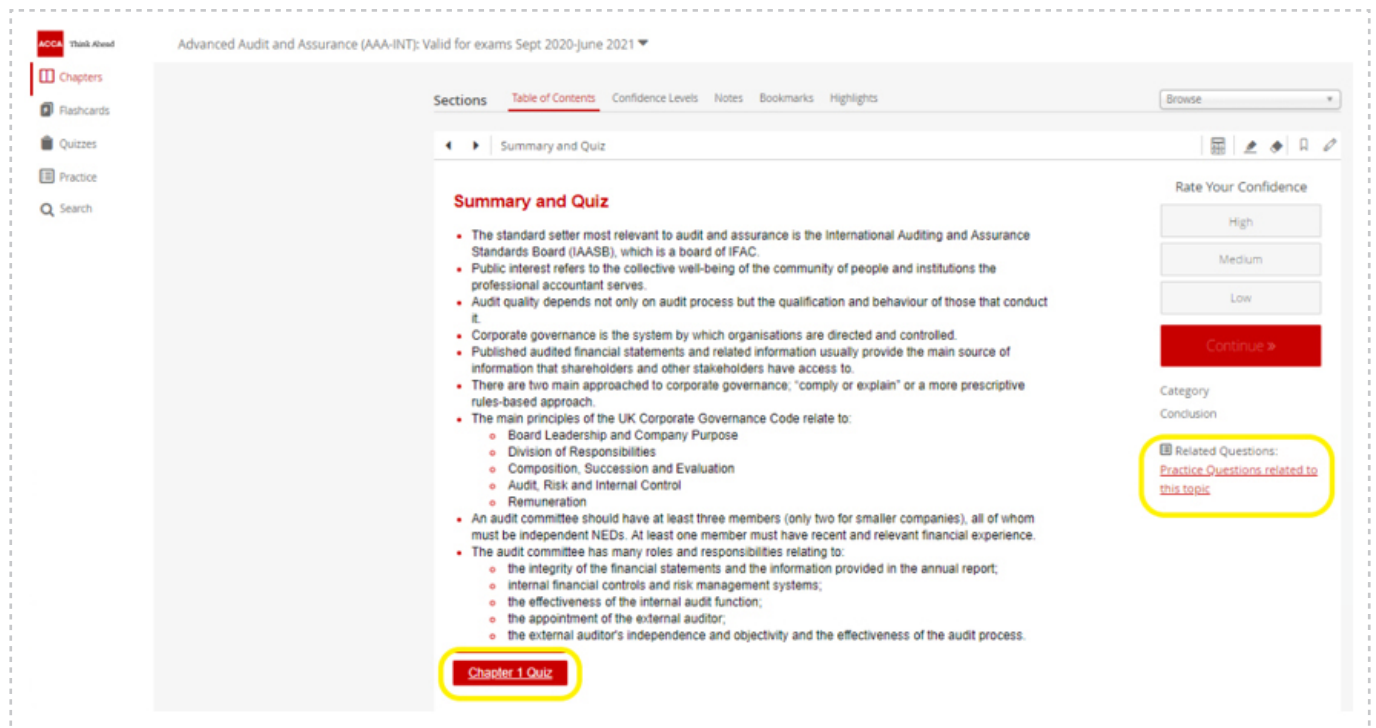
**Continue >**

Category

Conclusion



There is also a Summary section, which includes access to the Chapter Quiz and to one or more essay-style questions relevant to the chapter.



ACCA Think Ahead  
Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021

Sections Table of Contents Confidence Levels Notes Bookmarks Highlights

Summary and Quiz

### Summary and Quiz

- The standard setter most relevant to audit and assurance is the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), which is a board of IFAC.
- Public interest refers to the collective well-being of the community of people and institutions the professional accountant serves.
- Audit quality depends not only on audit process but the qualification and behaviour of those that conduct it.
- Corporate governance is the system by which organisations are directed and controlled.
- Published audited financial statements and related information usually provide the main source of information that shareholders and other stakeholders have access to.
- There are two main approaches to corporate governance, "comply or explain" or a more prescriptive rules-based approach.
- The main principles of the UK Corporate Governance Code relate to:
  - Board Leadership and Company Purpose
  - Division of Responsibilities
  - Composition, Succession and Evaluation
  - Audit, Risk and Internal Control
  - Remuneration
- An audit committee should have at least three members (only two for smaller companies), all of whom must be independent NEDs. At least one member must have recent and relevant financial experience.
- The audit committee has many roles and responsibilities relating to:
  - the integrity of the financial statements and the information provided in the annual report;
  - internal financial controls and risk management systems;
  - the effectiveness of the internal audit function;
  - the appointment of the external auditor;
  - the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process.

