



NEXT GENERATION ACA SYLLABUS HANDBOOK

2027



Next Generation ACA Syllabus Handbook

FOR EXAMS IN 2027

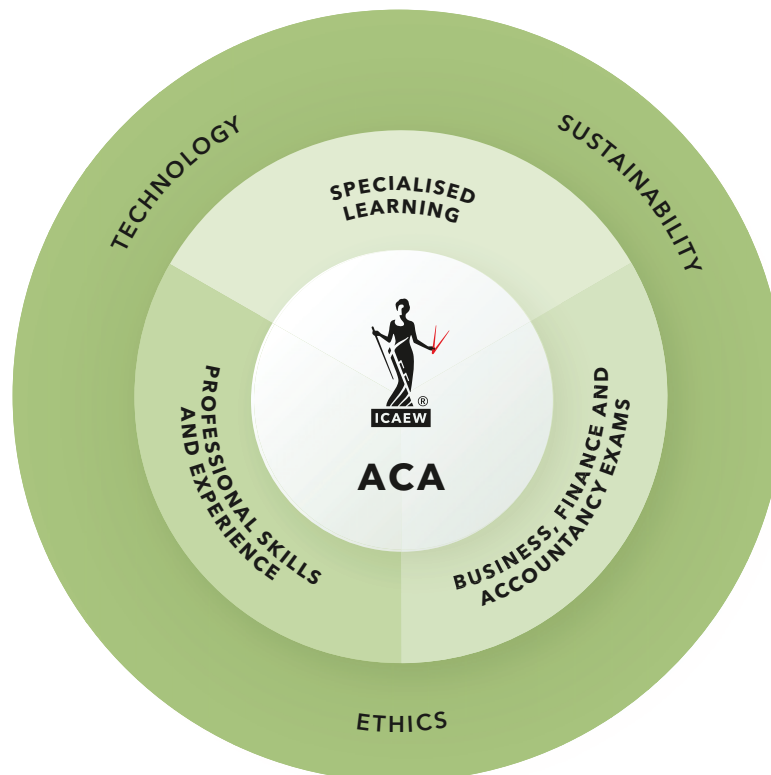
Contents

ACA OVERVIEW	3
ACA COMPONENTS	6
SKILLS PROGRESSION THROUGH THE ACA EXAMS	9
ACA syllabus	13
ADVANCED LEVEL	15
Strategic Case Study	16
TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE	32

ACA overview

The ICAEW chartered accountancy qualification, the ACA, is one of the most advanced learning and professional development programmes available. Its integrated components provide an in-depth understanding across business, finance and accountancy. Combined, they help build the technical knowledge, professional skills and practical experience needed to become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

Each component is designed to complement the other, which means that students can put theory into practice and can understand and apply what they learn to their day-to-day work.



ICAEW constantly reviews the content of the ACA qualification to reflect real life business challenges. Over the next decade, sustainability, technology and ethics will be the three key themes impacting every accountant and business they serve. We work closely with employers, tuition providers, academics and examiners to ensure that the ACA equips the chartered accountants of the future with the skills and knowledge they need to meet these challenges and to be successful. Sustainability, technology and ethics have been integrated throughout the qualification, delivering forward-thinking business leaders ready for the challenges of tomorrow's world.

THE ACA QUALIFICATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Finance and accounting professionals need to move beyond simply measuring and reporting the impact of climate change, environmental regulation, supply chain pressure and rising energy costs. They must focus on understanding these and other emerging sustainability-related implications, integrating them into financial management and strategic business planning. ICAEW has been at the forefront of this movement over the past decade and has adapted the ACA qualification to reflect that. We see its role as not simply integrating knowledge and understanding the broader implications of environmental, social and governance issues into organisations, but also seeding this thinking into the mindset of our members.

Our syllabus, Specialised Learning and professional skills framework contribute toward creating ICAEW Chartered Accountants who recognise that sustainability is at the core of what they do and are capable of actively using their business skills to analyse how to make the new sustainable economy work for their business.

Sustainability is an integrated element from assurance and corporate reporting to strategic business planning and management reporting, providing transparent information for users. It's an embedded element across the ACA qualification with its beginnings at the newly developed Sustainability and Ethics module at Certificate Level through to the Strategic Case Study at Advanced Level. The new Specialised Learning and professional skills framework provides the opportunity to create and update content rapidly which will be invaluable for sustainability conversations to remain relevant.

