

The ACCA logo is a red square with the letters 'ACCA' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**ACCA**

# **Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL)**

**Syllabus and study guide**

**June and December 2020**

**Think Ahead**

## Summary of content

### Introduction

1. Intellectual levels
2. Learning hours and educational recognition
3. Guide to ACCA examination structure
4. Guide to ACCA examination assessment

### Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL) syllabus

5. Relational diagram linking Taxation – Ireland with other exams
6. Overall aim of the syllabus
7. Main capabilities
8. Rationale
9. Approach to examining the syllabus
10. The syllabus

### Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL) study guide

11. Detailed study guide

## 1. Intellectual levels

The syllabus is designed to progressively broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and professional values demonstrated by the student on their way through the qualification.

The specific capabilities within the detailed syllabuses and study guides are assessed at one of three intellectual or cognitive levels:

Level 1:	Knowledge and comprehension
Level 2:	Application and analysis
Level 3:	Synthesis and evaluation

Very broadly, these intellectual levels relate to the three cognitive levels at which the Applied Knowledge, the Applied Skills and the Strategic Professional exams are assessed.

Each subject area in the detailed study guide included in this document is given a 1, 2, or 3 superscript, denoting intellectual level, marked at the end of each relevant line. This gives an indication of the intellectual depth at which an area could be assessed within the examination. However, while level 1 broadly equates with Applied Knowledge, level 2 equates to Applied Skills and level 3 to Strategic Professional, some lower level skills can continue to be assessed as the student progresses through each level. This reflects that at each stage of study there will be a requirement to broaden, as well as deepen capabilities. It is also possible that occasionally some higher level capabilities may be assessed at lower levels.

## 2. Learning hours and educational recognition

The ACCA qualification does not prescribe or recommend any particular number of learning hours for examinations because study and learning patterns and styles vary greatly between people and organisations. This also recognises the wide diversity of personal, professional and educational circumstances in which ACCA students find themselves.

As a member of the International Federation of Accountants, ACCA seeks to enhance the education recognition of its qualification on both national and international education frameworks, and with educational authorities and partners globally. In doing so, ACCA aims to ensure that its qualifications are recognised and valued by governments, regulatory authorities and employers across all sectors. To this end, ACCA qualifications are currently recognised on the education frameworks in several countries. Please refer to your national education framework regulator for further information.

Each syllabus is organised into main subject area headings which are further broken down to provide greater detail on each area.

### 3. Guide to ACCA examination structure

The structure of examinations varies within and between levels.

#### Applied Knowledge

The Applied Knowledge examinations contain 100% compulsory questions to encourage candidates to study across the breadth of each syllabus. These are assessed by a two-hour computer based examination.

#### Applied Skills

The *Corporate and Business Law* exam is a two-hour computer based objective test examination for English and Global. For the format and structure of the *Corporate and Business Law* or *Taxation* variant exams, refer to the 'Approach to examining the syllabus' in section 9 of the relevant syllabus and study guide.

The other Applied Skills examinations (PM, TX-UK, FR, AA and FM) contain a mix of objective and longer type response questions with a duration of three hours for 100 marks. These exams are available in computer-based format. Prior to the start of each exam there will be time allocated for students to be informed of the exam instructions. For the format and structure of the TX-IRL variant exam, refer to the 'Approach to examining the syllabus' section below.

The longer (constructed response) question types used in the Applied Skills exams (excluding Corporate and Business Law) require students to effectively mimic what they do in the workplace. Students will need to use a range of digital skills and demonstrate their ability to use spreadsheets and word processing tools in producing their answers, just as they would use these tools in the workplace. These

assessment methods allow ACCA to focus on testing students' technical and application skills, rather than, for example, their ability to perform simple calculations.

#### Strategic Professional

*Strategic Business Leader* is ACCA's case study examination at the Strategic Professional level and is examined as a closed book exam of four hours, including reading, planning and reflection time which can be used flexibly within the examination. There is no pre-seen information and all exam related material, including case information and exhibits are available within the examination. Strategic Business leader is an examination based on one main business scenario which involves candidates completing several tasks within which additional material may be introduced. All questions are compulsory and each examination will contain a total of 80 technical marks and 20 Professional Skills marks.