Rate Your Confidence

High  
Medium  
Low

Continue »

Category  
Conclusion

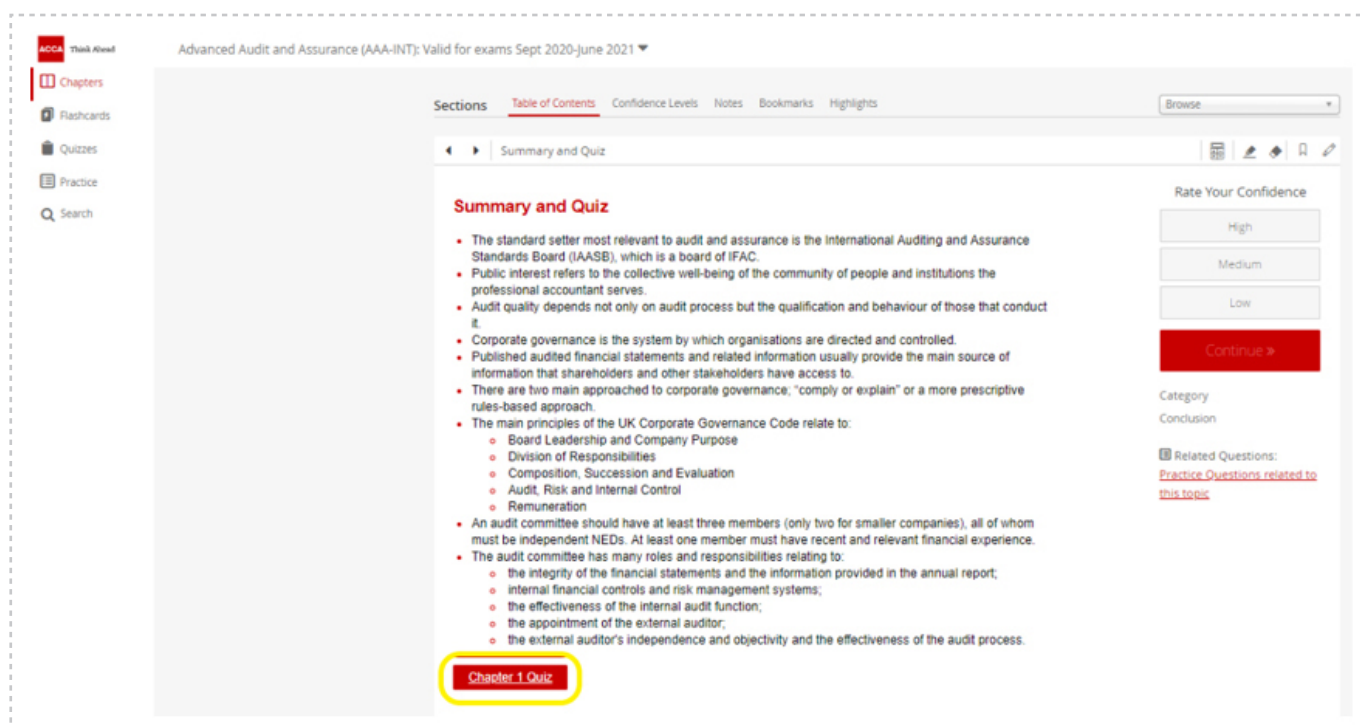
Related Questions:  
[Practice Questions related to this topic](#)

Chapter 1 Quiz



## Quizzes

To test your understanding of each chapter, take the chapter quiz by clicking on the Quiz button, for example *Chapter 1 Quiz*.



ACCA Think Ahead  
Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021

Sections: Table of Contents | Confidence Levels | Notes | Bookmarks | Highlights

Summary and Quiz

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  - the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process.

Rate Your Confidence

High  
Medium  
Low

Continue

Category  
Conclusion

Related Questions:  
[Practice Questions related to this topic](#)

Chapter 1 Quiz

Each quiz has 5 questions which are marked automatically. At the end of the quiz, you will be provided with your mark. Use the Review button to reveal the correct answer, with explanation, and to see a reference to the relevant section.

The Quizzes can also be accessed from the left navigation pane. This opens the Quiz Dashboard, which provides a summary of your Quiz results and enables you to reset your quizzes to try them again.

# Chapter Practice questions

To try an essay-style question when you have completed a chapter, click on the Related Questions link on the right margin.

You can plan your answer by making notes in the box provided.

Once you have considered your answer, click on Confirm to reveal the suggested solution, and compare your plan against it.

The end of chapter questions can also be assessed from the Practice link on the left navigation pane. You will find these chapter questions in the bottom half of the Practice page.

