



SYLLABUS CHANGES FOR ACCA QUALIFICATION EXAMS: 2022/23 – 2023/24

Guidance for students

You may previously have prepared for an exam under the 2022/23 syllabus and are now preparing for that same exam under the new 2023/24 syllabus, which applies from September 2023 until June 2024*.

The interactive table on the next page sets out where there are changes and links you through to more detail about what the changes are, recommended articles and other resources, including links to the websites of our Approved Content Providers, BPP Learning Media and Kaplan Publishing, as well as a link to our new ACCA Study Hub.

For every exam, regardless of syllabus changes, the table also links you to our 'Essentials on one page' resource, which gives you an overview of the exam as well as tips for success, guidance on how to tackle the exam and links to key resources.


* Except for LW variants, TX and ATX, which can have a different syllabus year. Refer to the ACCA website for information about your exam. Applied Knowledge exams are available on demand – refer to the ACCA website for further detail about the dates when each syllabus is examinable.









Think Ahead









Think Ahead

Use the table below to understand whether your exam is affected by syllabus changes. Click on the  icons to access further information and guidance.




Strategic Professional

EXAM	ARE THERE ANY SYLLABUS CHANGES?	SUPPORTING RESOURCES	
Strategic Business Reporting (SBR-INT)	YES	Access more info about the SBR-INT syllabus changes	HERE 
Strategic Business Leader (SBL)	YES	Access more info about the SBL syllabus changes	HERE 
Advanced Financial Management (AFM)	YES	Access more info about the AFM syllabus changes	HERE 
Advanced Performance Management (APM)	YES	Access more info about the APM syllabus changes	HERE 
Advanced Taxation (ATX-UK)	Please refer to the Finance Act 2022 article for detail of changes: HERE	Access ATX-UK 'Essentials on one page'	HERE 
Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT)	YES	Access more info about the AAA-INT syllabus changes	HERE 

Applied Skills

EXAM	ARE THERE ANY SYLLABUS CHANGES?	SUPPORTING RESOURCES	
Corporate and Business Law (LW-ENG)	NO	Access LW-ENG 'Essentials on one page'	HERE 
Performance Management (PM)	YES	Access more info about the PM syllabus changes	HERE 
Taxation (TX-UK)	Please refer to the Finance Act 2022 article for detail of changes: HERE	Access TX-UK 'Essentials on one page'	HERE 
Financial Reporting (FR)	YES	Access more info about the FR syllabus changes	HERE 
Audit and Assurance (AA)	NO	Access AA 'Essentials on one page'	HERE 
Financial Management (FM)	YES	Access more info about the FM syllabus changes	HERE 

Applied Knowledge

EXAM	ARE THERE ANY SYLLABUS CHANGES?	SUPPORTING RESOURCES	
Business and Technology (BT)	YES	Access more info about the BT syllabus changes	HERE 
Management Accounting (MA)	YES	Access more info about the MA syllabus changes	HERE 
Financial Accounting (FA)	YES	Access more info about the FA syllabus changes	HERE 

Strategic Business Reporting (SBR-INT) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

22/23 LO REFERENCE	SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA	SYLLABUS CONTENT CHANGES (REFERRING TO THE 23/24 LO)
C1 c)	Revenue	Included contract modifications specifically (now C1b).
C1 d)	Revenue	Included repurchase agreements specifically (now C1c).
C3 a)	Financial instruments	Included the business model test specifically.
C3 b)	Financial instruments	Included both the fair value option and financial liability modifications specifically.
C3 e)	Financial instruments	Removed embedded derivatives.
C8 b)	Share-based payment	Removed to enhance focus on core elements of IFRS 2.
C11	Other reporting issues	Created a new LO C11d (23/24) to highlight the importance of understanding and applying the principles of presentation and disclosure as set out in IAS 1.
D3 a)	Changes in group structure	Removed D3 completely and brought D3a (22/23) into section D1j (23/24).
E1	Interpret financial statements for different stakeholders	Created a new LO E1e (23/24) to focus on management commentary including Practice Statement 1.

In addition to these changes, there are a variety of other changes which have been made for clarity. If you would like more detail on these please refer to the table at the end of the 2023-24 [syllabus document](#).

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023-June 2024 exam year, there have been numerous changes to the syllabus. Some of the major changes are given here but we urge you to review the syllabus document to see where learning outcomes have been merged, moved or re-worded. Some cognitive intellectual levels have also been re-assessed, both upwards and downwards, to better reflect how certain areas will be examined.

As detailed in syllabus area C1 Revenue, contract modifications and repurchase agreements have been added specifically.

Within syllabus section C3 Financial Instruments, the business model test, the fair value option for measuring financial liabilities and financial liability modifications have been specifically included. Embedded derivatives, however, have been removed.

Learning outcome C8b) (22/23) has been removed so that only the core elements of IFRS 2 *Share-based Payment* will be examined.

A new learning outcome C11d) (23/24) has been included to highlight the importance of the presentation and disclosure principles set out in IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

Recommended resources

- Question 1 in the exam now requires you to use a pre-formatted spreadsheet response option. We strongly recommend you use specimens 1 and 2 on the ACCA Practice Platform to prepare for this.
- We recommend you make use of all [technical articles](#) available for SBR, but we would draw your attention to the following articles in particular:
[Climate-related disclosures and investor focus](#)
[Using the business model of a company to help analyse its performance](#)
[IFRS 9, Financial Instruments – part 1](#)
[IFRS 9, Financial Instruments – part 2](#)
- The key to exam success is question practice. If you're preparing for an SBR CBE, visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the ACCA Practice Platform.

How to approach the Strategic Business Reporting (SBR) exam

SBR has a wide ranging syllabus, which includes many accounting standards, some introduced in Financial Reporting and others examined only in SBR. Current issues, exposure drafts and narrative reporting frameworks also feature. Questions are set in the context of single entities, groups, private or public sector, for-profit, or not-for-profit organisations.

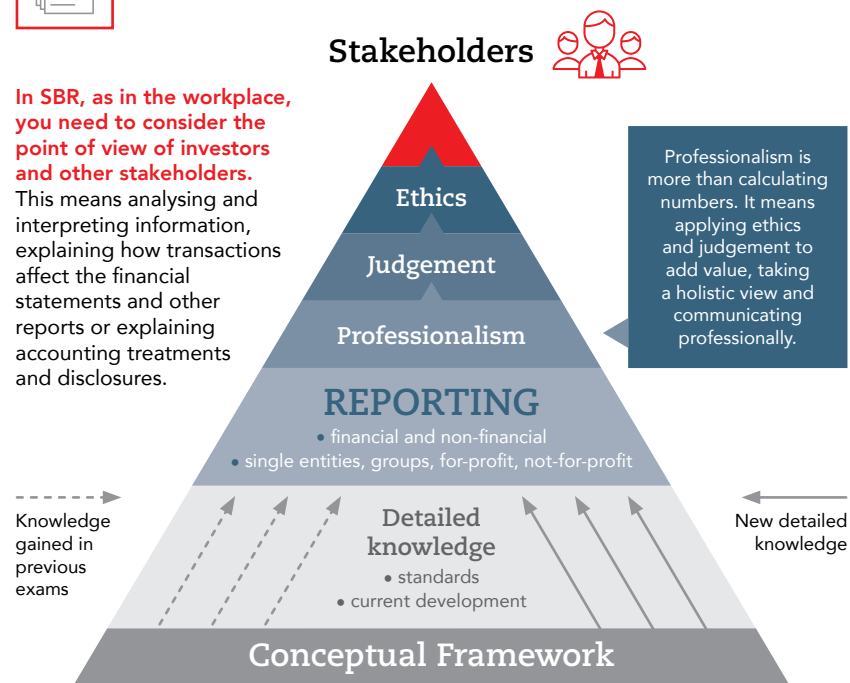
To study SBR effectively you need to understand the nature of the exam and what you will be asked to do.



SBR – The Big Picture

In SBR, as in the workplace, you need to consider the point of view of investors and other stakeholders.

This means analysing and interpreting information, explaining how transactions affect the financial statements and other reports or explaining accounting treatments and disclosures.



The Conceptual Framework underpins the whole syllabus. The better you know the Framework, the easier it is to learn the principles of each individual standard.



How to prepare

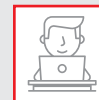
Advice from an expert tutor

- Make use of ACCA resources
- Real life reading – eg real company financial statements
- Cover the syllabus widely – breadth rather than depth
- Practice questions, and take time to review your answers. If you're preparing for an SBR CBE, visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the new ACCA Practice Platform
- Written aspects are very important – don't just practice numbers
- Get used to planning and writing clear answers.



Links to support resources

- Examining team guidance
- Examiner's reports
- Technical articles
- How to approach Section B questions
- Ethics and Professional Skills module
- Read the mind of the marker: Part 1 (PDF)
- Read the mind of the marker: Part 2 (PDF)
- Exam approach guidance video (March/June 2022 exam)
- Strategic Professional CBE support (PDF)
- FAQs



Tackling the exam

Most frequently used SBR exam verbs:



DISCUSS



EXPLAIN



ADVISE

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

Question approach:

- ✓ Analyse the requirements
- ✓ Read the scenario carefully to understand issues and any stakeholder perspective
- ✓ Identify relevant technical knowledge
 - Remember – more than one standard may be relevant, and consider the principles from the *Conceptual Framework*.
- ✓ Apply this to the scenario
 - Don't simply regurgitate everything you can remember. Select relevant points and explain how they apply to the facts in the scenario
 - You may need to produce some calculations as part of an explanation but numbers alone will not earn enough marks to pass.

Writing a good answer – how to demonstrate professionalism:



- Plan your answer
- Use headings and short paragraphs
- Consider the stakeholders – relevant content and appropriate tone.

Strategic Business Leader (SBL) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA		SYLLABUS CONTENT
B2	Stakeholder analysis and social responsibility	B2b – reworded to include conflict resolution.
B5	The board of directors	B5a – reworded to include the roles of directors. B5c – reference to roles of non-executives removed as now covered in B5a.
C1	Concepts of strategy	C1b – reworded to reflect wording used in model.
C5	Strategic choices	C5a – specific reference to SAF removed as this can be examined in a number of ways. C5d – clarification of model name. C5e – clarification of model name.
D1	Identification, assessment and measurement of risk	D1g – reference to models removed as this can be examined in a number of ways.
D2	Managing, monitoring and mitigating risk	D2e – reworded for clarity.
E4	E-business: value chain	E4a – reworded for clarity.
F1	Management and internal control systems	F1e – reference to metrics removed as this can be examined in a number of ways.
G2	Financial analysis and decision-making techniques	G2b – specific reference to SAF removed as this can be examined in a number of ways.
G3	Cost and management accounting	G3c – removed as this is covered by C5a.
H3	Enabling success: talent management	H3b – reworded for clarity.
H5	Managing strategic change	H5d – reworded for clarity. H5e – removed as now covered by H5d. H5f to H5h – renumbered as H5e to H5g.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023 – June 2024 exam year, there have been no material changes to the syllabus for SBL, although the wording of some learning outcomes has been revised to provide clarity and we have also removed a few duplicated learning outcomes – the detail of these changes can be found in the table opposite.