The other Strategic Professional exams are all of three hours and 15 minutes duration. All contain two Sections and all questions are compulsory. These exams all contain four professional marks.

From March 2020, Strategic Professional exams will become available by computer based examination. More detail regarding what is available in your market will be on the ACCA global website.

With Applied Knowledge and Applied Skills exams now assessed by computer based exam, ACCA is committed to continuing on its journey to assess all exams within the ACCA Qualification using this delivery mode.

The question types used at Strategic Professional again require students to effectively mimic what they would do in the workplace and, with the move to CBE, these exams again offer ACCA the opportunity to focus on the application of knowledge to scenarios, using a range of tools – spreadsheets, word processing and presentations - not only enabling students to demonstrate their technical and professional skills but also their use of the technology available to today's accountants.

ACCA encourages students to take time to read questions carefully and to plan answers but once the exam time has started, there are no additional restrictions as to when candidates may start writing in their answer books.

Time should be taken to ensure that all the information and exam requirements are properly read and understood.

The pass mark for all ACCA Qualification examinations is 50%.

## 4. Guide to ACCA examination assessment

ACCA reserves the right to examine anything contained within the study guide. This includes knowledge, techniques, principles, theories, and concepts as specified. For the financial accounting, audit and assurance, law and tax exams except where indicated otherwise, ACCA will publish *examinable documents* once a year to indicate exactly what regulations and legislation could potentially be assessed within identified examination sessions.

For most examinations (not tax), regulations **issued** or legislation **passed** on or before 31 August annually, will be examinable from 1 September of the following year to 31 August of the year after that. Please refer to the examinable documents for the exam (where relevant) for further information.

The **IRL** variant tax examinations in June and December will be based on legislation passed before the previous 30 September. i.e. June and December 2020 papers will be based on legislation passed by 30 September 2019.

Regulations issued or legislation passed in accordance with the above dates may be examinable even if the **effective** date is in the future.

The term issued or passed relates to when regulation or legislation has been formally approved.

The term effective relates to when regulation or legislation must be applied to an entity's transactions and business practices.

The study guide offers more detailed guidance on the depth and level at which the examinable documents will be examined. The study guide should therefore be read in conjunction with the examinable documents list.

## 5. Relational diagram linking Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL) with other exams

This diagram shows between this exam and other exams preceding or following it. Some exams are directly underpinned by other exams such as Advanced Taxation – Ireland (ATX-IRL) by Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL).



This diagram indicates where students are expected to have underpinning knowledge and where it would be useful to review previous learning before undertaking study.

## 6. Overall aim of the syllabus

This syllabus and study guide is designed to help with planning study and to provide detailed information on what could be assessed in any examination session.

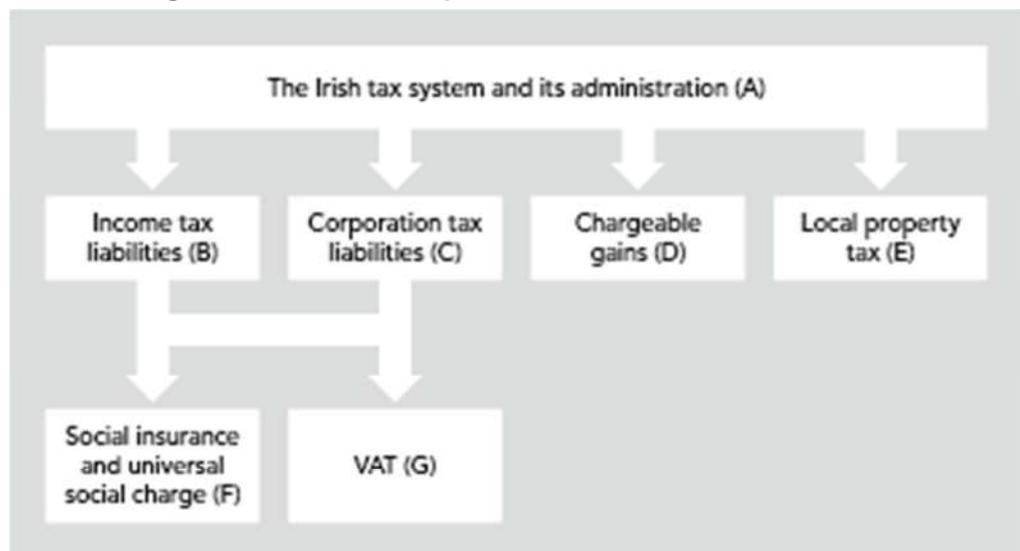
The aim of the syllabus is to develop knowledge and skills relating to the Irish tax system as applicable to individuals, single companies and groups of companies.

