



ACCA



How to use  
**SBL PRE-SEEN**

Think Ahead

The pre-seen is the start of your SBL examination and taking the right approach to using the pre-seen is key to your success. This document summarises the key points you need to consider as you use the pre-seen to prepare for the live SBL examination.

### **AIM OF THE PRE-SEEN**

The main aim of the pre-seen is to enable you to become familiar with the business activities of the case study organisation and the industry in which it operates before the exam session. Familiarity with the important contextual information included in the pre-seen will help you to better understand and apply the further information that will be provided in the exhibits in the SBL exam.

The pre-seen is designed to provide background and context only and will not signal areas of the syllabus or tasks that will be included in the exam.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-SEEN**

There are two parts to the pre-seen information: the industry information and information that relates to the organisation.

#### *The industry information*

ACCA will continue to base the case study exam on an industry or sector of the economy. You should familiarise yourself with the information provided in the pre-seen, even if you are already familiar with the industry. This is because for the purpose of the SBL exam, certain facts about the industry may be simplified.

#### *The organisation information*

The organisation in the pre-seen is fictitious and will not represent a real organisation. The specific information provided will vary depending on what is appropriate for each SBL exam.

You will need to spend time becoming very familiar with the information in the pre-seen. You may do some research to better understand the terminologies and activities of the industry. However, there is no expectation that students undertake further research. Remember that the SBL exam is based on a fictitious organisation and the exam tasks will relate to this organisation specifically and not to any general research that you may have undertaken independently.

### THE PRE-SEEN IN THE LIVE EXAMINATION

As SBL is a closed book exam, you are **NOT** allowed to take your own annotated copy of the pre-seen into the exam. A copy of the pre-seen will be available to you for reference purposes during the exam.

During the exam, you should know where to find information within the pre-seen, as this will save you time.

### WHAT TO AVOID DOING WITH THE PRE-SEEN

- Avoid extensive additional research into the industry
- Avoid speculating on areas of the syllabus that will be examined based on the pre-seen
- Avoid using the pre-seen as the main source of material for answering the exam tasks. The exhibits provided on the exam day must be used
- Avoid reading the pre-seen for the first time just before the exam session
- Avoid spending too much time on the pre-seen at the expense of revising areas of the syllabus and completing practice mock exams
- Avoid question tipping and spotting

### EFFECTS OF COVID 19

Due to the varied effects of Covid 19 globally, the pre-seen and the SBL live exam will not consider any specific Covid 19 related situations affecting any industry, organisation and government. You should ignore the effect of COVID 19 for the purpose of the SBL exam.

### STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT

We have created a number of other resources to support you in your preparation for the SBL exam. Please refer to the examining team guidance documents which discuss the pre-seen and tips for preparing for and sitting your SBL exam in more detail. Click [here](#)

If you have not already done so, please also work through the two specimen exams and practice questions which are available on the practice platform. Click [here](#)