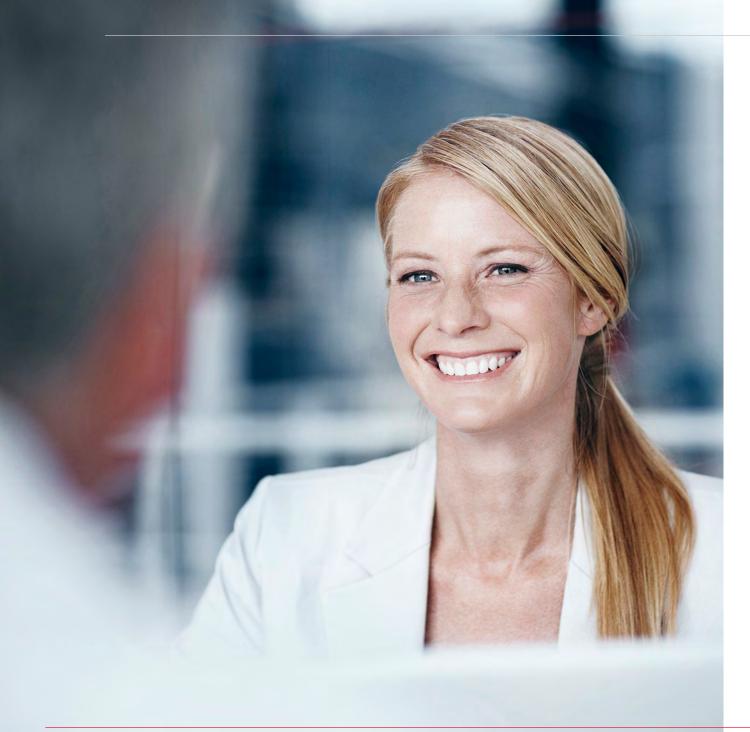


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Introduction

I am a member of the team who marks Advanced Audit & Assurance. This article is designed to give you, the candidate, an insight into my mind, so that you can better understand what a marker will be looking for when it comes to marking your Advanced Audit & Assurance script.

Insight into a marker's thinking – appreciating what we are trained to look for, what we award marks for, the reasons why marks may not be awarded – will help you fulfil your potential and gain the necessary marks to pass. It will help you appreciate the points that will attract marks so that you can better assess your answers when practicing questions.

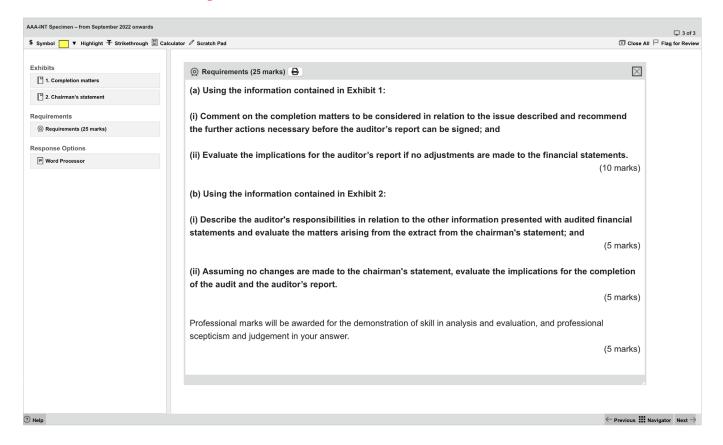
This article uses two candidates' answers to Question 3 from the AAA-INT specimen exam. To support your reading of this article, you should refer to the specimen exam on the ACCA Practice Platform.

You may also find it interesting to refer to the published answers for the specimen exam, noting the differences and comparing the length and style to the candidates' answers seen in this article. It's important to remember that you don't need to replicate the published answer to achieve a pass. You can access the answers on the ACCA Practice Platform.

READ THE MIND OF AN AAA MARKER – Q3

Question 3

Observations on the requirement



Completion and reporting are important elements of the AAA syllabus and will build upon the knowledge gained at AA. At the higher level, you will be expected to consider the evidence and expand upon your answers in relation to the scenario. Where you are asked to consider the impact on the auditor's report, a reasoned justification will be required.

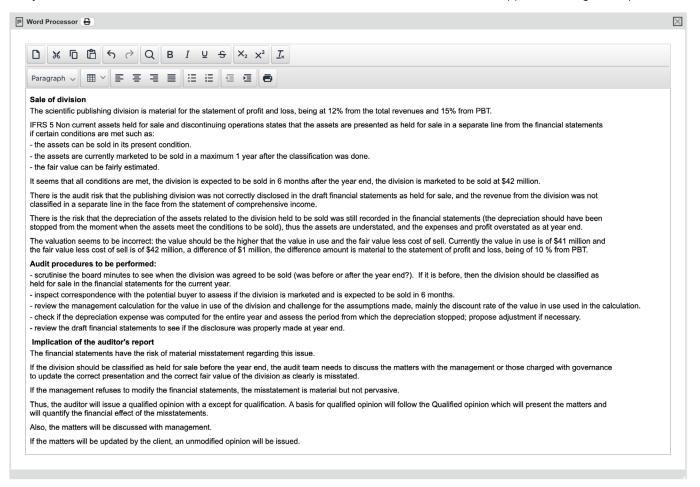
Once again, stronger candidates are those who demonstrate strong technical knowledge of auditing standards which are applied to the scenario. Professional skills marks will be gained where application of knowledge is demonstrated.