Chapter	Questions	Progress
52 Faster Jets Co	0 of 1	--
53 Malevich & Co	0 of 1	--
54 Moosewood Hospital	0 of 1	--
Chapter 1: Regulatory Environment	0 of 1	--
Chapter 2: Money Laundering	0 of 1	--
Chapter 3: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants	0 of 2	--
Chapter 4: Professional Responsibility and Liability	0 of 1	--
Chapter 5: Quality Control	0 of 1	--
Chapter 6: Professional Appointments	0 of 1	--
Chapter 7: Planning, Materiality and Risk	0 of 2	--
Chapter 8: Evidence and Testing	0 of 1	--
Chapter 9: Audit Procedures and Evidence Evaluation	0 of 5	--
Chapter 10: Using the Work of Others	0 of 1	--
Chapter 11: Group Audits	0 of 2	--
Chapter 12: Completion and Review	0 of 2	--

## Revision Questions

Once you are ready to begin your revision, you will find a bank of exam standard revision questions accessible from the Practice link on the left navigation pane. These questions work in the same way as the essay-style end of Chapter questions. However, Revision questions may cover topics from more than one chapter.

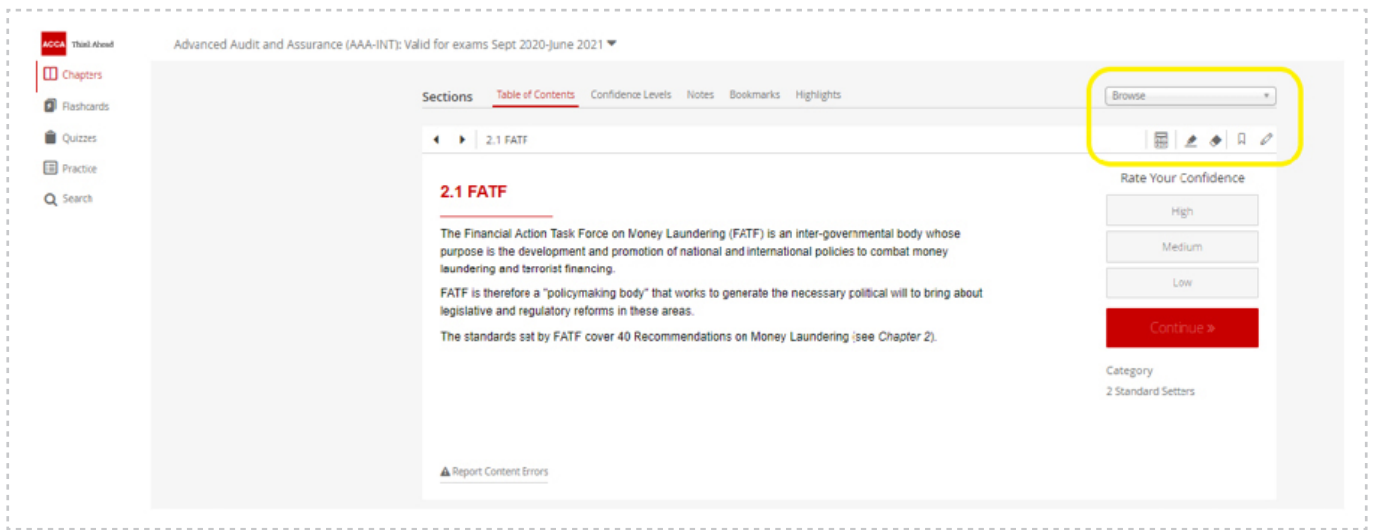
Category Name	Complete	% Correct
Revision Questions	1 of 54	--
1 Flight Investment	1 of 1	--
2 Banana Co	0 of 1	--
3 Dedza & Co	0 of 1	--
4 Carter & Co	0 of 1	--
5 Chester & Co	0 of 1	--
6 Northwest Co	0 of 1	--
7 Groom & Co	0 of 1	--
8 Tony Group	0 of 1	--
9 York Co	0 of 1	--
10 Wexford	0 of 1	--
11 Weston & Co	0 of 1	--
12 Monet & Co	0 of 1	--
13 Jolie Co	0 of 1	--
14 Champers Co	0 of 1	--
15 Connolly Co	0 of 1	--