## 7. Main capabilities

On successful completion of this exam, candidates should be able to:

- A** Explain the operation and scope of the Irish tax system and the obligations of tax payers and/or their agents and the implications of non-compliance.
- B** Explain and compute the income tax liabilities of individuals
- C** Explain and compute the corporation tax liabilities of individual companies and groups of companies
- D** Explain and compute the chargeable gains arising on companies and individuals
- E** Explain and compute the taxation of residential property
- F** Explain and compute the effect of social insurance and universal social charge on employees, employers and the self employed
- G** Explain and compute the effects of value added tax on incorporated and unincorporated businesses

### Relational diagram of the main capabilities



This diagram illustrates the flows and links between the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus and should be used as an aid to planning teaching and learning in a structured way.

## 8. Rationale

The syllabus for Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL) introduces candidates to the subject of taxation and provides the core knowledge of the underlying principles and major technical areas of taxation, as they affect the activities of individuals and businesses.

Candidates are introduced to the rationale behind - and the functions of - the tax system. The syllabus then considers the separate taxes that an accountant would need to have a detailed knowledge of, such as income tax from self employment, employment and investments; the corporation tax liability of individual companies and groups of companies; the social insurance and universal social charges of both employed and self employed persons; the value added tax liability of businesses; and the chargeable gains arising on disposals of investments by both individuals and companies.

Having covered the core areas of the basic taxes, the candidate should be able to compute tax liabilities, explain the basis of their calculations, apply tax planning techniques for individuals and companies and identify the compliance issues for each major tax through a variety of business and personal scenarios and situations.

## **9. Approach to examining the syllabus**

The syllabus is assessed by a three-hour computer-based examination.

The paper will be predominantly computational and all questions are compulsory.

Section A of the exam comprises 15 multiple choice questions of 2 marks each.

Section B of the exam comprises four 10 mark questions and two 15 mark questions.

The two 15 mark questions will focus on income tax (syllabus area B) and corporation tax (syllabus area C).

The section A questions and the other questions in section B can cover any area of the syllabus.

## 10. The syllabus

### A The Irish tax system and its administration

1. The overall function and purpose of taxation in a modern economy
2. Principal sources of revenue law and practice
3. The systems for self-assessment and the making of returns
4. The time limits for the submission of information, claims and payment of tax, including preliminary tax
5. The procedures relating to Revenue audit/enquiries, appeals and disputes
6. Penalties for non-compliance

### B Income tax liabilities

1. The scope of income tax
2. Income from employment
3. Income from self-employment
4. Property and investment income
5. The comprehensive computation of taxable income and income tax liability
6. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising income tax liabilities

### C Corporation tax liabilities

1. The scope of corporation tax
2. Profits chargeable to corporation tax

3. The comprehensive computation of corporation tax liability
4. The effect of a group corporate structure for corporation tax purposes
5. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising corporation tax liabilities

### D Chargeable gains

1. The scope of the taxation of capital gains
2. The basic principles of computing gains and losses (including gains and losses on development land)
3. Gains and losses on the disposal of movable and immovable property
4. Gains and losses on the disposal of shares and securities
5. The computation of the capital gains tax payable
6. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising tax liabilities arising on the disposal of capital assets

### E Local property tax (LPT)

1. The scope of the taxation of residential property
2. Determining who is liable to pay LPT
3. The computation of LPT payable
4. Alternative payment options available

**F Social insurance and health contributions**

1. The scope of social insurance
2. Social insurance contributions for self-employed persons and employees
3. Universal social charge