READ THE MIND OF AN AAA MARKER – Q3

Specimen exam marked answers

Question 3 candidate one

Roll your cursor over each numbered note for the marks awarded and marker's comments to appear in the right side panel:



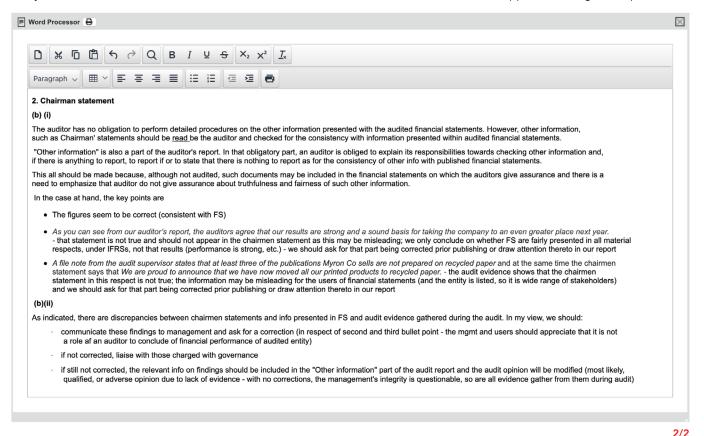
Marks awarded and comments:

1/2

Specimen exam marked answers

Question 3 candidate one

Roll your cursor over each numbered note for the marks awarded and marker's comments to appear in the right side panel:



Marks awarded and comments:

Notes on candidate one's answer to Q3

Summary of marks:

TECHNICAL:	
а)	10
bi)	5
bii)	2
TOTAL technical marks	17
PROFESSIONAL:	
Analysis and Evaluation	3 (max)
Professional scepticism and judgement	3
Commercial Acumen	-
TOTAL professional marks	5 (max)
OVERALL TOTAL	22/25

How could this answer have been improved?

Overall, this was a good attempt by the candidate as they provided answers which were relevant to the context of the scenario. Issues were supported by evidence from the scenario, and the candidate demonstrated strong auditing and financial reporting knowledge to support their evaluations. The candidate repeatedly challenged the information and the work undertaken and supplied suitable suggestions for improvement.

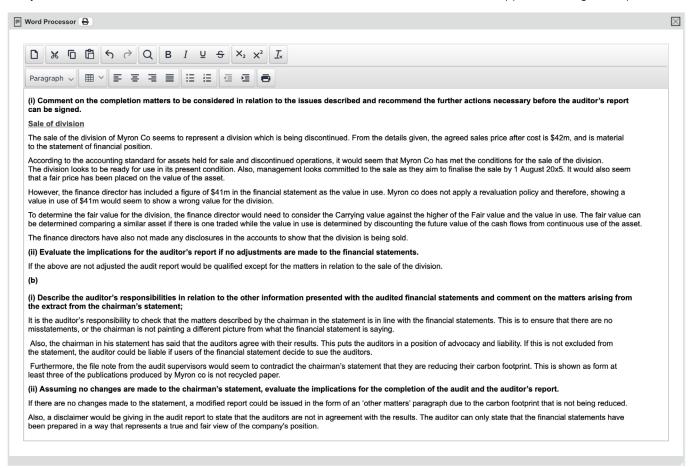
Further actions requested in part (a) would need more explanation as to the reasoning for the action, and what the auditor was looking for, as the procedures suggested scored few technical marks and all candidates must remember to consider what actions would be appropriate at the completion stage of the audit in future questions. This latter point would

score the professional marks, ie recognising what is required and what is appropriate at this stage of the audit process. The candidate correctly provided justified conclusions as this was an 'evaluation' requirement and especially important in a reporting question. Professional marks as well as technical marks are available for justified conclusions.

Specimen exam marked answers

Question 3 candidate two

Roll your cursor over each numbered note for the marks awarded and marker's comments to appear in the right side panel:



Marks awarded and comments:

Notes on candidate two's answer to Q3

Summary of marks:

TECHNICAL:	
a)	4
bi)	3
bii)	0
TOTAL technical marks	7
PROFESSIONAL:	
Analysis and Evaluation	1
Professional scepticism and judgement	1
Commercial Acumen	-
TOTAL professional marks	2
OVERALL TOTAL	9/25

How could this answer have been improved?

The points made by the candidate are not fully explained with sufficient justification and suitable suggestions. The exception has been highlighted and awarded a professional mark as they have developed the point using knowledge, information in the scenario and drawing some conclusion.

Generally, there was a lack of challenge throughout the response. Where challenges have been implied or highlighted, they are not fully developed. In part b(ii), there is some challenge by the candidate of the apparent contradiction of the chairman's statement, in order to make this a definite professional mark in the exam, they should ensure they explain it further: Ideally the candidate should have explained it further (why do they believe there is a contradiction? What is the evidence for this? What are the possible implications?)

The lack of full and applied responses to the technical elements of the requirement have resulted in a lower professional skill score. Professional skills are awarded for demonstrating the application skills of the candidate, and the response here lacked the appropriate depth.

Further actions requested in part (a) would need more explanation as to the reasoning for the action, and what the auditor was looking for, as the procedures suggested scored few technical marks and all candidates must remember to consider what actions would be appropriate at the completion stage of the audit in future questions. This latter point would score the professional marks, ie recognising what is required and what is appropriate at this stage of the audit process. Many of the suggestions by the candidate are procedures which would have been undertaken at an earlier stage or fail to provide the additional evidence which is required.

As this was an 'evaluation' requirement, inclusion of a justified conclusion would have gained additional technical and professional marks.

READ THE MIND OF AN AAA MARKER – Q3

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