# Tools

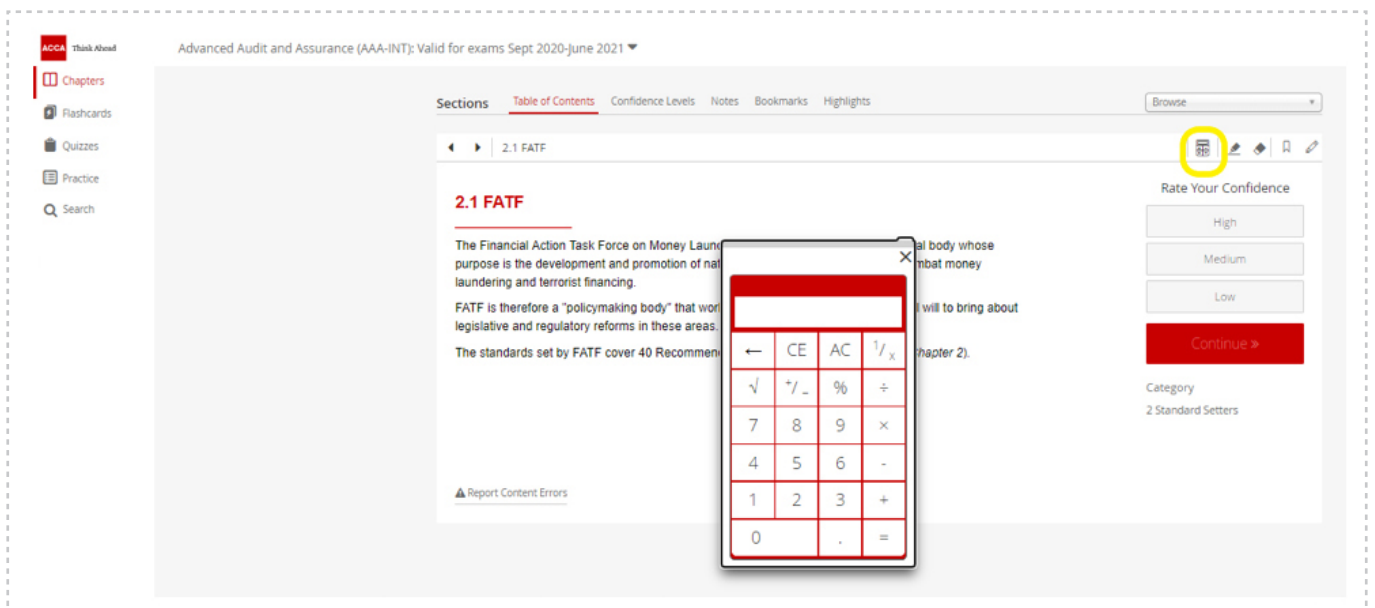
**(BROWSER, CALCULATOR, FORMULA SHEETS, HIGHLIGHTER, BOOKMARK, NOTES)**

The Study Hub provides several useful tools which are found in the ribbon in the top right of the screen.



The Browse drop down provides easy navigation to other sections within the study text.

For all exams, there is also a handy Calculator tool.



For AFM and APM, the relevant formula sheets are available from the Toolbox.

Advanced Financial Management (AFM): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021

Sections Table of Contents Confidence Levels Notes Bookmarks Highlights

Advanced Financial Management (AFM)  
**Formula Sheet and Maths Tables** Think Ahead **ACCA**

**Formulae**

Modigliani and Miller Proposition 2 (with tax)

$$k_e = k_e^i + (1 - T)(k_e^i - k_d) \frac{V_d}{V_e}$$

The Capital Asset Pricing Model

$$E(r_i) = R_f + \beta_i(E(r_m) - R_f)$$

The asset beta formula

Toolbox

Rate Your Confidence

High

Medium

Low

Continue »

Category  
 2 Corporate Objectives

Use the highlighter tool to highlight important points. To remove a highlight, use the eraser tool. All your highlights will be compiled into a summary which you can access from the Highlights tab.

Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021

Sections Table of Contents Confidence Levels Notes Bookmarks Highlights

2.1 FATF

**2.1 FATF**

The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) is an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of national and international policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

FATF is therefore a "policymaking body" that works to generate the necessary political will to bring about legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

The standards set by FATF cover 40 Recommendations on Money Laundering (see Chapter 2).