There is much that is closely related to the skills and experience of ICAEW Chartered Accountants; for example, the identification and management of risks, corporate governance, compliance with laws and regulations, design and operation of management control systems, measurement of liabilities and impaired assets, information reporting and assurance, and new forms of taxation. Where the technical issues extend beyond an accountant's reach, working with other experts is already recognised as good practice.

THE ACA QUALIFICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Changes in technology have automated many routine aspects of accountancy. But with changes in technology also come complexity and risk. Accountants need to adapt and develop new skills to manage these changes.

While there are many new technology capabilities that have broad application across the business and consumer environment, there are several trends that have the greatest potential to transform the accountancy profession (ABCD): **A**rtificial intelligence, **A**utomation, **B**lockchain, **C**yber security, **C**loud computing, and **D**ata and **D**igital Transformation.

These and other innovations are likely to have a significant impact on the way that accountants access information, transact and manage business finances. Technology tools can provide information more quickly and often more accurately than humans, but they cannot replicate human intelligence, critical thinking and quality decision making, or effective communication of the output of analysis. Chartered accountants continue to hold key roles such as validating the source of the data, evaluating the risks, interpreting and analysing the outputs, and ensuring the tools support effective management of the organisation. As automation continues to expand understanding the interconnectivity between systems will be fundamental.

As routine and compliance work reduces, there is greater focus on the development of skills which equip professionals to work with the outputs of automated processes, with other specialists, and in a changing world. The skill set needed by accountants is changing as technological advances are made; it's the ability to adapt and rapidly respond to these changes that will be key.

We believe that skills such as analysis, interpretation, professional scepticism, communication, collaboration, adaptability, resilience and commerciality are essential for tomorrow's business leaders; these are embedded throughout the ACA exams and professional skills framework.

THE ACA QUALIFICATION AND ETHICS

Culture and values are central to long-term success. How a business adopts an ethical approach towards its staff, shareholders, customers, regulators and other stakeholders, as well as within its own operations, has a bigger impact than any performance measure or operational improvement.

Demonstrating a clear commitment to ethical behaviour is one of the main drivers of better performance; it delivers an advantage when recruiting, it adds value to a brand, and it instils trust and confidence in partners, suppliers and others that the organisation is well run and resilient.

Achieving that is not a matter of simple knowledge. Few ethical challenges will have simple right or wrong responses. They require technical understanding, critical appraisal, and application of professional scepticism and judgement with skilful handling. Accountants must have the necessary skills to apply professional judgement, have a curious mindset and take into account what has been learnt as an ACA student about their ethical responsibilities as a chartered accountant.

There will be unique ethical challenges throughout any chartered accountant's process of learning and career. They serve a variety of masters: senior management, external stakeholders, regulators and above all the public interest responsibility of their profession. Because of the rigorous and effective training and continual professional development as part of their lifelong learning, chartered accountants can speak up and take a lead. None of this can happen without one critical element: professionalism. That goes beyond merely knowing the Code of Ethics; it means embodying the right behaviours and values and having the ability and willingness to push back against those who might compromise the integrity of the business.

Ethics and professionalism are embedded throughout the ACA qualification, from understanding and applying knowledge of the Code of Ethics and developing safeguards, to adopting a curious mindset and applying professional judgement. We build ethical and professional confidence in our qualification as it prioritises not only technical knowledge of the ethical framework but also challenges accountants with scenarios that accurately reflect the ethical dilemmas a chartered accountant may face in business.

ACA components

SPECIALISED LEARNING

Our 14 business, finance and accountancy modules cover the core technical knowledge and application of skills for all ICAEW Chartered Accountants. However, we recognise each student's unique journey to membership and have therefore built Specialised Learning into the core of the ACA qualification.

Specialised Learning provides tailored learning opportunities and therefore forms a key element of the ACA qualification. Students will have access to an e-learning platform that hosts a wide range of content relevant to students working across different sectors and specialisms. This content will be brought to life in a practical and engaging way and will cover both technical and non-technical skills.



Students will need to complete a minimum of 30 units of Specialised Learning. Each unit will roughly equate to an hour of learning. By having access to different content students and employers will be able to personalise the experience to fit with a student's individual learning needs and role.

