

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

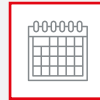
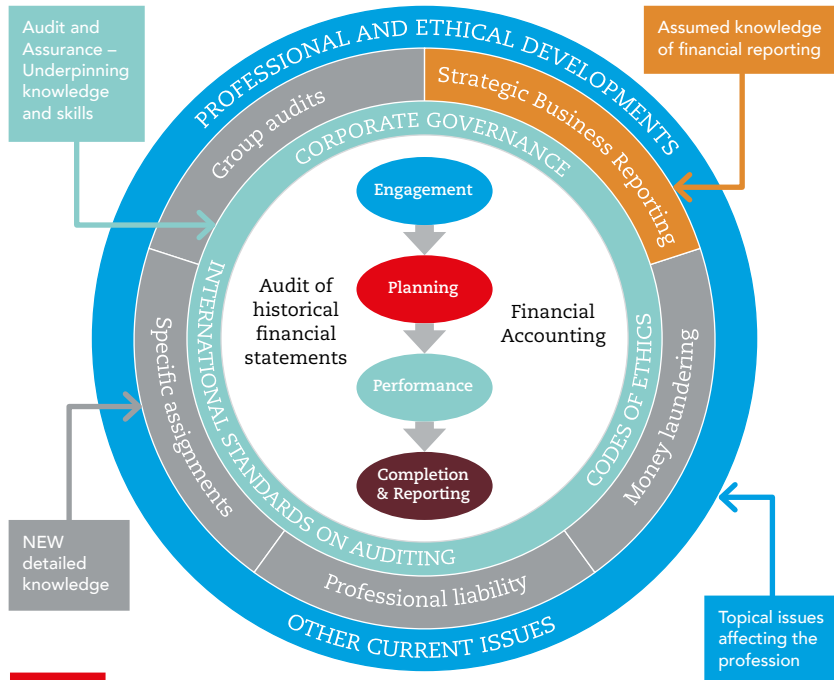
AAA has a wide ranging syllabus, which includes the audit of historical financial information ('audit') and other specific assignments. It builds on the **Audit and Assurance** and **Strategic Business Reporting (SBR)** exams, by introducing more complex topics and covering the basic topics from different 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
- Wider reading – eg current developments in *auditing standards* and *professional ethics*.



Links to support resources

- [AAA Study support guide](#)
- [Examiner's approach article](#)
- [Exam technique for AAA: parts 1 – 5](#)
- [Passing Strategic Professional exams](#)
- [How to earn professional marks](#)
- [Ethics and Professional Skills module](#)
- [Past exam questions and answers](#)
- [Examiner's reports](#)
- [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

Writing a good answer – how to demonstrate professionalism:



- Pay attention to layout and presentation
- Write clearly and concisely
- Relevant content – must 'add value' – not simply restate facts or knowledge.