Rate Your Confidence

High

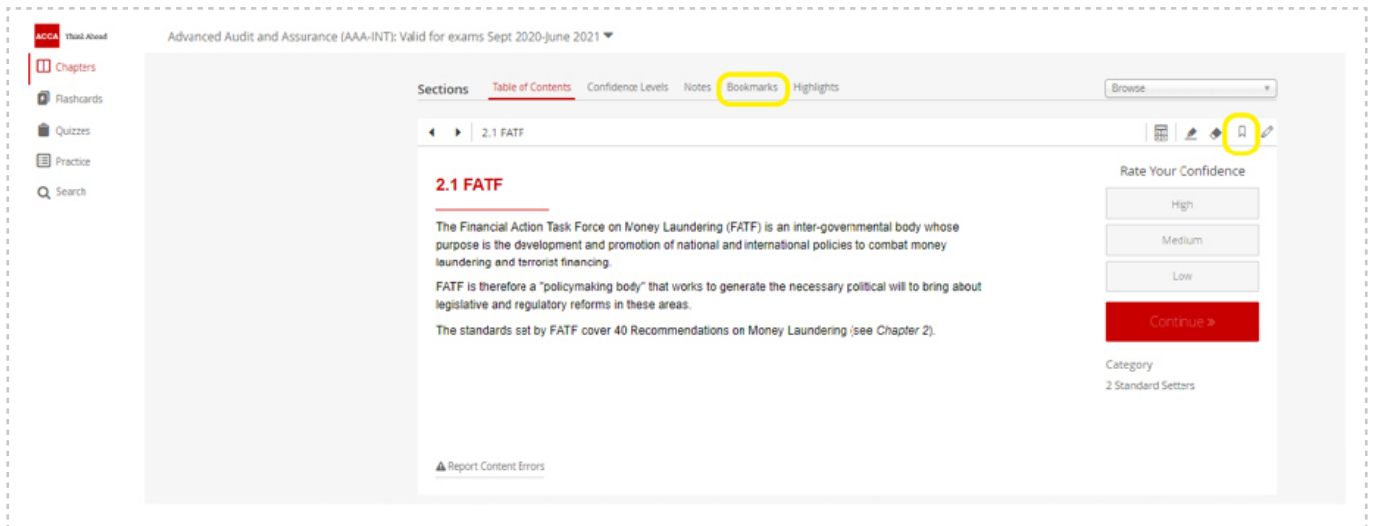
Medium

Low

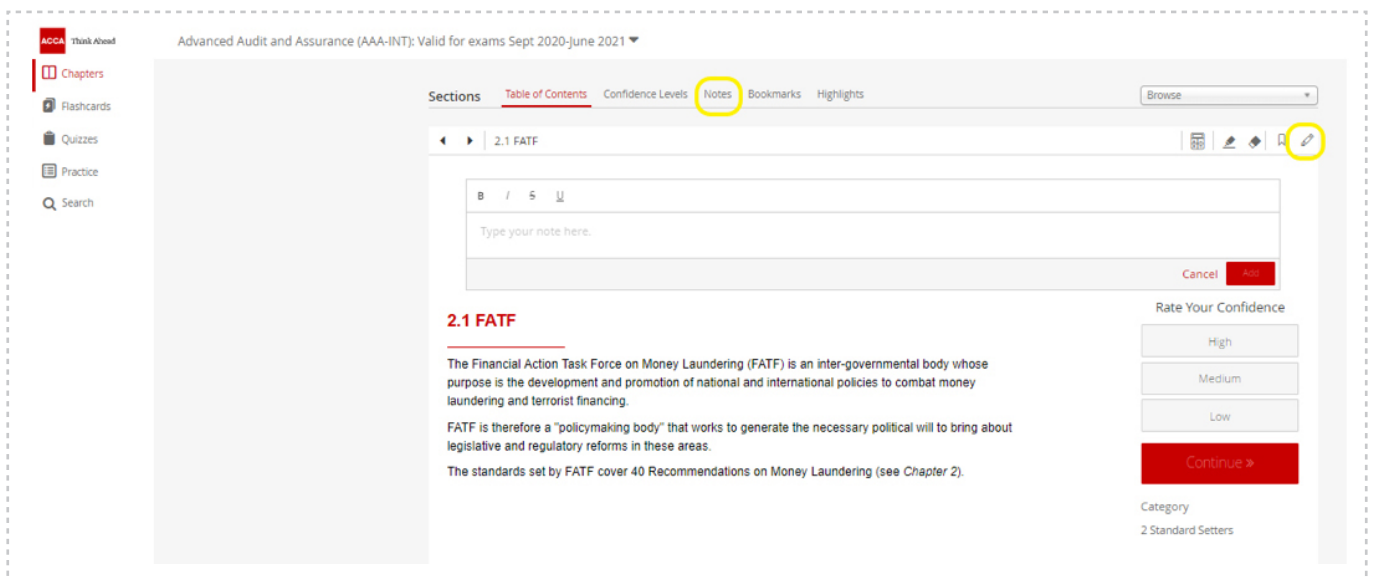
Continue »

Category  
 2 Standard Setters

Use the Bookmarks tool to mark or flag sections. These will be recorded in the bookmarks tab. To preview what you have bookmarked, click on the 'eye' icon.



To create a Note, click on the pencil icon. A box will appear for you to enter text and create a Note. A summary of the notes you have created can be accessed from the Notes tab. You can also print a summary of your notes from within the Notes tab using your browser's Print option.





## Flashcards

Use the Flashcards as a way to test your understanding of key definitions. The Flashcard feature is equally effective on desktop and on mobile devices.

For each Flashcard, you are able to rate your understanding against the definition. The rating of your last attempt will appear the next time you view that card.