Note also that the format of the SBL exam will change from September 2023, with the introduction of a pre-seen element.

Recommended resources

- We recommend you make use of all **technical articles** and the new examining team guidance available for SBL.
- The key to exam success is question practice. Visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice for SBL, including using the ACCA Practice Platform to attempt the SBL specimen exams which are in the new pre-seen format.

How to approach the Strategic Business Leader (SBL) exam

SBL is a **4 hour** integrated case study which examines a breadth of organisational functions. It assesses not only technical and ethical skills but the **professional skills** expected of effective leaders and advisers to senior management.

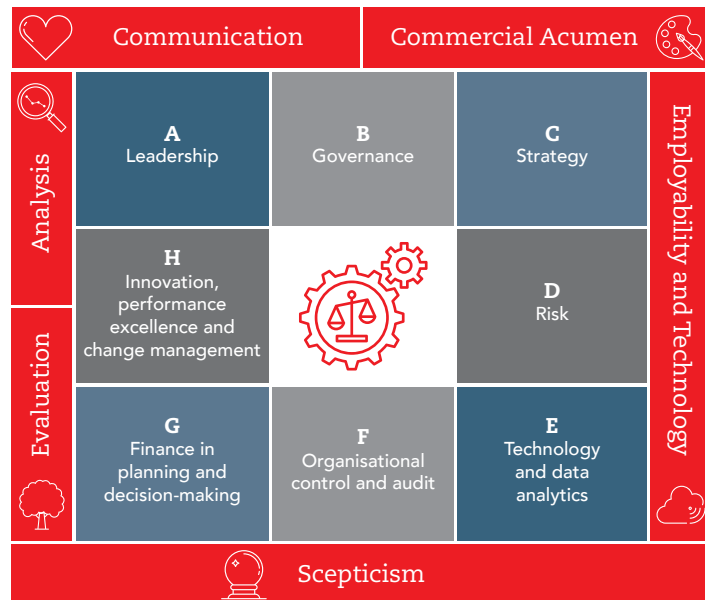
The rationale for the **syllabus** can be summarised as follows:

- Leadership and governance
- Strategy requires an understanding of risk management
- Technology and data analytics are transforming businesses
- Organisational control includes internal audit
- Financial aspects support decision making
- Innovation, performance excellence and change management are essential to organisational success.



SBL – Integrating technical and professional skills

The aim of the syllabus is to combine the main functions of organisations in the context of leadership capabilities.



ACCA

Think Ahead



How to earn Professional Skills marks

20% of the total marks will be allocated to Professional Skills:

- Read each requirement:
 - Note the specified answer format (e.g. a memo)
 - Identify the professional skill (e.g. scepticism) and recall the sub-skills (e.g. probe, question, challenge)
 - Read the prompt for how to demonstrate (e.g. 'by challenging the comments made at the emergency meeting')
- Bear this skill in mind as you:
 - Read the requirement again
 - Actively read the relevant exhibit (e.g. transcript of emergency meeting)
 - Think about and plan your answer points
- When you prepare your answer:
 - Present it in the specified format
 - Use suitable headings and subheadings
 - Make only relevant points
 - Avoid repetition
 - Write clearly and concisely
 - Keep your tone professional

You should complete the **Ethics and Professional Skills Module** before attempting any of the Strategic Professional examinations.



Tips for success in the SBL exam

- ✓ Plan to study the syllabus content as quickly as possible
- ✓ Start practicing case study questions as soon as possible. If you're preparing for an SBL CBE, visit **this page** for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the new ACCA Practice Platform.
- ✓ Work on your professional skills from the outset
- ✓ Attempt each specimen and past exam in 4 hours and in full.



Tackling the exam

Each task will specify an answer format, for example:

- Prepare a briefing paper ...
- Write a report for the board ...
- Draft a letter ...

A task may have more than one requirement, for example "evaluate... and recommend..."

Most frequently used SBL exam verbs:



EVALUATE



DISCUSS



RECOMMEND

Read this article for more about exam verbs



Links to support resources

- Examining team guidance
- The importance of effective communication
- Professional Skills marking guide
- How to approach the SBL exam
- Tutor video review of the March 2020 exam
- ACCA Practice Platform
- Past exam questions and answers
- Examiner's reports
- Passing Strategic Professional exams
- Strategic Professional CBE support
- FAQs

Advanced Financial Management (AFM) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA		SYLLABUS CONTENT
A3	Corporate environmental, social, governance (ESG) and ethical issues	Section has been reviewed and amended to incorporate ESG.
B3c)	Discuss the role of green finance for organisations pursuing an environmental/sustainable agenda	New outcome added reflecting increased importance of green finance.
B5	International investment and financing decisions	Old outcome B5d deleted and other outcomes renumbered.
C1d)	Discuss the reasons for the frequent failure of acquisitions to enhance shareholder value as expected, including the problem of overvaluation	Outcome reworded to include the previous learning outcome C2a).
C1f)	Evaluate the use of alternative methods as a way of obtaining a stock market listing; including special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), direct listings, dutch auctions and reverse takeovers	Outcome has been expanded to include more alternative methods which reflect recent trends.
C2	Valuation for acquisitions and mergers	Old outcome C2a deleted and other outcomes renumbered.
C2d)	Demonstrate an understanding of the procedure for valuing high growth start-ups and loss making companies	Outcome expanded to include lossmaking companies which are not also start-ups.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023 – June 2024 exam year, there have been several changes to the AFM syllabus.

Syllabus area A3 has been revised and amended to specifically reference environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Linked to this, there is a new learning outcome B3c) about the role of green finance. You should be prepared to incorporate discussion of ESG/sustainability issues into your exam answers where this is relevant.

The other major change is in outcome C1f) where the alternative methods of obtaining a stock market listing has been expanded, so you may need to discuss the use of these methods in an exam question. Aside from this, there have been some other minor changes to the syllabus for AFM; the detail of these changes can be found in the table opposite.

Recommended resources

- We recommend you make use of all **technical articles** available for AFM.
- The key to exam success is question practice. Visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice for AFM, including using the ACCA Practice Platform.
- Our AFM **examiner reports** are an essential study resource, giving you even more insight into what the examiner is looking for and common mistakes which you should avoid.

How to approach the Advanced Financial Management (AFM) exam

This is an advanced level exam which builds upon the knowledge and skills examined in Financial Management. You will be required to demonstrate your ability to:

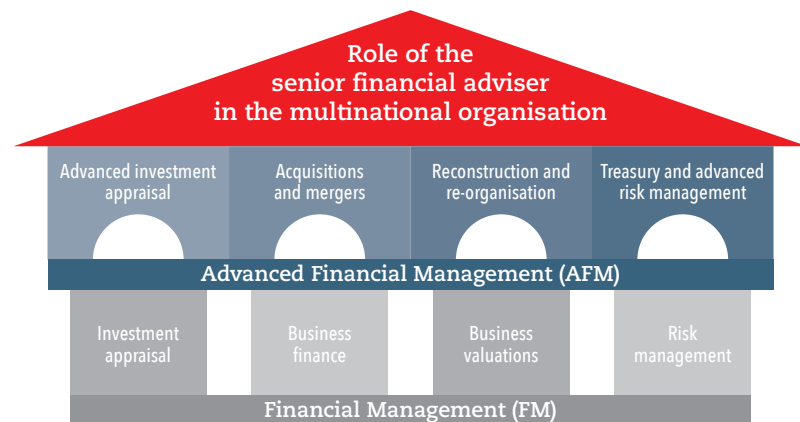
- Read and digest quickly, comprehensive and detailed questions
- Apply relevant knowledge and skills
- Exercise the professional judgement expected of a senior financial person
- Make recommendations or financial management decisions that are likely to affect the entire business organisation
- Apply a range of professional skills in addressing requirements within the exam

Like a senior financial person at work, you will be expected to read a business brief and decide on a relevant methodical approach to meeting the brief's objectives, making notes where necessary. Senior managers work under tight deadlines, and hence prioritising and managing your time is crucial to performing well under examination conditions.



AFM – A Senior Advisory Role

This strategic option exam is designed for candidates who work in or have ambitions to specialise in financial management. It builds on the assumed knowledge and demands advanced skills and techniques.



Tips for success in the AFM exam

- ✓ The key to exam success is question practice. Visit **this page** for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Break down requirements into all constituent parts to ensure every part is answered
 - Considering both financial and non-financial factors
- ✓ Understand what matters to businesses and the viewpoints of stakeholders who are interested in the subsequent decisions based on the discussion and evaluation asked for
- ✓ Use the information provided in the question scenario
- ✓ Communicate findings and recommendations clearly and concisely with easy to follow numerical workings supported, where appropriate, by brief notes
- ✓ Appreciate that professional skills underpin good performance throughout the exam



Advice from the examining team

- Supplement your studies with wider reading
- Be aware that more than one topic area of the syllabus may be examined in a question
- Relate any discussion or evaluation to the scenario in the question – context is very important
- Use your exam time effectively – good time management skills are essential
- Structure your answers – presentation is critical



Tackling the exam

Most frequently used AFM exam verbs:



DISCUSS



ESTIMATE



EVALUATE

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

How to earn professional skills marks:

The AFM 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**
Have a questioning mindset that challenges information, evidence and assumptions
- **Commercial acumen**
Demonstrate your understanding of what is appropriate in different types of organisation and different contexts. Draw appropriate conclusions and make properly informed decisions which are appropriate to the scenario



Links to support resources

- [Stepping up from FM to AFM](#)
- [Examining team guidance](#)
- [Examiner's reports](#)
- [Passing Strategic Professional exams](#)
- [Ethics and Professional Skills module](#)
- [Practice exams in the Practice Platform](#)
- [Exam technique guidance video on the September 2022 specimen exam](#)
- [Guide to discursive requirements \(PDF\)](#)
- [Strategic Professional CBE support \(PDF\)](#)
- [FAQs](#)

Advanced Performance Management (APM) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA		SYLLABUS CONTENT
A	Strategic planning control	A1g – this learning outcome has been expanded upon. A2f – this learning outcome has been added.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

Since September 2022, APM exams have 20 marks awarded for professional skills which are demonstrated throughout the exam. The exam duration remains the same allowing you to more effectively manage your exam time to answer the 80 marks allocated for showing mastery of your technical specialism.