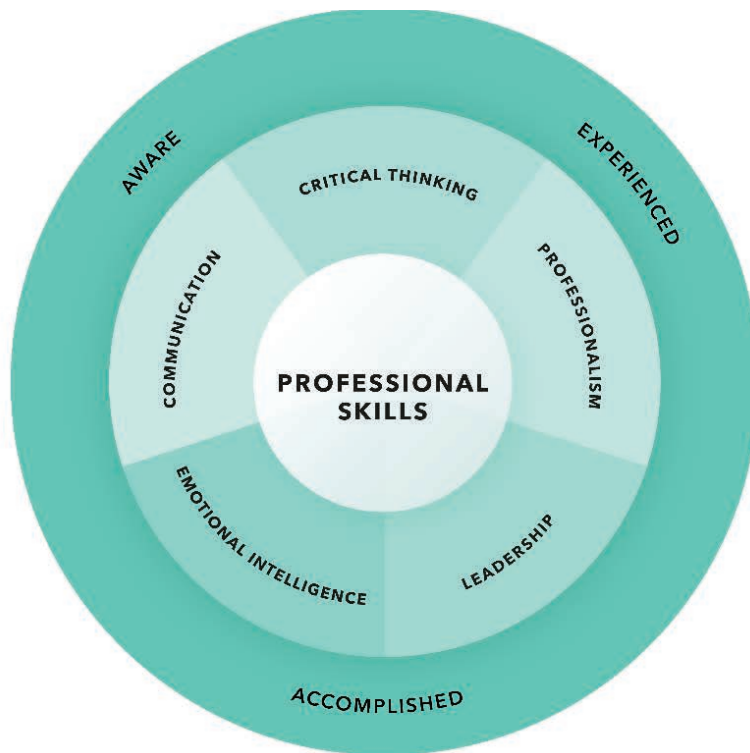
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

The ACA features 25 professional skills split across five key competency areas. A three-stage proficiency model will guide students to develop their unique skills portfolio.

Professional development prepares students to successfully handle a variety of different situations that they encounter throughout their career. Building in professional development as part of the ACA qualification recognises that this is the start of a student's lifelong learning journey.

The skills development framework is set around core competencies and skills. These recognise that clear effective communication is at the heart of all that we do, and is balanced with developing critical thinkers, who are resilient and inclusive and are underpinned by professionalism. We want to develop leaders who can be authentic and remain true to their personal values.

With diversity and inclusion being one of our key strategic pillars it is important that these skills encompass collaboration and inclusion whilst celebrating diversity rather than having a 'one size fits all model'.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Professional work experience is undertaken as part of a training agreement with an authorised training employer or principal. Students need to complete at least 450 days, which normally takes between three and five years. The knowledge, skills and experience they gain as part of their training are invaluable, giving them the opportunity to put what they're learning into practice.