The view list button allows you to see a list of the definitions covered in the Flashcards. You can also download a pdf of the definitions by using the Print button, which is available after you select View List.



# 5 Top Tips!

## 1. RATE YOUR CONFIDENCE EXTENSIVELY!

Rating your confidence as you progress through the chapters and sections will enable you to easily revisit the topics you find most challenging.

Let's assume you have been through Chapter 1 of AAA and have rated your confidence for all sections.

When you return to the Table of Contents, you are able to easily identify the sections you rated as Low Confidence.

By rating every section when you first worked through the chapter, you are now able to target the sections you need to work through again, to improve your knowledge and confidence. The aim is to be confident in all sections, and to turn all ratings green!

Chapter 1: Regulatory Environment		
Overview	CHAPTER 1: Visual Overview	High
1 Laws, Regulations and Standards	1.1 Introduction	High
	1.2 State Regulation	High
	1.3 Audit and Assurance Services	High
2 Standard Setters	2.0 Introduction	High
	2.1 FATF	High
	2.2 IASB	High
	2.3 IAASB	High
	2.4 IESBA	High
3 Public Interest Oversight Boards	2.5 OECD	High
	3.1 Public Interest	Low
	3.2 Bodies	High
4 Corporate Governance Principles	4.0 Introduction	High
	4.1 Impact on Audit and Assurance Practice	Low
	4.2 Main Principles	Medium
5 Audit Committees	5.1 Guidance on Audit Committees	High
	5.2 Internal Audit	High
	5.3 External Audit	High

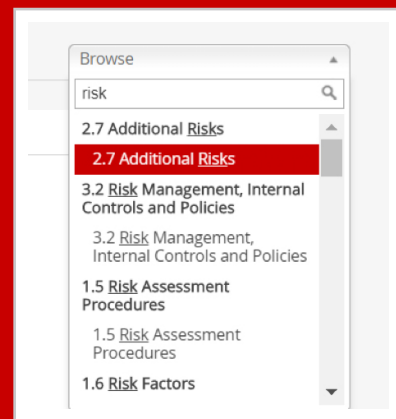
## 2. USE BROWSE FOR QUICK NAVIGATION

When you are studying a section within a chapter, the Browse box is visible in the top right corner of the screen.

From the Browse box, you are able to search for sections across the whole of the exam that you are currently studying.

For example, if you know you wish to return to a previously studied section named Risk Assessment Procedures, simply type one word from the section name in the Browse box, for example 'risk'. Then, every section which includes the word 'risk' appears in the filtered list below.

To navigate to a section, scroll down the list and select the section you require.



## 3. USE THE QUIZ DASHBOARD TO IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE GAPS

The Quiz Dashboard lists the chapter quizzes and shows the scores you achieved for the quizzes you have taken.

Your quiz score provides evidence of how well you have grasped the topics covered in a chapter. If you scored less than 4 / 5, that is a strong indicator that further study of that chapter is required.

The dashboard also enables targeted study of knowledge you failed to apply correctly in the quiz. By clicking on a quiz, you are able to see which questions you answered incorrectly and to access those questions. When reviewing a question, you are able to use the Learn more about this topic link to navigate directly to the relevant section of the chapter.

Strategic Business Leader (SBL): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021 ▼

Quizzes		Reports	
Quiz Name	Quiz Length	Quiz Time	% Correct
Chapter 1 Quiz	5 Questions	Unlimited	100% (5 / 5) Complete
Chapter 2 Quiz	5 Questions	Unlimited	100% (5 / 5) Complete
Chapter 3 Quiz	5 Questions	Unlimited	60% (3 / 5) Complete
Chapter 4 Quiz	5 Questions	Unlimited	100% (5 / 5) Complete
Chapter 5 Quiz	5 Questions	Unlimited	100% (5 / 5) Complete
Chapter 6 Quiz	5 Questions	Unlimited	100% (5 / 5) Complete