Syllabus area A1g) has been expanded on and now makes reference to risks needing to be considered in reporting as well as planning and decision-making.

Area A2f) has been added to include an explanation of the concept of the 'planning gap' along with evaluations of strategies to fill gaps.

Recommended resources

- Visit [this page](#) to find out more about the introduction of professional skills marks to APM.
- We recommend you make use of all [technical articles](#) available for APM, but we would draw your attention to the following articles in particular:
[Changes to APM question requirements](#)
[Improving your Advanced Performance Management answers – part 1](#)
[Improving your Advanced Performance Management answers – part 2](#)
- The key to exam success is question practice. Visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice for APM, including using the ACCA Practice Platform.

How to approach the Advanced Performance Management (APM) exam

The APM syllabus has five capabilities which can be summarised as follows:

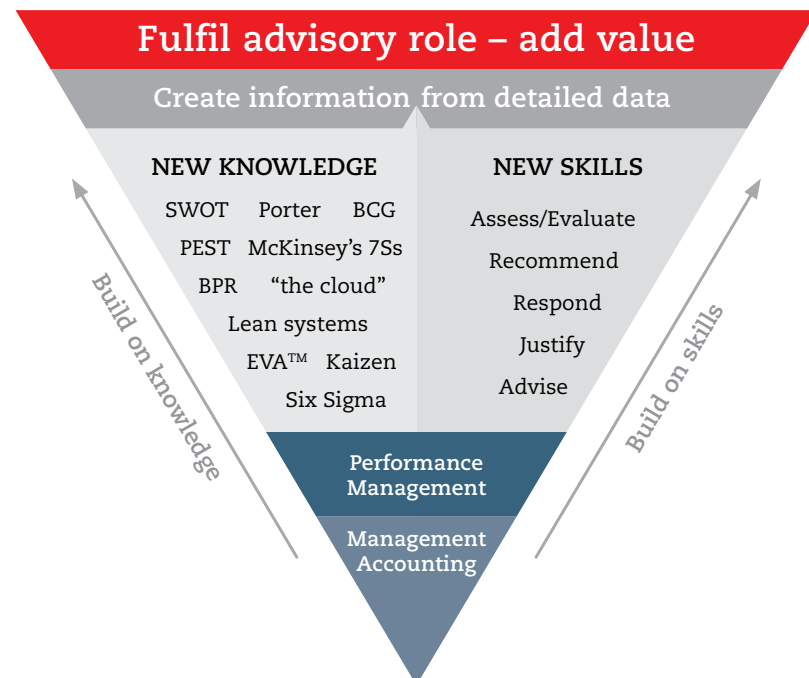
- **Use** strategic planning and control models
- Identify and **evaluate** design features of performance management systems
- **Apply** appropriate strategic performance measurement techniques
- **Advise** clients on strategic business performance **evaluation**
- **Apply** a range of professional skills in addressing requirements within the exam

Most of these will feature to some extent in **every** exam session.



APM – A Strategic View

The exam requires you to build on a good grasp of basic knowledge and skills and show awareness that performance management depends on an organisation's specific situation and environment.



Advice from the examining team

- Remember that APM builds on PM knowledge by applying it in more complex scenarios
- Create information from the detailed data provided in the scenario
- Add value to the organisation with comments relevant to the issues at hand



Tips for success in the APM exam

- ✓ Visit **this page** for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Understand the links between issues at the strategic, tactical and operational levels
- ✓ Understand in particular how the choice of operational performance measures affects strategic performance
- ✓ Be able to apply PM knowledge to more complex scenarios
- ✓ Use any exhibit, information, model or technique explicitly referred to in a requirement
- ✓ Interpret and further analyse data provided
- ✓ Be selective in making calculations
- ✓ Assess alternative approaches from different perspectives
- ✓ Justify advice using the evidence given in the scenario
- ✓ Quantify comments, where possible
- ✓ Discuss commercial implications



Tackling the exam

Most frequently used APM exam verbs:



ASSESS



EVALUATE



ADVISE

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

How to earn professional skills marks:

The APM exam has 20 marks for demonstrating professional skills



- **Communication**
Section A questions require a report
Use appropriate headings and sub-headings, and clear, concise language
Answer the question asked!
- **Analysis and evaluation**
Analysis or evaluation must be relevant to the organisation and their situation
- **Scepticism**
Have a questioning mindset that challenges information, evidence and assumptions
- **Commercial acumen**
Demonstrate your understanding of what is appropriate in different types of organisation and different contexts
Draw appropriate conclusions and make properly informed decisions which are appropriate to the scenario



Links to support resources

- [Examining team guidance](#)
- [Examiner's reports](#)
- [Reading the requirements for APM](#)
- [Technical articles](#)
- [Passing Strategic Professional exams](#)
- [Ethics and Professional Skills module](#)
- [Practice exams in the Practice Platform](#)
- [Strategic Professional CBE support \(PDF\)](#)
- [FAQs](#)

How to approach the Advanced Taxation (ATX-UK) exam

You will need a detailed knowledge of the ATX-UK syllabus. This includes assumed knowledge of technical areas brought forward from the TX-UK syllabus, which must be refreshed and updated for the examinable Finance Act.

Be aware that:

- All questions will be scenario-based
- All questions will contain a mixture of computational and discursive elements
- More than one topic area of the syllabus may be examined in each question
- Questions may involve
 - Consideration of more than one tax
 - Some elements of planning
 - The interaction of taxes



ATX – ‘Think more – write less’

Heed this mantra from the examining team to improve your performance.

think

Requirements are everything – What have you been asked to do? What do you not need to do?



think

How will you do what the requirement is asking? Planning your answers is crucial.



think

Have you identified the relevant issues?



think

Have you thought about the point you want to make, before you start writing? This will help you to write concisely.



think

Make sure you know why you're doing a particular calculation before you prepare it. Will it help you to answer the requirement?



Preparation advice from the examining team

- ‘Know your stuff’ – you **must**
 - Have thorough, precise knowledge of the entire syllabus
 - Refresh brought forward knowledge from the TX-UK syllabus
- Practice questions under exam conditions in the ACCA Practice Platform
- Learn how to spot “triggers” which are there to point you towards the required answer
- Be prepared to answer questions on ethical issues
- Be ruthless in critiquing your answers



Tips for success in the ATX exam

- ✓ Identify **all** the requirements in the Section A case study question
- ✓ Allow sufficient time to analyse requirements into **all** constituent parts to ensure every part is answered
- ✓ If given certain figures to use, do not waste time recalculating them
- ✓ Relate any calculation or discussion to the context in the given scenario
- ✓ Do not waste time addressing issues which have not been asked for
- ✓ Appreciate that professional skills are required throughout all answers to achieve high marks
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with the CBE environment (refer to *Links to support resources* in this document)



Tackling the exam

Most frequently used ATX exam verbs:



PREPARE



CALCULATE



EXPLAIN

Read this article for more about exam verbs

These are not mutually exclusive, for example: “Prepare the following notes and calculations...” “Calculate ... with supporting explanations ...” and “Explain ... with supporting calculations ...”

How to demonstrate professionalism:



Question 1 will include 10 professional skills marks and 5 ethics marks. Questions 2 and 3 will both include 5 professional skills marks. Marks may be awarded for:

- Overall presentation of the requested format
- The approach taken to problem solving
- Clarity of explanations and calculations
- Relevant advice
- Effectiveness of communication
- Appropriate consideration and response to ethical issues



Links to support resources

- *Technical articles including relevant Finance Act*
- *Examining team guidance*
- *Passing Strategic Professional exams*
- *Professional skills for ATX*
- *Ethics and Professional Skills module*
- *Practice exams in the Practice Platform*
- *CBE preparation videos*

Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA-INT) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

22/23 LO REFERENCE	SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA	SYLLABUS CONTENT CHANGES (REFERRING TO THE 23/24 LO)
C1c	Quality management	LO amended to reflect the proactive nature and terminology of the revised quality management standards (C1c).
C3a	Quality management	Additional emphasis placed on the professional and ethical issues which should be considered by the assurance firm. This is in line with the revised quality management standards.
D1e	Planning and risk assessment	Actions required by the candidate amended to reflect the professional skills required at the planning and risk assessment stage.
D2b	Automated tools and techniques	Wording changed to clarify the learning outcome.
D5b	Group audits	LO updated to reflect the terminology with the revised auditing standard, including emphasis on consideration of aggregation risk and group performance materiality. Separate elements of key areas for consideration added from prior year syllabus point D5c (D5c).
D5c	Group audits	Change of order of LO as risks to be considered before procedures. Separate key risk areas moved to D5c (D5b).
D5d	Group audits	LO amended to reflect the two way emphasis of communication between the group auditor and the component auditors in a group engagement following revision of ISA 600.
D5e	Group audits	LO updated for clarity.
D5g	Group audits	LO updated to reflect the revisions to the quality standards and ISA 600.
D5i	Group audits	Wording updated to clarify the LO and revisions to ISA 600.
E2e	Completion and final review	LO amended to reflect the professional skills expected to be demonstrated by the candidates when considering the relevant scenario and appropriate response by the assurance team. LO split into two to form E2f and E2g for clarity.
E2g	Completion and final review	LO becomes E2e.
–	Completion and final review	New LO to reflect the importance of the role of the engagement quality reviewer (E2h, E2i).
E3b	Auditor's reports	Minor wording change for clarity.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links to the right:

What does this mean for me?

Since September 2022, AAA exams have 20 marks awarded for professional skills which are demonstrated throughout the exam. The exam duration remains the same allowing you to more effectively manage your exam time to answer the 80 marks allocated for showing mastery of your technical specialism.

In addition to this, the wording of some learning outcomes has been revised – the detail of these changes can be found in the table opposite.

Recommended resources

- Visit [this page](#) to find out more about the introduction of professional skills marks to AAA.
- Review to ensure that you have a solid knowledge and understanding of the content covered at AA.
- We recommend you make use of all [technical articles](#) available for AAA, but we would draw your attention to the following articles in particular:
 - [Ethics in the AAA exam](#)
 - [Approach to Section A questions in the AAA exam](#)Exam technique – planning questions and risk ([part 1](#) & [part 2](#)) covering business risk, risks of material misstatement and audit risk
- Exam technique – [Useful tips from the AAA examining team](#)
- The key to exam success is question practice. If you're preparing for an AAA CBE, visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the new ACCA Practice Platform.