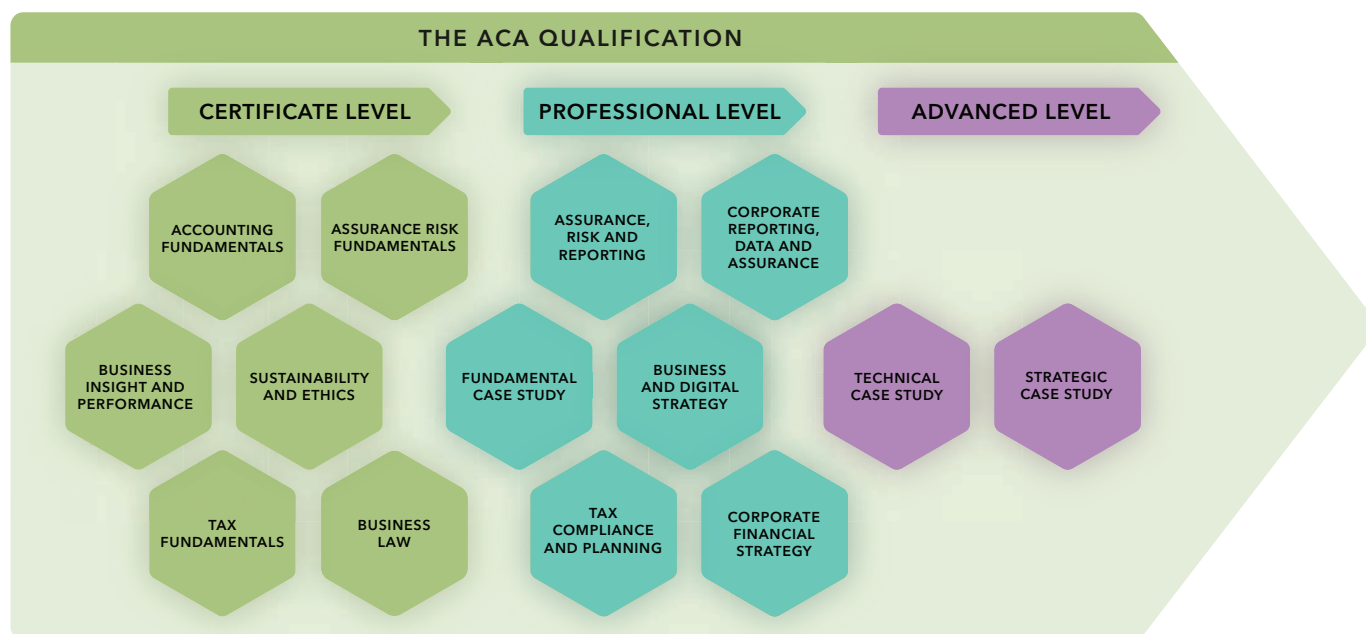
Student professional work experience should:

- include responsibility levels that increase in depth and scope as the student progresses through their training;
- be recorded throughout their training agreement; and
- expose them to as many different practical assignments, finance functions and/or clients in as many different sectors as possible.

14 BUSINESS, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY EXAMS

Students gain in-depth knowledge across a broad range of topics in business, finance and accountancy. The exams are designed to complement their professional work experience, so they constantly progress through the qualification providing an integrated learning experience.

There are 14 modules over three levels – Certificate, Professional and Advanced. Flexibility allows each student journey to membership to be unique to them.



CERTIFICATE LEVEL

There are six exams at this level that introduce the fundamentals of business, finance and accountancy. Students may be eligible for credit for some exams if they have studied a qualification we recognise. Find out more at icaew.com/cpl.

The Certificate Level exams are either 1.5 or 2 hours long, have a 55% pass mark and can be sat in any order throughout the year.

PROFESSIONAL LEVEL

The next six exams build on the fundamentals and test students' understanding and ability to use technical knowledge in real-life scenarios. The exams can be taken in March, June, September and December.

The Professional Level exams are 2.5 hours long, except for Assurance, Risk and Reporting and Tax Compliance and Planning which are 3 hours long. Each exam has a 55% pass mark.

Permitted texts are available for Assurance, Risk and Reporting, Corporate Reporting, Data and Assurance and Tax Compliance and Planning. Fundamental Case Study is open book.

The Professional Level exams are flexible and can be taken in any order to fit with a student's day-to-day professional experience. The Fundamental Case Study aims to bring together technical knowledge gained by studying the Certificate Level material with professional work experience and professional skills and can therefore be seen as an excellent transition from Certificate to Professional Level. Equally students are likely to find the Corporate Reporting, Data and Assurance and Business and Digital Strategy exams in particular as helpful stepping stones to progress to the Advanced Level.

ADVANCED LEVEL

There are two case studies at Advanced Level that test students' understanding and strategic decision making at a senior level. The case studies present real-life scenarios, with increased complexity from the Professional Level exams. Advanced Level challenges students' ability to problem solve, apply critical thinking, identify ethical implications and provide effective solutions.