**G Value added tax**

1. The scope of value added tax (VAT)
2. The VAT registration requirements
3. The computation of VAT liabilities
4. The effect of special schemes

## 11. Detailed study guide

### A The Irish Tax system and its administration

#### 1. The overall function and purpose of taxation in a modern economy

- a) Describe the purpose (economic, social etc) of taxation in a modern economy.<sup>[1]</sup>
- b) Identify the different types of capital and revenue taxes.<sup>[1]</sup>
- c) Explain the difference between direct and indirect taxation.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### 2. Principal sources of revenue law and practice

- a) Describe the overall structure of the Irish tax system.<sup>[1]</sup>
- b) State the different sources of revenue law.<sup>[1]</sup>
- c) Appreciate the interaction of the Irish tax system with that of other tax jurisdictions.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Explain the difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion.<sup>[1]</sup>
- e) Explain the need for an ethical and professional approach.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Anti-avoidance legislation.*

#### 3. The systems for self-assessment and the making of returns

- a) Explain and apply the features of the self-assessment system as it applies to individuals.<sup>[2]</sup>

- b) Explain and apply the features of the self-assessment system as it applies to companies.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### 4. The time limits for the submission of information, claims and payment of tax, including preliminary tax

- a) Recognise the time limits that apply to the filing of returns and the making of claims.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Recognise the due dates for the payment of tax under the self-assessment system.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Understand the main features of Revenue online service (ROS).<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) List the information and records that taxpayers need to retain for tax purposes.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### 5. The procedures relating to Revenue audits/enquiries, appeals and disputes

- a) Explain how the Revenue can audit a self assessment return.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain the procedures for dealing with appeals and disputes.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### 6. Penalties for non-compliance

- a) Calculate interest on overdue/overpaid tax.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) State the penalties that can be charged.<sup>[2]</sup>

### B Income tax liabilities

#### 1. The scope of income tax

- a) Explain how the residence, ordinary residence and domicile of an individual is determined.<sup>[2]</sup>

- b) Explain the implications of the residence, ordinary residence and domicile status of an individual on the scope of Irish income tax.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Understand the taxation of an Irish resident in relation to the following sources of income arising in the UK – trading income, interest, dividends, rent, royalties, salary and pensions.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Understand the income liable to Irish taxation of a non-Irish resident individual.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Discuss the use of the Revenue approved mileage and subsistence allowances scheme.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Explain the PAYE system.<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Compute the amount of benefits assessable.<sup>[2]</sup>
- h) Understand the treatment of profits arising from the granting and exercise of rights under share option schemes, both long and short options.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Excluded topics

- *Tax credits arising from the underlying tax on foreign dividends*
- *Taxation of split year residence.*
- *Special Assignee Relief Program (SARP)*
- *Domicile levy*
- *Foreign Earning Deduction (FED)*
- *Income from trusts and settlements.*
- *Double taxation relief*

## 2. Income from employment

- a) Recognise the factors that determine whether an engagement is treated as employment or self-employment.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Recognise the basis of assessment for employment income.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Compute the income assessable.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Recognise the allowable deductions, including travelling

- i) Termination and other lump sum payments
- (i) Understand the treatment of termination payments and other lump sum payments received by employees.<sup>[2]</sup>
- (ii) Calculate relevant taxable and tax free amounts.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Excluded topics

- *Detailed knowledge of share and share option incentive schemes for employee, except as specified above.*
- *Termination payments relating to foreign service.*

## 3. Income from self-employment

- a) Recognise the basis of assessment for self-employment income.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Describe and apply the badges of trade.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Recognise the expenditure that is allowable in calculating the tax-adjusted trading profit for persons carrying on a trade/profession/vocation.<sup>[2]</sup>