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

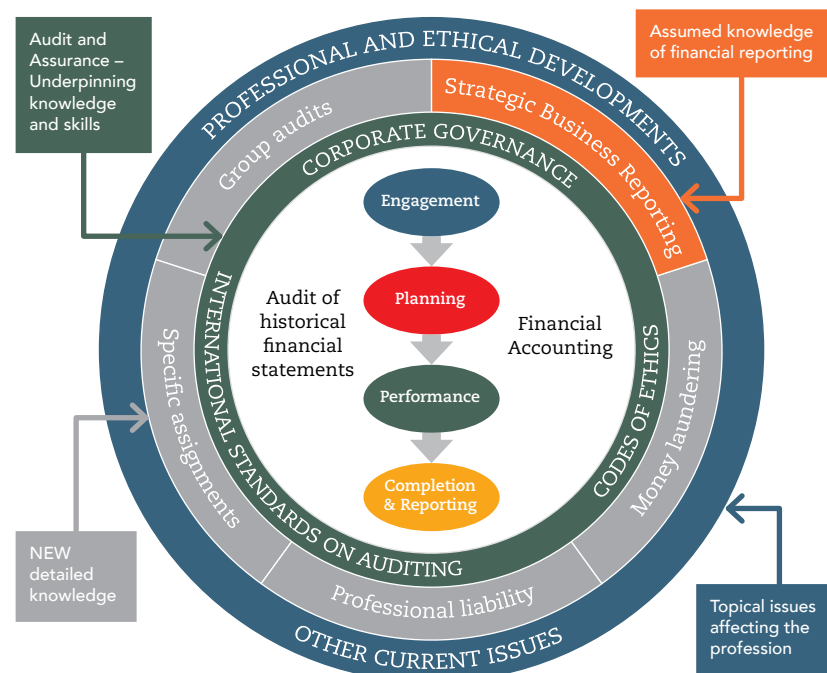
AAA builds on the **Audit and Assurance** and **Strategic Business Reporting (SBR)** exams, by introducing more complex topics and covering the basic topics from different angles to reflect the challenges auditors will face in their professional life. Current issues, exposure drafts and developments 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
- Ethics and Professional Skills module
- Exam technique guidance video on the September 2022 specimen exam
- Practice exams in the Practice Platform
- Examiner's reports
- Strategic Professional CBE support (PDF)
- 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





How to approach Corporate and Business Law (LW-ENG)

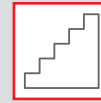
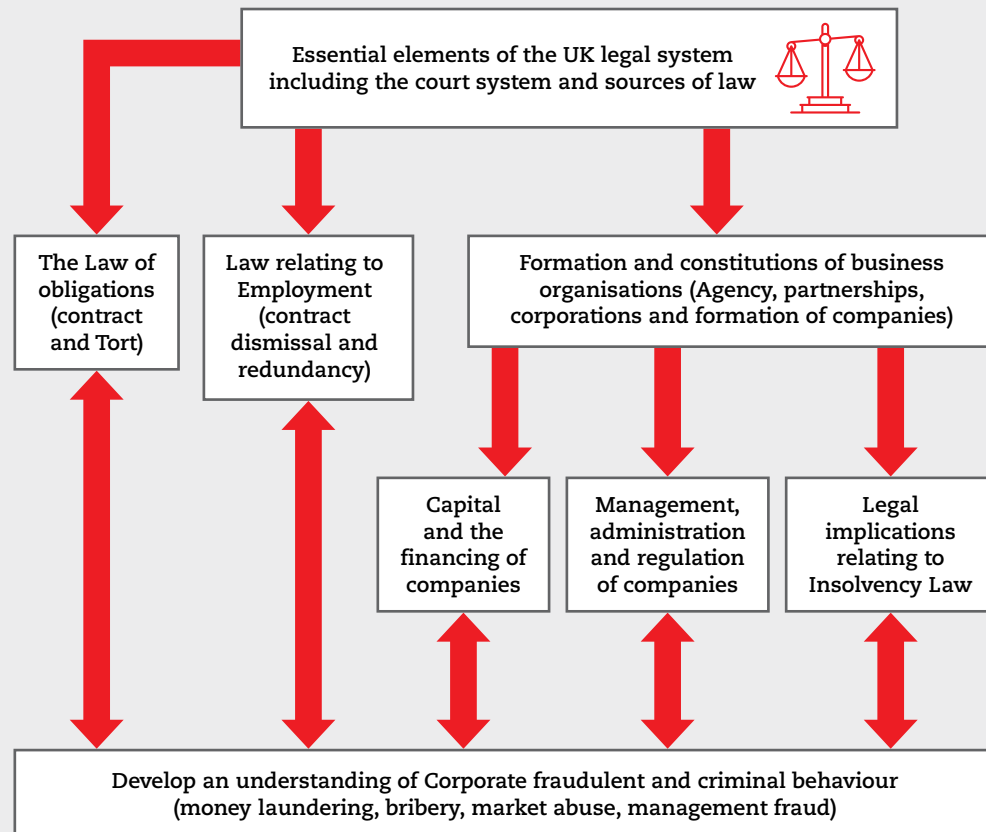


What is LW about?

Corporate and Business Law develops a core level of knowledge and skills around a general legal framework in the context of business.

LW: An overview

LW recognises that candidates are potential accountants, rather than potential lawyers. The aim is to develop knowledge and skills in the understanding of the general legal framework, specific business areas and when to seek specialist legal advice where necessary.



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and use Approved Learning Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Practice exam standard questions, to time, including the Specimen Exam and Practice Tests
- ✓ Ensure you are competent working in the Computer Based Exam environment
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your study on weaker areas
- ✓ Book your CBE exam in advance at one of the on-demand CBE centres



Key resources

- Examining team guidance
- Specimen exam
- Practice tests
- Technical articles
- Preparing for on-demand CBEs
- How to book an on-demand exam
- On demand centre list
- Remote on-demand exams



Tackling the exam

Section A (70 marks)

- 25 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks
- 20 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 1 mark

Tips for answering OT questions

- ✓ Read the question carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ If not sure, eliminate other answers to help find the correct answer
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer



Section B (30 marks)

- Five six-mark multi-task questions, each containing a scenario and a series of related tasks

Tips for answering multi-task questions

- ✓ Read and ensure you understand the scenario
- ✓ Read the questions carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer
- ✓ Attempt exam standard questions as possible along with the practice tests and specimen exam



Performance Management (PM) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA		SYLLABUS CONTENT CHANGES (REFERRING TO THE 23/24 LO)
A	Information, technologies and systems for organisational performance	Heading changed to Management information systems and data analytics.
A1	Managing information	Heading changed to Management information systems. A1d/e moved to A2b/c. New A1d/e (were A3a/b).
A2	Sources of information	Heading changed to Uses and control of information. A2a/c/d removed, and subsequent learning outcomes renumbered. A1a (was A1b) small rewording. A1d new learning outcome covering data visualisation.
A3	Information systems and data analytics	Heading changed to Big data and data analytics. A3a/b moved to A1d/e and subsequent learning outcomes renumbered.
B5	Environmental accounting	Heading changed to Accounting for environmental and sustainability factors. B5c/d new learning outcomes covering sustainability.
D1	Budgetary systems and types of budget	D1k new learning outcome covering ethical and sustainability factors in budgeting.
D2	Quantitative techniques	Heading changed to Analytical techniques in budgeting and forecasting.
E1	Performance analysis in private sector organisations	Heading changed to Performance analysis in private sector, public sector and not-for-profit organisations. E1a small wording change for consistency across exams. There are no changes to the examinable performance measures. E1b small wording change. E1e new learning outcome covering the issues faced when considering sustainability. E1e/f renumbered to E1f/g. E1h (was E4a). E1i new learning outcome covering considerations of sustainability.
E3	Performance analysis in not-for-profit organisations and the public sector	Heading changed to Specific performance analysis issues in not-for-profit organisations and the public sector. E2d expanded to specifically include 3Es. E3e/f/g/h combined with E1b/f/c/d.
E4	External considerations and the impact on performance	This section has been removed as all topics are covered within other learning outcomes.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links to the right:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023 – June 2024 exam year, there have been a few changes to the PM syllabus. There is a new learning outcome covering data visualisation and you must be prepared to discuss the importance of data visualisation in the presentation of management information. In addition, sustainability has been added throughout the syllabus. You should be considering the impact of sustainability within any section C question particularly within budgeting and performance measurement and control.

Apart from these additions, there have been some heading changes and consolidation and reorganisation of learning outcomes which will have no impact on the exam content – the details of these changes can be found on the table opposite.

Recommended resources

- We recommend you make use of all **technical articles** and **exam technique articles** available for PM.
- Our PM **examiner reports** are an essential study resource. They cover questions from all sections of the exam and give you insight into what the examiner is looking for and how to tackle questions.
- The key to exam success is question practice. If you're preparing for a PM CBE, visit [this page](#) for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the ACCA Practice Platform.



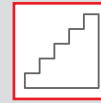
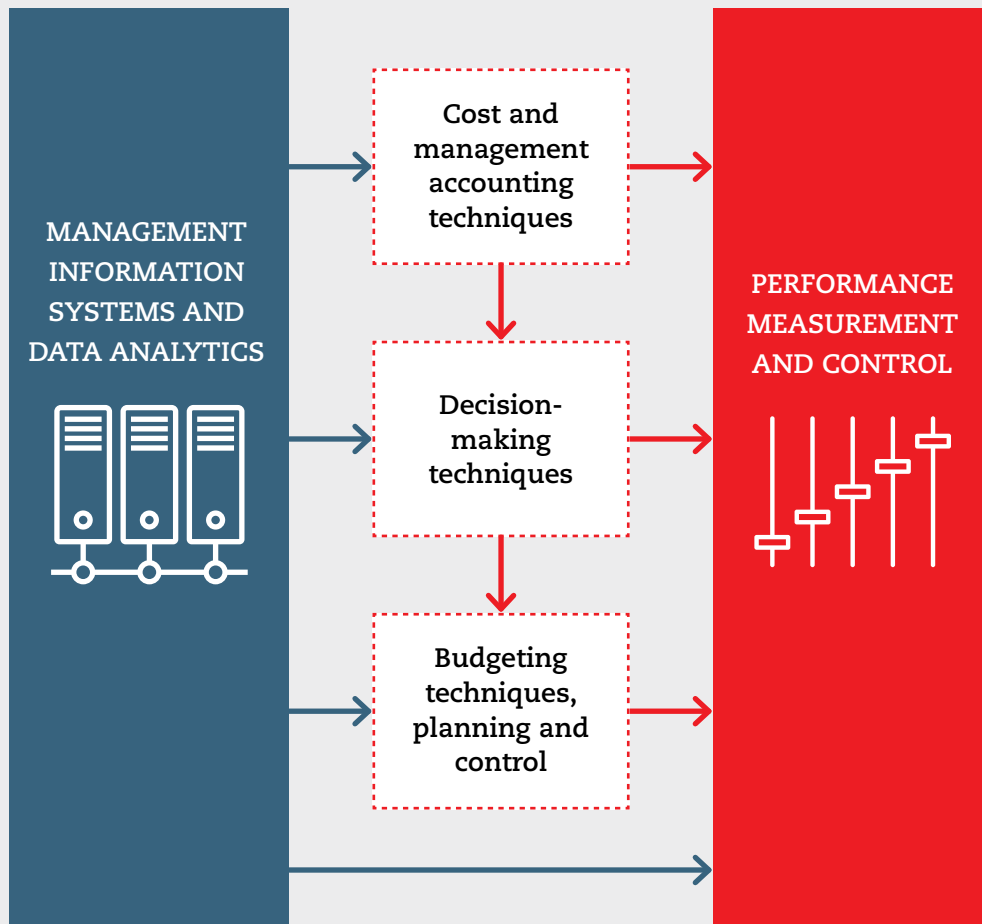
How to approach Performance Management (PM)



What is PM about?

