

How to approach the Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA) exam

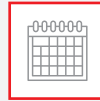
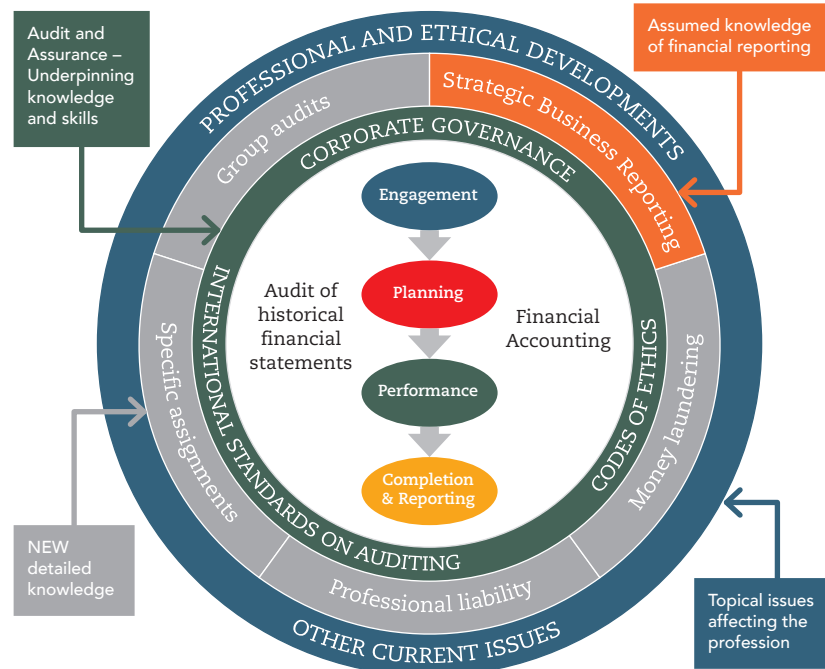
AAA builds on the **Audit and Assurance** and **Strategic Business Reporting (SBR)** exams, by introducing more complex topics and covering the basic topics from different angles to reflect the challenges auditors will face in their professional life. Current issues, exposure drafts and developments in audit including emerging technologies also feature. Questions are set in the context of single entities, groups and private or public sector organisations.

To prepare for AAA effectively you need to understand the nature of the exam and what you will be asked to do.



AAA – In Essence

The aim of the syllabus is to analyse, evaluate and conclude on the assurance engagement and other audit and assurance issues in the context of best practice and current developments.



How to prepare

Advice from an expert tutor

- Make use of ACCA resources
- Cover the entire syllabus
- Learn how to apply and use knowledge
- Practice planning questions, writing full answers and review them thoroughly. Visit **this page** for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the ACCA Practice Platform
- Wider reading, for example news of **current issues and developments** in auditing



Links to support resources

- Examining team guidance
- Technical articles
- Passing Strategic Professional exams
- Professional skills marks
- Ethics and Professional Skills module
- Tutor video review of March 2020 exam
- Past exam questions and answers
- Practice exams in the Practice Platform
- Examiner's reports
- Strategic Professional CBE support
- FAQs



Tackling the exam

Most frequently used AAA exam verbs:



EVALUATE



EXPLAIN



DISCUSS

Read [this article](#) for more about exam verbs

Question approach:

- ✓ Analyse the wording of the requirements carefully
- ✓ Use the mark allocation to guide the length and breadth of the answer you should plan
- ✓ Read the first paragraph to understand the assignment
- ✓ Invest time in active reading of the scenario
- ✓ Identify relevant technical knowledge
 - Accounting as well as auditing
- ✓ Apply this to the scenario
 - Organise your planned points
 - Check you have used all information and exhibits before writing out your answer

How to earn professional skills marks:

The AAA exam has 20 marks for demonstrating professional skills

- **Communication**
Section A questions require briefing notes. Use appropriate headings and sub-headings, and clear, concise language. Ensure you answer the question asked!
- **Analysis and evaluation**
Analysis or evaluation must be relevant to the organisation and their situation
- **Scepticism and judgement**
Demonstrate your professional judgement by prioritising risks based on the situation
- **Commercial acumen**
Assess business risks affecting the client and the impact of the engagement on the audit firm