- d) Recognise the relief that can be obtained for pre-trading expenditure.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Recognise the relief available through the use of artists exemption.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Compute the assessable profits on commencement and on cessation (including a death situation).<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Compute farming income on the income averaging basis.<sup>[2]</sup>
- h) Compute the relief available for an increase in farm trading stock.<sup>[2]</sup>
- i) Capital allowances
- i) Define plant and machinery for capital allowances purposes.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - ii) Compute wear and tear allowances (including on motor cars).<sup>[2]</sup>
  - iii) Compute balancing allowances and balancing charges.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - iv) Define an industrial building for industrial buildings allowance purposes.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - v) Compute industrial buildings allowance for new and second-hand buildings.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - vi) Compute the balancing adjustment on the disposal of an industrial building.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - vii) Compute farm buildings allowance.<sup>[2]</sup>
- j) Relief for trading losses (including farming losses)
- i) Understand how trading losses can be carried forward.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - ii) Understand how trading losses can be claimed against total income.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - iii) Explain the relief for trading losses in the early years of a trade.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - iv) Explain terminal loss relief.<sup>[1]</sup>
- k) Partnerships
- i) Explain the partnership tax regime.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - ii) Compute the assessable profits for each partner following a change in the profit sharing ratio.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - iii) Compute the assessable profits for each partner following a change in the membership of the partnership.<sup>[2]</sup>
- l) Describe and apply professional services withholding tax (PSWT), withholding tax on payments received for professional services by Government and State bodies.<sup>[2]</sup>
- m) Describe and apply the RCT rules.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Excluded topics**
- *Interest on capital and salaries paid to partners*
  - *Change of accounting date*
- 4. Property and investment income**
- a) Compute rental income.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - b) Compute the capital allowances available for set off against rental income.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - c) Describe and apply rent-a-room relief.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - d) Compute the amount assessable when a premium is received for the grant of a short lease.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - e) Understand how relief for a rental deficiency and excess capital allowances is given.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - f) Distinguish between tax exempt and taxable savings income.<sup>[2]</sup>

g) Compute the withholding tax and final tax payable on savings income and property income.<sup>[2]</sup>

h) Compute the tax payable on dividend income.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 5. The comprehensive computation of taxable income and income tax liability

a) Prepare a basic income tax computation involving different types of income.<sup>[2]</sup>

b) Calculate the amount of reliefs deductible at the marginal rate.<sup>[2]</sup>

c) Explain the treatment of charges on income, and calculate any amount deductible from gross income.<sup>[2]</sup>

d) Compute the amount of income tax payable.<sup>[2]</sup>

e) Calculate the amount of personal tax credits available.<sup>[2]</sup>

f) Distinguish between the joint assessment, separate assessment and single treatment of married couples, including couples in civil partnerships, as recognised under the CPCROC Act 2010.<sup>[2]</sup>

g) Year of marriage relief and year of registration as civil partners' relief.<sup>[2]</sup>

h) Understand the treatment of divorced and separated couples, including civil partners.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Excluded topics

- *The income of minor children.*
- *Taxation of a married couple in the year of death, separation or divorce.*
- *High income earners restriction.*

## 6. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising income tax liabilities

a) Explain and compute the relief given for contributions to personal pension schemes for self-employed individuals and employed individuals who are not in an occupational pension scheme.<sup>[2]</sup>

b) Describe the relief given to employees for contributions to occupational pension schemes.<sup>[2]</sup>

c) Explain how a married couple might seek to minimise their tax liabilities.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Excluded topics

- *The conditions that must be met in order for a pension scheme to obtain approval from the Revenue Commissioners.*

## C Corporation tax liabilities

### 1. The scope of corporation tax

a) Define the term 'accounting period'.<sup>[1]</sup>

b) Recognise when an accounting period starts and when an accounting period finishes.<sup>[1]</sup>

c) Allocation of profits between accounting periods.<sup>[1]</sup>

d) Explain how the residence of a company is determined.<sup>[1]</sup>

e) Determine the profits assessable on a company resident in the State.<sup>[2]</sup>

f) Determine the profits assessable on a company not resident in the State.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Excluded topics**

- *Investment companies.*
- *Close companies.*
- *Companies in receivership or liquidation.*
- *Reorganisations (other than paper-for-paper relief).*
- *The purchase by a company of its own shares.*
- *Foreign companies (other than UK companies).*
- *The meaning of a permanent establishment under the Irish UK double tax treaty.*