Performance Management provides you with the skills required to apply management accounting techniques to information for planning, decision-making, performance evaluation and control.

PM: An overview



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and use Approved Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Ensure you understand methods rather than just focus on how to do the calculations
- ✓ Practice exam style and standard questions, to time, using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Develop your skills in answering constructed response questions
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your revision on weaker areas



Key resources

- Examiner approach
- Objective test questions for session CBEs
- Guide to session CBEs (PDF)
- Approaching PM constructed response questions
- Read the mind of a PM marker (PDF)
- Examining team guidance
- ACCA Practice Platform
- Information systems
- Big data



Tackling the exam

Section A (30 marks)

- 15 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks

Section B (30 marks)

- Three OT cases with five OT questions worth 2 marks each, 10 marks per case

Tips for answering OT questions

- ✓ Read the question and scenario carefully
- ✓ Adhere to the rounding instructions for "Fill in the Blank" questions
- ✓ Answer all questions



Section C (40 marks)

- Two scenarios which relate to one or more requirement(s)

Tips for answering Section C questions

- ✓ Be strict in allocating 36 minutes to each question
- ✓ Always read the requirement(s) first
- ✓ Approach numerical questions logically
- ✓ Show all workings – do not simply "plug" results of calculations
- ✓ Structure narrative answers around an answer plan
- ✓ Use headings, clear paragraphs and concise sentences
- ✓ Attempt all requirements





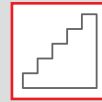
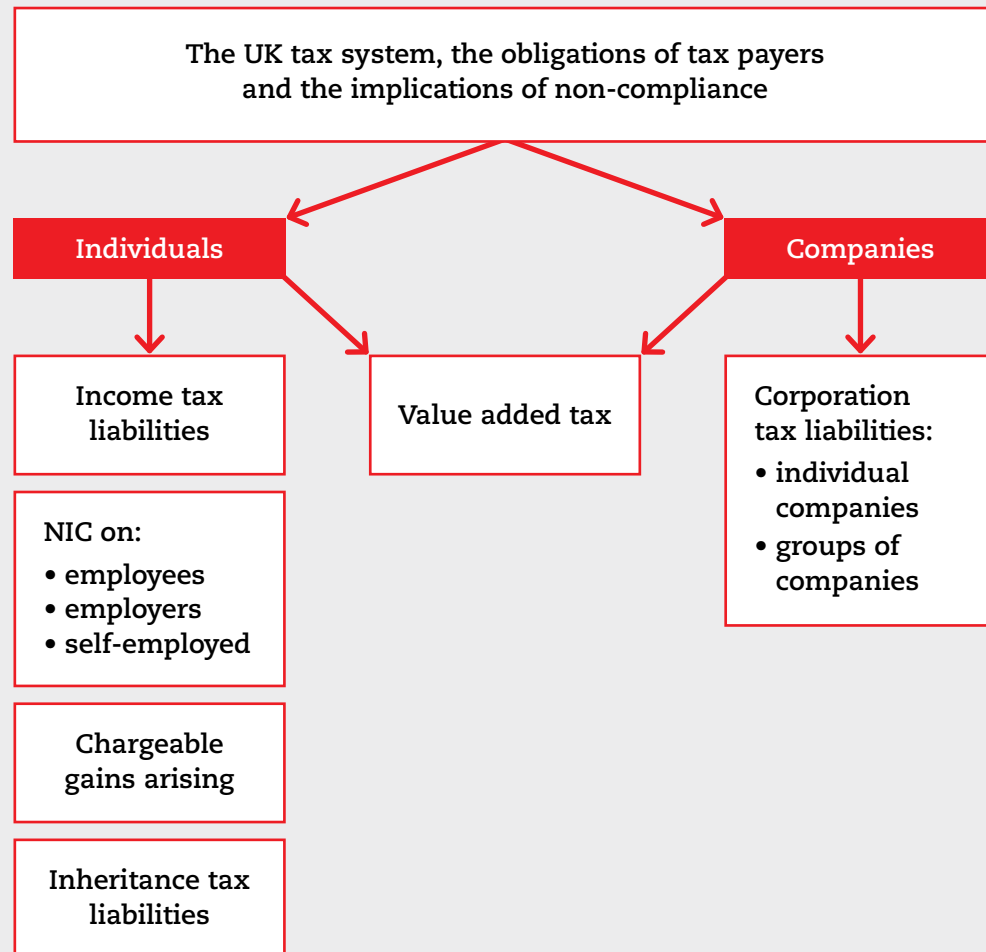
How to approach Taxation (TX-UK)



What is TX about?

Taxation provides you with the skills required to compute tax liabilities and apply basic tax planning techniques for individuals and companies.

TX: An overview



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and use Approved Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Practice exam style and standard questions, to time, using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Develop your skills in answering constructed response questions
- ✓ Practice using CBE functionality appropriately
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your revision on weaker areas



Key resources

- Technical articles including the relevant Finance Act
- Examiner's approach
- Objective test questions for session CBEs
- Guide to session CBEs (PDF)
- Examining team guidance
- ACCA Practice Platform



Tackling the exam

Section A (30 marks)

- 15 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks

Section B (30 marks)

- Three OT cases with five OT questions worth 2 marks each, 10 marks per case

Tips for answering OT questions



- ✓ Read the question and scenario carefully
- ✓ Adhere to the rounding instructions for "Fill in the Blank" questions
- ✓ Answer all questions

Section C (40 marks)

- Three scenarios which typically relate to three requirements

Tips for answering Section C questions



- ✓ Allocate 27 minutes to each 15 mark question (18 minutes to the 10-mark question)
- ✓ Always read the requirement(s) first
- ✓ Focus on a well-structured layout
- ✓ Present all workings – do not simply "plug" results of calculations
- ✓ Make clear statements for narrative answers and avoid repetition
- ✓ Attempt all requirements

Financial Reporting (FR) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION, SUBJECT AREA AND SYLLABUS CONTENT		RATIONALE
A3(f)	This is a new learning outcome.	Included in response to the establishment of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB™).
A4	Removed the following learning outcome which was previously A4(e): Explain why directors may not wish to consolidate a subsidiary and when this is permitted by IFRS Standards and other applicable regulation.	To better reflect the current requirements of IFRS Accounting Standards.

In addition to these changes, there are a variety of minor wording and other changes which have been made for clarity. If you would like more detail on these please refer to the table at the end of the 2023-24 [syllabus document](#).

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

From September 2023, there are minimal changes; however, it is important to understand changes in technical approach and examinable content:

- Contract assets and liabilities must be calculated under IFRS 15® Revenue from Contracts with Customers – IAS 11® accounting will not be awarded credit.
- Non-controlling interests as a proportionate share of net assets are examinable (Section C).
- Discontinued operations in the construction of a statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, individual or consolidated, are examinable (Section C).
- Net proceeds of testing an item of property, plant and equipment may no longer be deducted from its cost, per narrow scope changes to IAS 16® Property, Plant and Equipment.

Following its establishment, the International Sustainability Standards Board is examinable.

Recommended resources

- It is **highly recommended** that Students read **both IFRS 5®, Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations and IFRS 15® – Contract Assets and Contract Liabilities**.
- It is recommended that Students read other **technical articles** available.
- A full list of terminology changes, re-mapping, removal and creation of learning objectives is included as part of the **Financial Reporting (FR) syllabus and study guide**.
- Please remind yourself of the exam structure and approach **Financial Reporting (FR) – examiner approach**.



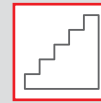
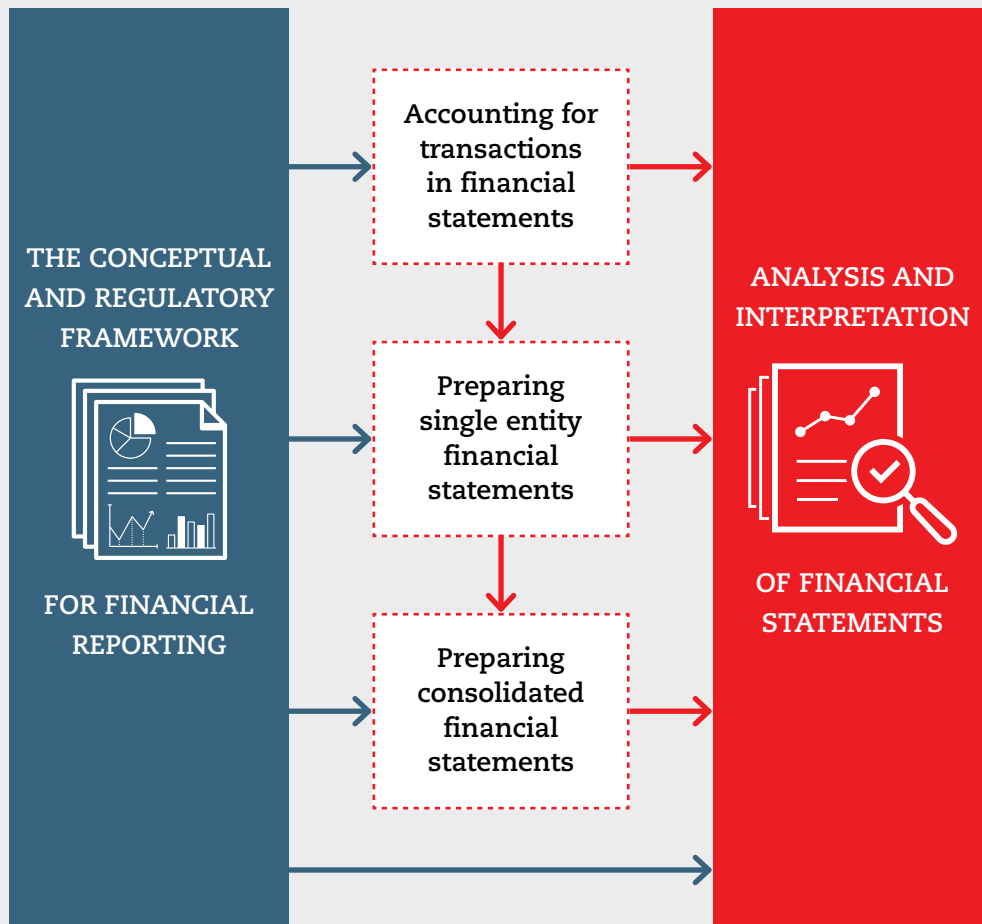
How to approach Financial Reporting (FR)



What is FR about?