The Advanced Level exams can be taken in July and November. They are fully open book,

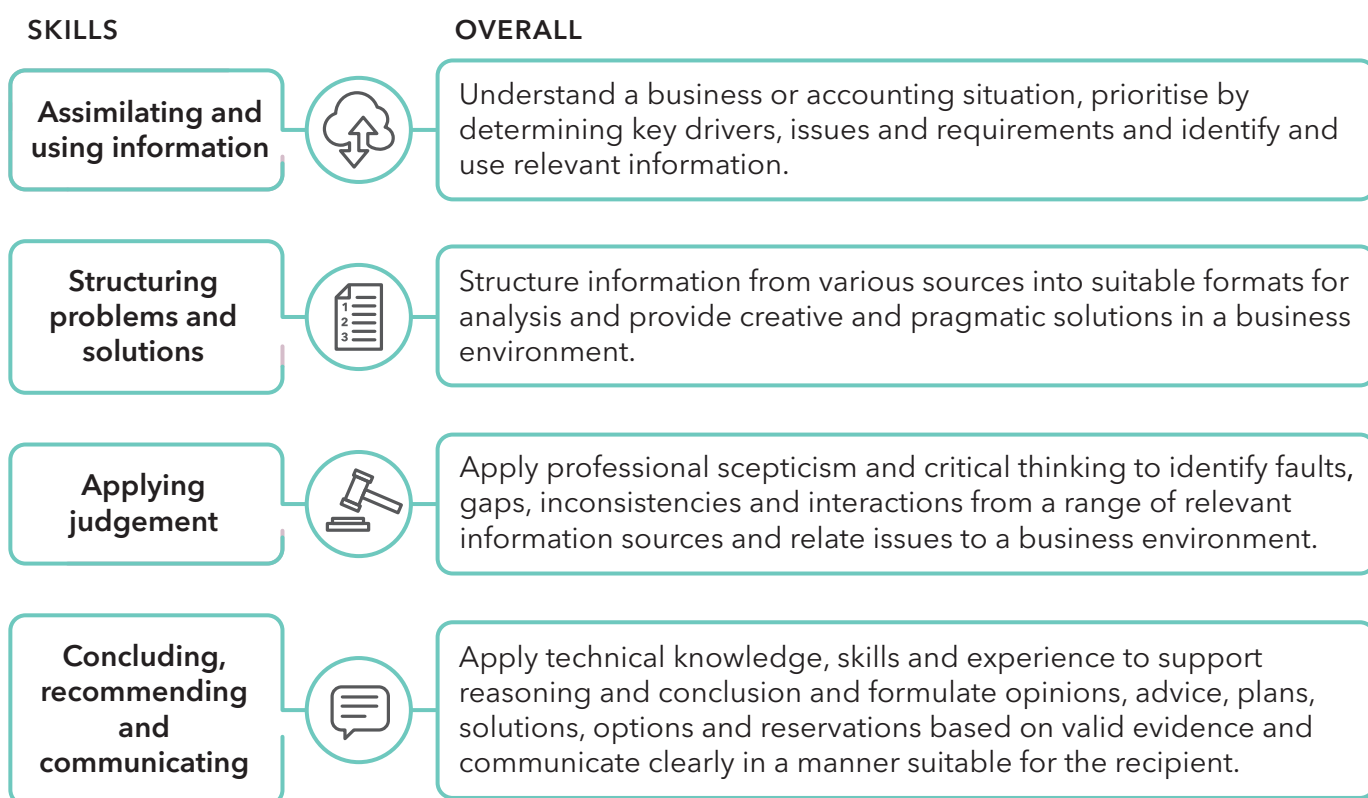
so they replicate a real-life scenario where all the resources are at their fingertips and include advance information.

Technical Case Study and Strategic Case Study are both 4 hours long. Each has a 50% pass mark.

For more information, guidance and support on exams, visit the exam resources area on our website at [icaew.com/studyresources](https://www.icaew.com/studyresources).

Skills progression through the ACA exams

Specialised Learning is an integrated component of the ACA qualification, with a core competency framework setting out the skills essential to equip ICAEW Chartered Accountants of tomorrow. A subsection of these skills are embedded in the 14 exams and assessed in exams. The following skills are present throughout the 14 business, finance and accountancy exams:



The level of skill required to pass each exam increases as ACA trainees progress upwards through each Level of the ACA exams. The skills progression embedded throughout the ACA qualification ensures ACA trainees develop the knowledge and skills to successfully operate in the modern workplace and which are expected by today's forward-thinking employers.