**2. Profits chargeable to corporation tax**

- a) Recognise the expenditure that is allowable in calculating the tax-adjusted trading profit.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain how relief can be obtained for pre-trading expenditure.<sup>[1]</sup>
- c) Compute capital allowances (as for income tax).<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Compute rental income.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Compute the capital allowances available for set off against rental income.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Understand how trading losses can be carried forward.<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Understand how trading losses can be claimed against income of the current or previous accounting periods (including terminal loss relief).<sup>[2]</sup>

- h) Understand the restriction of loss relief when a corporation tax return is filed late.<sup>[2]</sup>
- i) Recognise the factors that will influence the choice of loss relief claim.<sup>[2]</sup>
- j) Explain how relief for a rental deficiency and excess capital allowances is given.<sup>[1]</sup>
- k) Explain the treatment of charges on income, including trade and non trade charges.<sup>[2]</sup>
- l) Compute profits chargeable to corporation tax.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Excluded topics**

- *Specific rules with regard to reliefs available on expenditure on research and development, know how and the acquisition of patents*

**3. The comprehensive computation of corporation tax liability**

- a) Compute the corporation tax liability.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain the corporation tax exemption for new start-up companies.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Understand how the relief for new start-up companies applies, including marginal relief.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Explain the implications of receiving franked investment income.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Explain and calculate dividend withholding tax (DWT).<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Describe and apply the withholding tax provisions with regards to payments to sub-contractors (RCT), annual payments (including interest) and royalties.<sup>[2]</sup>

- g) Explain how exemptions and reliefs can defer or minimise corporation tax liabilities.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Double taxation relief*

#### 4. The effect of a group corporate structure for corporation tax purposes

- a) Define a group for trading loss purposes, and recognise the reliefs that are available to members of such a group.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Define a group for capital gains tax purposes, and recognise the reliefs that are available to members of such a group.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Define a group for interest and royalty payment purposes.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *The tax charge that applies where a company leaves a group within ten years of receiving an asset by way of a no gain/no loss transfer*
- *Consortia*
- *The anti-avoidance provisions where arrangements exist for a company to leave a group*
- *Double taxation relief.*

#### 5. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising corporation tax liabilities (The use of such exemptions and reliefs is implicit within all of the above sections 1 to 4 of part C of the syllabus, concerning corporation tax)

### D Chargeable gains

#### 1. The scope of the taxation of capital gains for individuals and companies

- a) Describe the scope of capital gains tax.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain the implications of the residence, ordinary residence and domicile status of an individual on the scope of capital gains tax.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Define specified assets and explain the implications of their disposal for capital gains tax purposes.<sup>[1]</sup>
- d) List those assets which are exempt.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Partnership capital gains*

#### 2. The basic principles of computing gains and losses (including gains and losses on development land)

- a) Compute capital gains for both individuals and companies.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain the treatment of capital losses for both individuals and companies.<sup>[1]</sup>
- c) Explain the treatment of transfers between spouses and other connected persons.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Compute the amount of allowable expenditure for a part disposal.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Asset which are damaged, lost or destroyed, and the implications of receiving insurance proceeds*

#### 3. Gains and losses on the disposal of movable and immovable property

- a) Identify when chattels and wasting assets are exempt.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Compute the chargeable gains/allowable losses when chattels are disposed of.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Apply the relief available when negligible value claims are made.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Compute the exemption when a principal private residence is disposed of.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Calculate the chargeable gain when a principal private residence has been used for business purposes.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Identify the amount of principal private residence relief available when a principal private residence has been let out.<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Calculate the capital gain when the sale price of a principal private residence reflects development potential.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *The disposal of leases and the creation of sub-leases.*

#### 4. Gains and losses on the disposal of shares and securities

- a) Calculate the value of quoted shares where they are disposed of by way of a gift.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain and apply the share identification rules.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Explain the treatment of bonus issues, rights issues, takeovers and reorganisations.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Explain how anti avoidance rules apply to ensure that losses claimed on share disposal are realised.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### 5. The computation of the capital gains tax payable