Financial Reporting provides you with the skills required to apply accounting standards and the conceptual framework in the preparation of financial statements and how to analyse and interpret those financial statements.

FR: An overview



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and use Approved Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Ensure you understand theories and techniques rather than just focus on how to do the calculations
- ✓ Practice exam style and standard questions, to time, using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Develop your skills in answering constructed response questions
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your revision on weaker areas



Key resources

- Examiner approach
- Objective test questions for session CBEs
- Guide to session CBEs (PDF)
- How to approach performance appraisal questions
- Read the mind of an FR marker (PDF)
- Examining team guidance
- ACCA Practice Platform
- Analysing a statement of cash flows
- Tell me a story
- Revenue revisited
- Financial instruments
- Examinable documents



Tackling the exam

Section A (30 marks)

- 15 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks

Section B (30 marks)

- Three OT cases with five OT questions worth 2 marks each, 10 marks per case

Tips for answering OT questions

- ✓ Read the question carefully
- ✓ Adhere to the rounding instructions for "Fill in the Blank" questions
- ✓ Answer all questions



Section C (40 marks)

- Two scenarios which relate to one or more requirement(s)

Tips for answering Section C questions

- ✓ Be strict in allocating 36 minutes to each question
- ✓ Always read the requirement(s) first
- ✓ Present all workings – do not simply "plug" results of calculations
- ✓ Structure narrative answers around an answer plan
- ✓ Use headings, make clear statements and avoid repetition
- ✓ Always include a conclusion on the analysis discussion
- ✓ Attempt all requirements





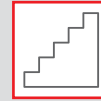
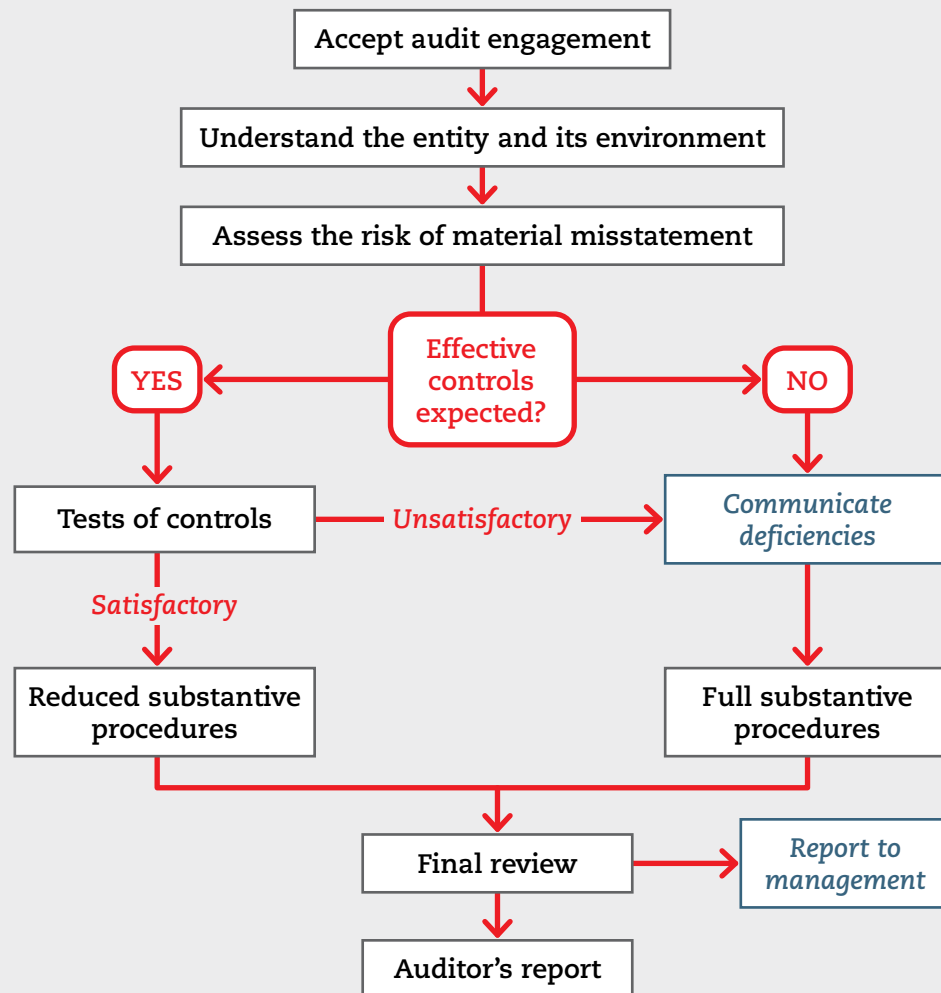
How to approach Audit and Assurance (AA)



What is AA about?

Audit and Assurance provides you with an understanding of the knowledge and application skills required to carry out an audit engagement.

AA: An overview



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and use Approved Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus and ensure your knowledge of ISAs and relevant financial accounting is at an appropriate level
- ✓ Practice exam style and standard questions, to time, using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Develop your ability to construct effective written response answers
- ✓ Carefully review how correct answers to OT questions were derived
- ✓ Develop your skills in providing effective narrative answers
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your revision on weaker areas



Key resources

- Examiner approach
- Objective test questions for session CBEs
- Guide to session CBEs (PDF)
- Answering audit risk questions
- Read the mind of the AA marker (PDF)
- Examining team guidance
- Mocks and debrief videos
- ACCA Practice Platform
- Going concern
- The auditor's report
- The audit of assertions
- Examinable documents



Tackling the exam

Section A (30 marks)

- Three OT cases with five OT questions worth 2 marks each, 10 marks per case

Tips for answering OT questions



- ✓ Read each question carefully
- ✓ Think before answering
- ✓ If unsure, eliminate incorrect answers
- ✓ Answer all questions

Section B (70 marks)

- Three scenarios with two or more requirements

Tips for answering Section B questions



- ✓ Read each requirement carefully to understand what is asked for
- ✓ Draw on the scenario to plan the points you need to make
- ✓ Use concise headings
- ✓ Make clear and concise points specific to the given scenario
- ✓ Describe "how" procedures should be performed
- ✓ Do not give rote-learned answer points
- ✓ Attempt all requirements

Financial Management (FM) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION, SUBJECT AREA AND SYLLABUS CONTENT		RATIONALE
B1d	Explain the need for, and the interaction with, planning and decision-making in business of: i) competition policy ^[1] ii) government assistance for business ^[1] iii) green policies and sustainability issues ^[1] iv) corporate governance regulation. ^[2]	Sustainability issues has been added to iii) reflecting the increasing importance of this topic.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023-June 2024 exam year, there has been one change to the syllabus. As detailed in syllabus section B1d), you may be required to explain the need for, and the interaction with, planning and decision-making in business of sustainability issues.

Recommended resources

- We recommend you make use of all *technical articles* available for FM.
- Our FM *examiner reports* are an essential study resource, and the latest reports include published section A questions, giving you even more insight into what the examiner is looking for.
- The key to exam success is question practice. If you're preparing for an FM CBE, visit *this page* for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the new ACCA Practice Platform.



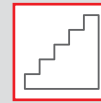
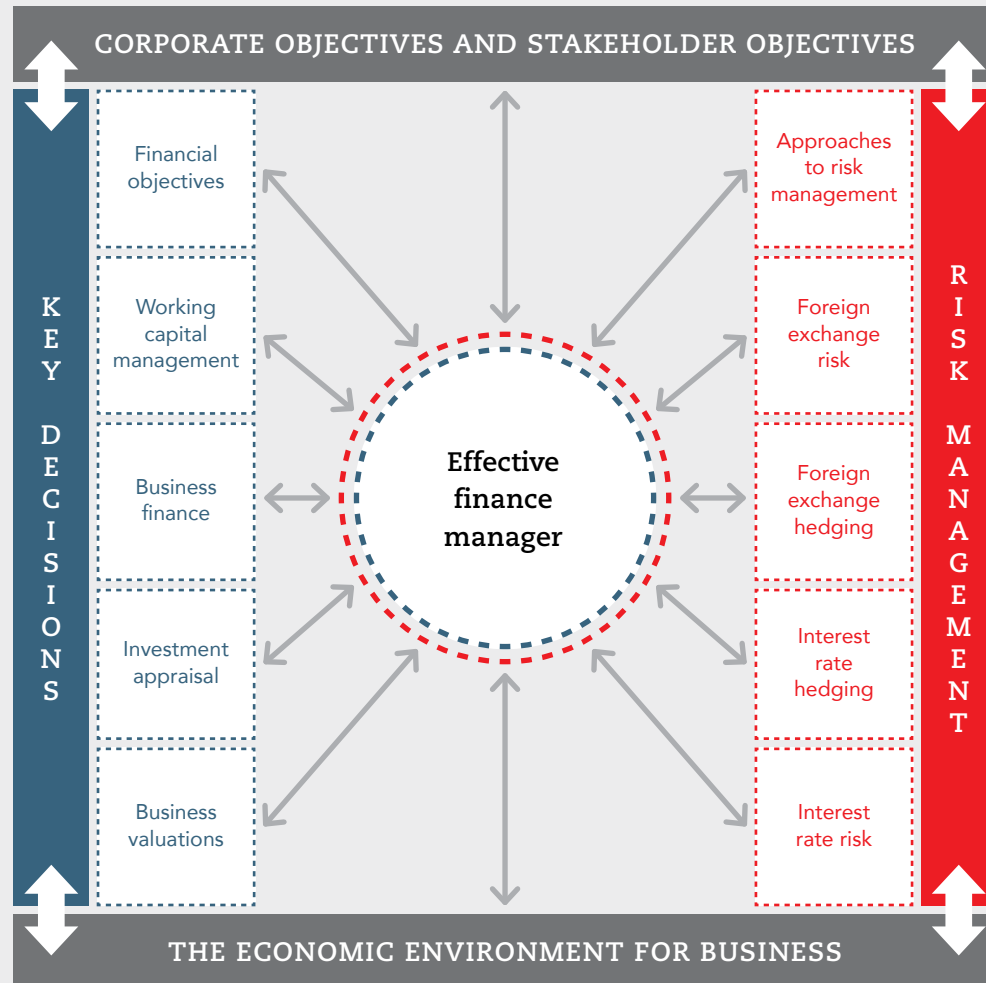
How to approach Financial Management (FM)



What is FM about?