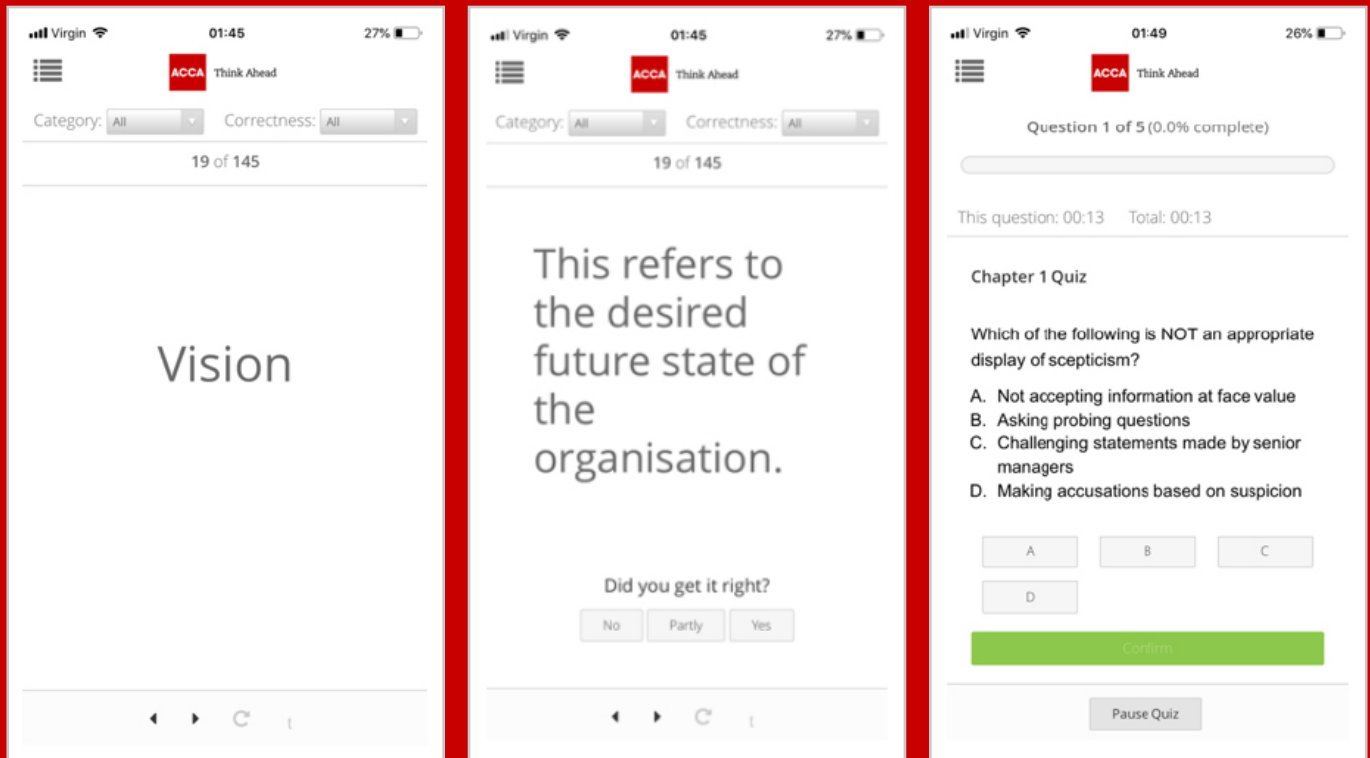
#### 4. USE THE STUDY HUB MOBILE APP IF UNABLE TO ACCESS THE BROWSER VERSION

Study Hub content and tasks are suited to a larger screen and keyboard than is available on mobile devices.

Therefore, the best user experience is provided on a desktop or laptop computer, with the Study Hub accessed via a browser such as Google Chrome.

However, to enable you to study when you do not have access to a computer or to the internet, the Study Hub may also be accessed via a mobile App. The Study Hub App is available from the App Store and from Google Play.

If you have a few minutes to spare and have your mobile device with you, our Top Tip is to use the Study Hub App on your mobile and to focus on the Flashcards and the Quizzes, as these tend not to require extensive screen space.