- a) Compute the amount of capital gains tax payable by individuals.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Compute the amount of capital gains tax payable by individuals availing of entrepreneur relief on qualifying business assets.<sup>(2)</sup>
- c) Explain and apply capital gains withholding tax.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Compute the liability to tax on the capital gains of companies.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Double taxation relief*

#### 6. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising tax liabilities arising on the disposal of capital assets

- a) Explain and apply the relief on disposal of a site to a child.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Retirement relief*
- *Favourable holding company relief*
- *Incorporation relief*

### E Local property tax

#### 1. The scope of local property tax (LPT)

- a) Describe the scope of LPT.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### 2. Determining who is liable to pay LPT

- a) Identify who is the liable person.<sup>[2]</sup>

- b) Identify property ownership dates that are applicable.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Explain when properties may be exempt from LPT.<sup>[2]</sup>

### 3. The computation of LPT payable

- a) Explain how property is valued.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Calculate the amount of LPT payable.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Local Adjustment Factors reducing the basic rate of LPT.*

### 4. Alternative payment options available

- a) Explain when LPT can be deferred.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain alternative payment plans.<sup>[2]</sup>

## F Social insurance and universal social charge

### 1. The scope of social insurance

- a) Describe the scope of social insurance.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 2. Social insurance contributions for self-employed persons and employees

- a) Compute the contributions payable by self-employed persons (Class S).<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Compute the contributions payable by and on behalf of employees (Class A1).<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Compute the contributions payable on unearned income of a modified PRSI rate contributor and employed contributors who do not have Case I/II income. (Class K).<sup>[2]</sup>

### 3. Universal social charge

- a) Describe the scope of universal social charge.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Compute the universal social charge payable.<sup>[2]</sup>

## G Value added tax

### 1. The scope of value added tax (VAT)

- a) Describe the scope of VAT.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) List the principal zero-rated, exempt and reduced rate supplies.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 2. The VAT registration requirements

- a) Recognise the circumstances in which a person must register for VAT.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Explain the advantages of voluntary VAT registration.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Explain the circumstance in which pre-registration input VAT can be recovered.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Explain how and when a person can deregister for VAT.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Group registration.*

### 3. The computation of VAT liabilities

- a) Explain how VAT is accounted for and administered.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Recognise the tax point when goods or services are supplied.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Understand and explain the composite and multiple supply rules.<sup>[2]</sup>

- d) Explain and apply the two-thirds services rule.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) List the information that must be given on a VAT invoice.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Explain and apply the principles regarding the valuation of supplies.<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Recognise the circumstances in which input VAT is non-deductible.<sup>[2]</sup>
- h) Compute the relief that is available for losses on trade debts.<sup>[2]</sup>
- i) Understand the treatment of imports, exports and trading within the European Union (EU).<sup>[2]</sup>
- j) Compute the VAT payable or repayable in a given VAT period.<sup>[2]</sup>
- k) State the circumstances in which interest and penalties apply.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Partial exemption rules in connection with a transfer of undertaking*
- *The exceptions to the general rules dealing with the supply of services connected with immovable goods, passenger transport, telecommunications/broadcasting (MOSS rules), cultural and artistic events and the use and enjoyment provisions are **not examinable**.*
- *VAT on property is also excluded other than:*
  - *the treatment of VAT on the purchase of a new property*
  - *the treatment of VAT incurred on repairs and maintenance of a property*
  - *the option to tax rents from a specific letting*

- *The capital goods scheme*

#### 4. The effect of special schemes

- a) Explain the circumstances in which a taxable person can account for VAT on a cash basis, and identify the advantage(s) of this.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Describe the annual accounting scheme, and recognise when it will be advantageous to use the scheme.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### Excluded topics

- *Flat rate scheme for farmers*
- *Second-hand goods scheme*
- *Special schemes for retailers*

## Reading list

Irish Taxation: Law and Practice, Irish tax series 2019, 17<sup>th</sup> edition. Irish Taxation Institute

## **Summary of changes to Taxation – Ireland (TX-IRL)**

ACCA periodically reviews its qualification syllabuses so that they fully meet the needs of stakeholders such as employers, students, regulatory and advisory bodies and learning providers.

There have been no changes to this syllabus for 2020.