Financial Management provides you with the skills required to effectively manage the finance function of an organisation.

FM: An overview



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and with Approved Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Practice exam style and standard questions, to time, using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ Develop your ability to construct effective written response answers
- ✓ Ensure you are competent working in the Computer Based Exam environment
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your study on weaker areas



Key resources

- Examiner approach
- Objective test questions for session CBEs
- Guide to session CBEs (PDF)
- How to approach discursive questions in FM
- Examining team guidance
- ACCA Practice Platform
- Working capital management
- Dividend theory
- Inflation and investment appraisal
- Read the mind of the FM marker (PDF)



Tackling the exam

Section A (30 marks)

- 15 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks

Section B (30 marks)

- Three OT cases, each containing a scenario with five OT questions worth 2 marks each, 10 marks per case

Tips for answering OT questions



- ✓ Read the question carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer

Section C (40 marks)

- Two scenarios which relate to one or more requirement(s)

Tips for answering Section C questions



- ✓ Plan your answer
- ✓ Answer the requirement directly
- ✓ Refer to the scenario
- ✓ Break your answer up with headings
- ✓ Be clear and concise, but ensure you develop each point in your answer
- ✓ Attempt all parts of all questions

Business and Technology (BT) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA		SYLLABUS CONTENT CHANGES
A3	Political and legal factors affecting business	A3c – removed from syllabus. A3e – removed from syllabus. A3f – renumbered as A3d and reference to health and safety removed. A3g – removed from syllabus.
A4	Macroeconomic factors	A4c – reference to stagnation replaced with economic growth.
B2	Business organisational structure	B2a – removal of Mintzberg's components of the organisation.
C5	Financial systems and technology	C5e – removed from syllabus. C5h – removed from syllabus.
D1	Leadership, management and supervision	D1b – removal of Mayo theory. D1d – removal of Kotter and Heifetz theories.
D2 (S22-J23)	Recruitment and selection of employees	D2a to D2g – removed from syllabus (S22-J23 syllabus).
D4	Motivating individuals and teams	D5b – removal of Vroom theory and renumbered as D4b.
D5	Learning and training at work	D6c – removed from syllabus.

In addition to the extract shown in this table, there are quite a large number of wording and other changes which have been made for clarity. Please refer to the table at the end of the 2023-24 [syllabus document](#) for the full detail.

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links below:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023-June 2024 exam year, there have been a number of changes to the BT syllabus and study guide.

These amendments emphasize the importance of sustainability and technology, consolidate sections of the syllabus together and simplify the syllabus structure. A number of theoretical models as well as the section on recruitment and selection of employees have been removed from the syllabus.

Changes have also been made to some of the syllabus verbs to ensure that BT is aligned to the correct intellectual level.

Recommended resources

- Review the details of the changes in the [syllabus and study guide](#) carefully (section 13).
- We recommend you make use of all [technical articles](#) available for BT.
- The BT [examiner reports](#) are an important study resource and give you insight into what the examiner is looking for.
- The key to exam success is question practice. If you're preparing for a BT exam, make use of the [practice tests](#) available to purchase and explore the [specimen exam](#).



How to approach Business and Technology (BT)

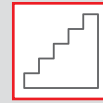
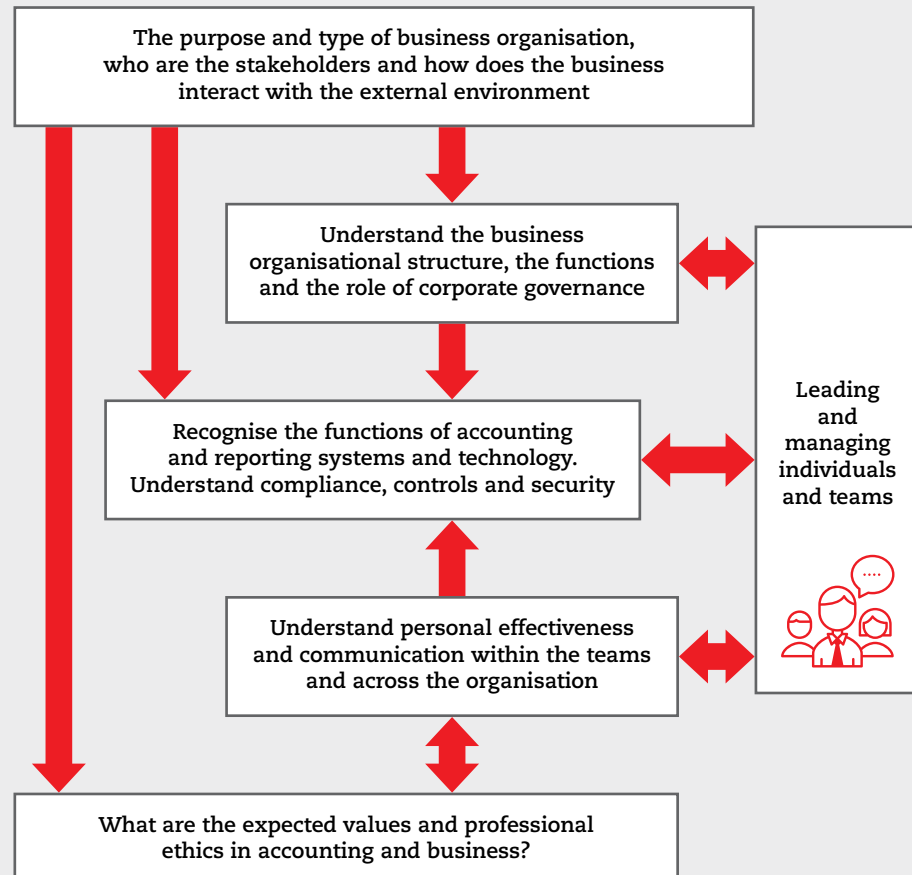


What is BT about?

Business and Technology (BT) is concerned with ensuring that businesses operate efficiently, effectively and ethically.

BT: An overview

Business and Technology is a gateway paper which covers many topics but on a relatively shallow level. It is important not to drill down too deeply in any given topic, so you can spread your time on individual topics evenly.



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and use Approved Learning Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Practice exam standard questions, to time, including the Specimen Exam and Practice Tests
- ✓ Ensure you are competent working in the Computer Based Exam environment
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your study on weaker areas
- ✓ Book your CBE exam in advance at one of the on-demand CBE centres



Key resources

Links to key resources:

- [Examining team guidance](#)
- [Specimen exam](#)
- [Specimen exam debrief videos](#)
- [Practice tests](#)
- [Technical articles](#)
- [Preparing for on-demand CBEs](#)
- [How to book an on-demand exam](#)
- [On-demand centre list](#)
- [Remote on-demand exams](#)



Tackling the exam

Section A (76 marks)

- 46 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 1 or 2 marks
- There will be 16 one-mark and 30 two-mark questions.

Tips for answering OT questions

- ✓ Read the question carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ If not sure, eliminate other answers to help find the correct answer
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer



Section B (24 marks)

- There will be six multi-task questions (MTQ) in part B of the paper, each worth four marks. There are six syllabus areas and there will be one MTQ on each of them. Each MTQ will be specific to a syllabus area, with no crossover between the six generic parts of the syllabus.

Tips for answering multi-task questions

- ✓ Read and ensure you understand the scenario
- ✓ Read the questions carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer



Management Accounting (MA) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

SECTION AND SUBJECT AREA		SYLLABUS CONTENT CHANGES
A2	Sources of data	A2d replaced with new learning outcome covering direct and indirect data capture costs.
A3	Cost classification	A3g reworded.
A4	Presenting information	A4b reworded to include data visualisation. A4c reworded.
B2	Forecasting techniques	Heading changed to Analytical techniques in budgeting and forecasting.
C1	Accounting for material, labour and overheads	C1a(i) and C1b(ii) have been reworded to recognise the move away from manual systems towards the assumption of computerised systems. C1a(x) new learning outcome covering Just in Time (JIT).
C3	Cost accounting methods	C3b – The calculation of unit costs using process costing, the concepts of equivalent units and work in progress and the preparation of process accounts have been removed. Subsequent learning outcomes have been renumbered. New C3b((vi) covering further processing C3c(i) new learning outcome covering the characteristics of service organisations. Subsequent learning outcomes have been renumbered.
C4	Alternative cost accounting principles	C4a reworded to remove total quality management (TQM) which has been moved to a separate learning outcome F2f(iii).
D2	Budget preparation	D2g/h new learning outcomes covering the general economic environment and sustainability in budgeting.
D4	Capital budgeting and discounted cash flows	Heading changed to Asset budgeting and investment appraisal. D4a/c/f wording changes for consistency with new heading.
F1	Performance measurement – overview	F1e new learning outcome covering the impact of sustainability on performance measurement. F2a small wording change for consistency across exams. There are no changes to the examinable performance measures. F2d removed and subsequent sections renumbered F2g (now F2f) heading changed and new learning outcome F2f(iii) covering total quality management (TQM).

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links to the right:

What does this mean for me?

For the September 2023-August 2024 exam year, there have been a few changes to the syllabus for MA. There are new learning outcomes covering data capture costs and Just in Time. In addition, sustainability has been added within budgeting and performance measurement.

Data visualisation is now specifically mentioned under presenting information, although much of this was already covered. Within accounting for material, labour and overheads, there is a move away from manual systems towards the assumption of computerised systems. The focus of exam questions will be on the processes and the controls.

Process costing calculations and the preparation of process accounts have been removed. The characteristics of process costing and when it would be used are still examinable, as is the treatment and costing of joint and by-products and the benefits of further processing and the concept of normal and abnormal gains and losses.

The 'characteristics of service organisations' has been added to allow a better understanding of the differences between manufacturing and service organisations and the reasons for the differences in the way these are costed.

Apart from these additions, there have been some heading changes and consolidation and reorganisation of learning outcomes which will have no impact on the exam content – the details of the main changes can be found on the table opposite.

Recommended resources

- We recommend you make use of all [technical articles](#) available for MA.
- Our MA [examiner reports](#) are an essential study resource. They cover a range of questions from section A of the exam and provide detailed guidance on how to tackle these questions.
- The key to exam success is question practice. If you're preparing for an MA exam, make use of the [practice tests](#) available to purchase and explore the [specimen exam](#).