## 5. DON'T NEGLECT THE PRACTICE QUESTIONS!

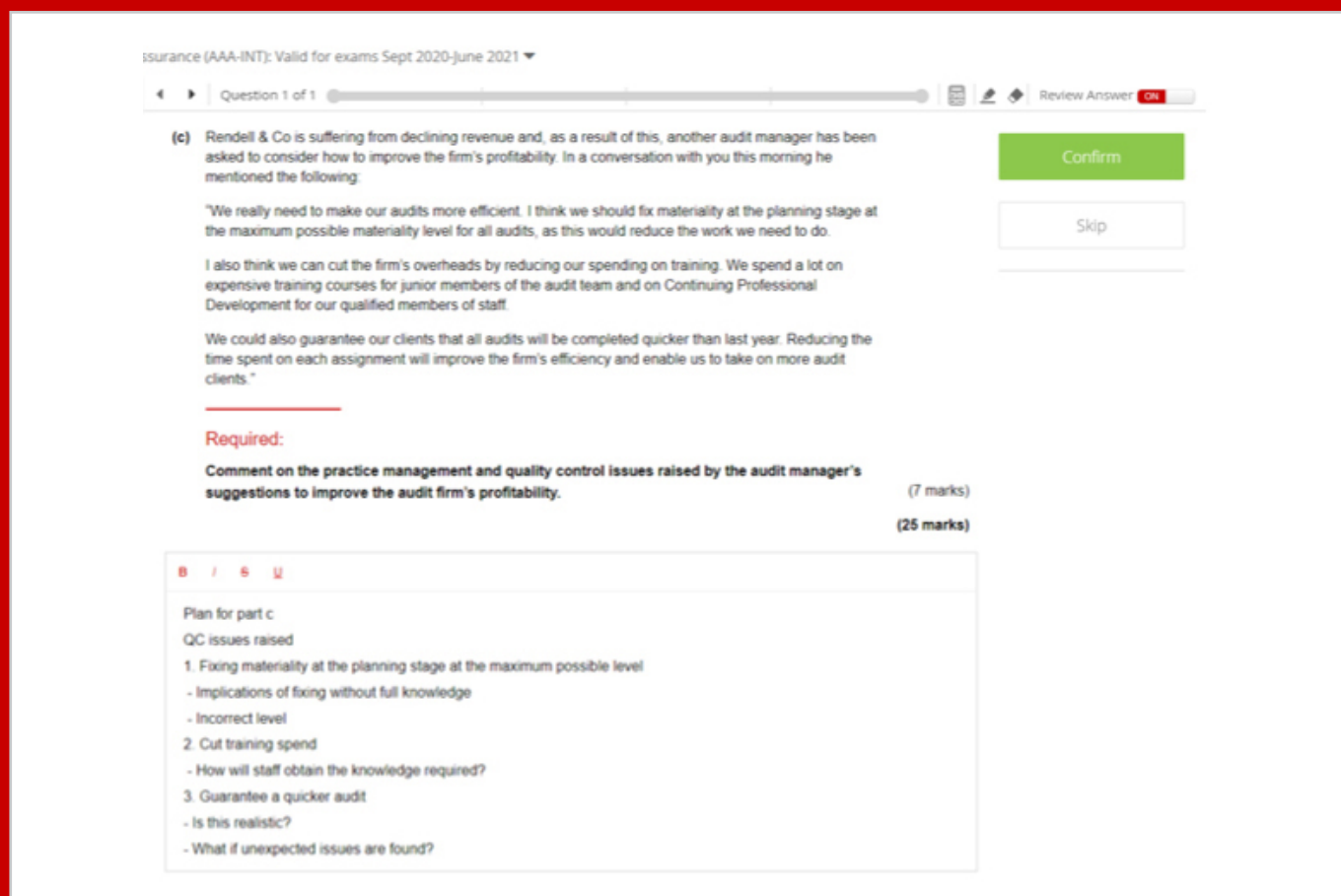
Ensure you make full use of the Study Hub's Practice Questions as these help you learn to apply your knowledge in different scenarios.

To succeed in exams at Strategic Professional level, you must be able to apply your knowledge to answer scenario-based questions. The essay-style questions included in the Study Hub will help you to develop the skills required.

At the end of each chapter, ensure you attempt the related question or questions available from the link on the right of the chapter Summary and Quiz screen. Later in your studies, work through the Revision questions listed in the Practice Dashboard.

In addition to planning your answers in the Study Hub, remember to practice producing full answers to questions, under exam conditions.

If you are based in a country which has moved to Computer Based Exams at Strategic Professional Level, ensure you attempt full exams in the ACCA Practice Platform.



The screenshot shows a practice question interface for 'Assurance (AAA-INT): Valid for exams Sept 2020-June 2021'. It is 'Question 1 of 1'. The question text is as follows:

**(c)** Rendell & Co is suffering from declining revenue and, as a result of this, another audit manager has been asked to consider how to improve the firm's profitability. In a conversation with you this morning he mentioned the following:

"We really need to make our audits more efficient. I think we should fix materiality at the planning stage at the maximum possible materiality level for all audits, as this would reduce the work we need to do.

I also think we can cut the firm's overheads by reducing our spending on training. We spend a lot on expensive training courses for junior members of the audit team and on Continuing Professional Development for our qualified members of staff.

We could also guarantee our clients that all audits will be completed quicker than last year. Reducing the time spent on each assignment will improve the firm's efficiency and enable us to take on more audit clients."

**Required:**

**Comment on the practice management and quality control issues raised by the audit manager's suggestions to improve the audit firm's profitability.** (7 marks)

**(25 marks)**

The interface includes a 'Confirm' button, a 'Skip' button, and a 'Review Answer' button with a '0%' progress indicator. Below the question is a text input area with a rich text editor toolbar (B, I, S, U) and the following typed answer:

Plan for part c  
 QC issues raised

1. Fixing materiality at the planning stage at the maximum possible level
  - Implications of fixing without full knowledge
  - Incorrect level
2. Cut training spend
  - How will staff obtain the knowledge required?
3. Guarantee a quicker audit
  - Is this realistic?
  - What if unexpected issues are found?