How to approach Management Accounting (MA)

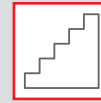
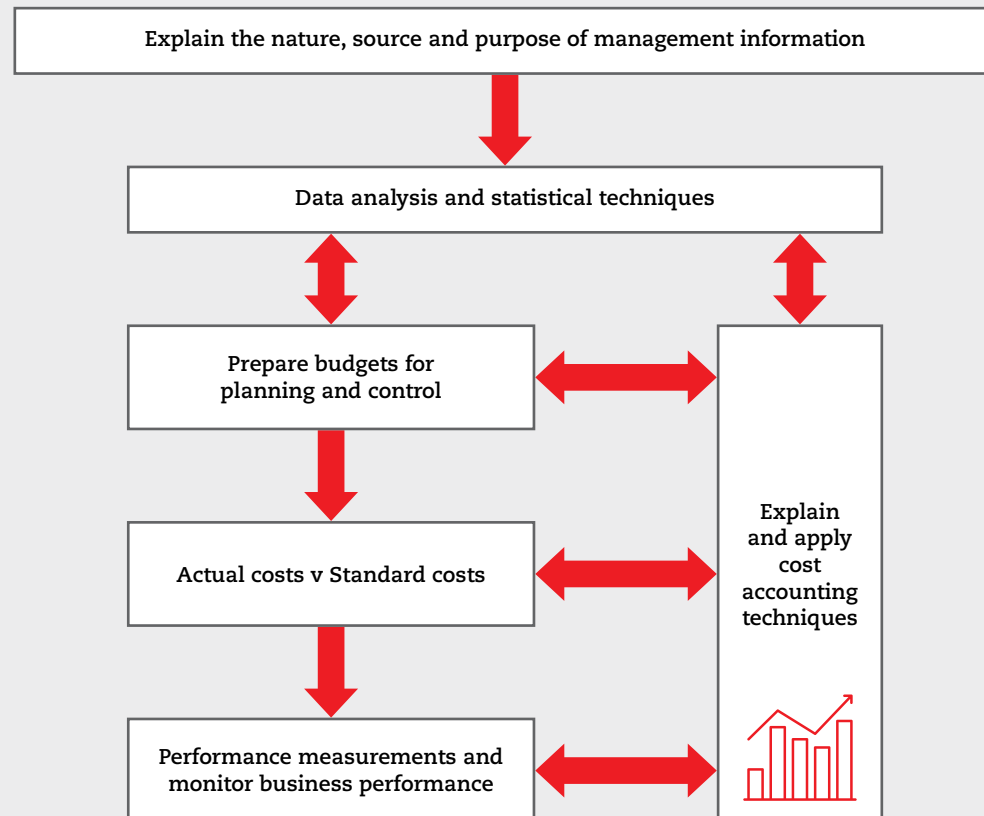


What is MA about?

Management Accounting introduces the elements of management accounting which are used to support decision-making in an organisation.

MA: An overview

Management accounting (MA) aims to develop knowledge and understanding of management accounting techniques to support management in planning, controlling and monitoring business performance. This knowledge is then the platform to develop further in the skills and professional exams, PM, APM and SBL.



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and with Approved Learning Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Practice exam standard questions, to time, including the Specimen Exam and Practice Tests
- ✓ Ensure you are competent working in the Computer Based Exam environment
- ✓ Attempt at least two full exams under exam conditions, debrief your answers, then focus your study on weaker areas
- ✓ Book your CBE exam in advance at one of the on demand CBE centres



Key resources

- Examining team guidance
- Specimen exam
- Specimen exam debrief videos
- Practice tests
- Technical articles
- Preparing for on-demand CBEs
- How to book an on demand exam
- On demand centre list
- Remote on-demand exams



Tackling the exam

Section A (70 marks)

- 35 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks

Tips for answering OT questions



- ✓ Read the question carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Ensure you do your workings even though you do not need to show them
- ✓ If not sure, eliminate other answers to help find the correct answer
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer

Section B (30 marks)

- There will be 3 MTQ's in this section each worth 10 marks. Each MTQ will examine budgeting, standard costing and performance management syllabus areas.

Tips for answering multi-task questions



- ✓ Read and ensure you understand the scenario
- ✓ Read the questions carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Ensure you do your workings even though you do not need to show them
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer

Financial Accounting (FA) – guidance on syllabus changes

What's changing?

22/23 LO	23/24 LO	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
A4(a)	A4(a)	Changed 'Understand the role' to 'Explain the purpose'; listed out the bodies into sub learning outcomes; added 'International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB®)'.
NEW FOR 23/24	B1	Key principles and concepts of accounting.
NEW FOR 23/24	C1(d)	Describe the key features of a computerised accounting system, including the use of external servers to store data (the cloud) ^[K] .
C2	C2	Changed 'Ledger accounts, books of prime entry and journals' to 'General ledger accounts and journal entries'.
C2(a)	REMOVED	Removed.
NEW FOR 23/24	C2(a)	Describe the main types of general ledger accounts, including their nature and function ^[K] .
NEW FOR 23/24	C2(b)	Describe how financial data is initially recorded in the accounting system ^[K] .
D3(h)	REMOVED	Removed.
NEW FOR 23/24	D7(f)	Report accruals, prepayments, accrued income and deferred income in the financial statements ^[S] .
D8(l)	REMOVED	Removed.
E3	REMOVED	Removed.
E3(a) – E3(f)	REMOVED	Removed.
NEW FOR 23/24	E2	Trade payables account reconciliations.
NEW FOR 23/24	E2(a)	Explain the purpose of the trade payables general ledger account and how it relates to the double-entry system ^[K] .
NEW FOR 23/24	E2(b)	Explain the purpose of reconciling the trade payables general ledger account to external documents ^[K] .
NEW FOR 23/24	E2(c)	Prepare a reconciliation of the trade payables general ledger account to supplier statements ^[S] .
NEW FOR 23/24	E2(d)	Identify and correct errors which would be highlighted by performing a reconciliation of the trade payables general ledger account ^[K] .
NEW FOR 23/24	E2(e)	Identify the trade payables balance to be reported in the financial statements ^[S] .
F1(c), F2(b), F2(d)	REMOVED	Removed.

In addition to these changes, there are a variety of minor wording and other changes which have been made for clarity. If you would like more detail on these please refer to the table at the end of the 2023-24 [syllabus document](#).

What does this mean for me?

From September 2023, although the fundamentals of accounting remain unchanged, you will see the impact of computerised accounting and its terminology across Financial Accounting.

Several technical articles have been published for students to understand the underlying changes brought in with computerised accounting systems – such as processing of financial data into financial information, the removal of 'books of prime entry' and new terminology.

Recommended resources

- It is **essential** that all Students read [Computerised accounting systems – rationale for change](#).
- It is **highly recommended** that Students read the updated [technical articles](#) available – paying particular attention to the six articles marked as "Relevant from September 2023".
- A full list of terminology changes, re-mapping, removal and creation of learning objectives is included as part of the [Financial Accounting \(FA/FFA\) syllabus and study guide](#).

Study materials

It's vital to use up to date study materials when preparing for your exam. Both ACCA's Approved Content and the new online Study Hub are reviewed by the examining teams to offer high quality study materials. To find out more, please click on the links to the right:



How to approach Financial Accounting (FA)

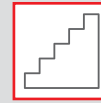
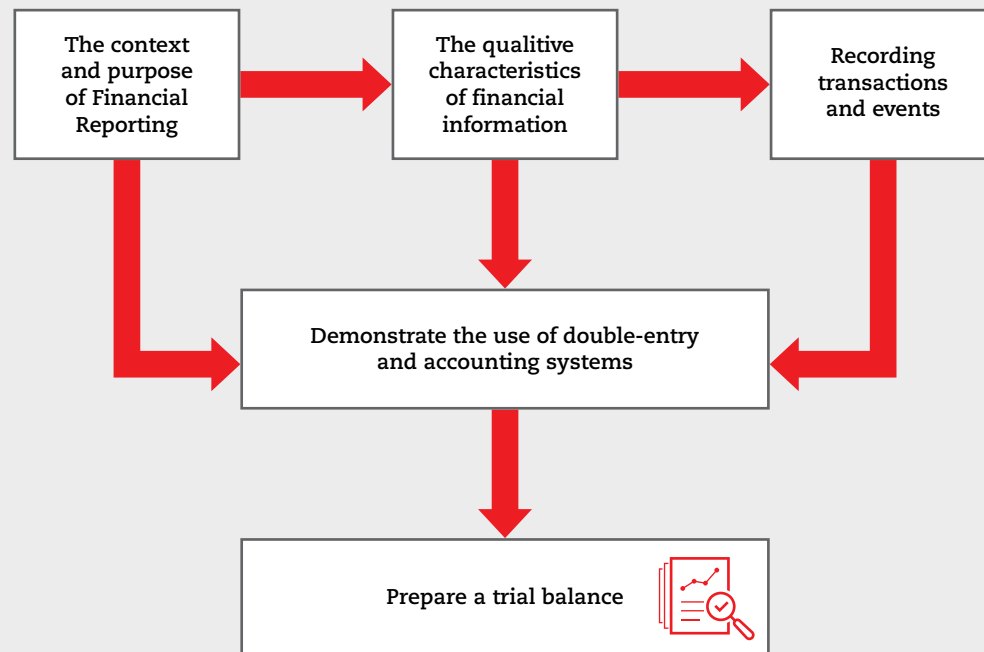


What is FA about?

Financial Accounting introduces the fundamentals of preparing financial accounts, the regulatory framework around financial statements and the qualitative characteristics of useful financial information. It covers the recording of transactions through to the preparation of the financial statements.

FA: An overview

Financial Accounting (FA) aims to develop knowledge and understanding of the basic principles and concepts of financial accounting. It also provides the technical skills for using double-entry accounting techniques. This knowledge is the platform to then develop further in more complex accounting issues covered in the skills and strategic papers, FR and SBR.



Steps to success

- ✓ If possible, study with an Approved Learning Partner and with Approved Learning Content
- ✓ Study the whole syllabus
- ✓ Practice exam standard questions, to time, including the Specimen Exam and Practice Tests
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Key resources

Links to key resources:

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Tackling the exam

Section A (70 marks)

- 35 objective test (OT) questions, each worth 2 marks

Tips for answering OT questions



- ✓ Read the question carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Ensure you do your workings even though you do not need to show them
- ✓ If not sure, eliminate other answers to help find the correct answer
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer

Section B (30 marks)

- There will be 2 multi-task questions (MTQ) in this section each worth 15 marks. Each MTQ will be specific to a syllabus area.

Tips for answering multi-task questions



- ✓ Read and ensure you understand the scenario
- ✓ Read the questions carefully
- ✓ Think before answering, don't rush!
- ✓ Ensure you do your workings even though you do not need to show them
- ✓ Answer all questions even if unsure of the answer