Skills	Certificate Level		Professional Level		Advanced Level
	Assurance and Risk Fundamentals, Business Law, Sustainability and Ethics	Accounting Fundamentals, Business Insight and Performance, Tax Fundamentals	Fundamental Case Study, Assurance, Risk and Reporting, Corporate Financial Strategy	Business and Digital Strategy, Corporate Reporting, Data and Assurance, Tax Compliance and Planning	Technical Case Study, Strategic Case Study

Assimilating and using information

Understanding the situation and requirements	Objective testing	Objective testing and simple scenarios	Scenarios		Complex business scenarios
Identifying and using relevant information	Information as provided		Single information source provided	Several information sources provided	Multiple information sources provided
Identifying and prioritising key issues	Issues given		Issues included in scenarios		Issues included in complex scenarios

Structuring problems and solutions

Structuring data	Specified techniques		Specified techniques	Extends to techniques inferred by nature of problem	Techniques inferred by the nature of problem
Developing solutions	Highly specified tasks	Specified problems	Specified problems		Defined output with implicit, although unspecified problems

Applying judgement

Applying professional scepticism and critical thinking	Objective testing		Specified requirement in simple scenario	Specified requirement in scenario	Specified requirement in complex scenario
Relating issues to the broader business environment, including ethical issues	Objective testing	Objective testing and issues in simple scenarios	Issues in scenarios		Issues in complex scenarios

Concluding, recommending and communicating

Concluding and recommending	Objective testing Not assessed	Specified conclusions and recommendations in simple scenarios			Conclusions and reasoned recommendations supported by own evidence
Communicating	Prescribed exam format		Exam requirements, including some professional presentation		Professional presentations and reports including reasoned recommendations

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS ASSESSED IN THE ACA EXAMS

ASSIMILATING AND USING INFORMATION

Understand the situation and the requirements:	Identify and use relevant information:	Identify and prioritise key issues and stay on task:
• Demonstrate understanding of the business context. • Recognise new and complex ideas within a scenario. • Identify the needs of customers and clients. • Explain different stakeholder perspectives and interests. • Identify risks within a scenario. • Identify elements of uncertainty within a scenario. • Identify ethical issues including public interest and sustainability issues within a scenario.	• Interpret information provided in various formats. • Evaluate the relevance of information provided. • Use multiple information sources. • Filter information provided to identify critical facts. • Identify and interpret information in data analytics software.	• Identify business and financial issues from a scenario. • Prioritise key issues. • Work effectively within time constraints. • Operate to a brief in a given scenario.

STRUCTURING PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Structure data:	Develop solutions:
• Structure information from various sources into suitable formats for analysis. • Identify any information gaps. • Frame questions to clarify information. • Use a range of data types and sources to inform analysis and decision-making. • Structure and analyse financial and non-financial data to enhance understanding of business issues and their underlying causes. • Present analysis in accordance with instructions and criteria. • Use spreadsheets to assimilate, structure and analyse data.	• Identify and apply relevant technical knowledge and skills to analyse a specific problem. • Use structured information to identify evidence-based solutions. • Identify creative and pragmatic solutions in a business environment. • Identify opportunities to add value. • Identify and anticipate problems that may result from a decision. • Identify a range of possible solutions based on analysis. • Identify ethical dimensions of possible solutions. • Select appropriate courses of action using an ethical framework. • Identify the solution which is the best fit with acceptance criteria and objectives. • Define objectives and acceptance criteria for solutions.

APPLYING JUDGEMENT

Apply professional scepticism and critical thinking:	Relate issues to the environment:
• Recognise bias and varying quality in data and evidence. • Identify assumptions or faults in arguments. • Identify gaps in evidence. • Identify inconsistencies and contradictory information. • Assess interaction of information from different sources. • Exercise ethical judgement.	• Appreciate when more expert help is required. • Identify related issues in scenarios. • Assess different stakeholder perspectives when evaluating options. • Retain an overview of the business issue or scenario. • Appraise corporate responsibility and sustainability issues. • Appraise the effects of alternative future scenarios. • Appraise ethical, public interest and regulatory issues.

CONCLUDING, RECOMMENDING AND COMMUNICATING

Conclusions:	Recommendations:	Communication:
• Apply technical knowledge to support reasoning and conclusions. • Apply professional experience and evidence to support reasoning. • Use valid and different technical skills to formulate opinions, advice, plans, solutions, options and reservations.	• Present recommendations in accordance with instructions and defined criteria. • Make recommendations in situations where risks and uncertainty exist. • Formulate opinions, advice, recommendations, plans, solutions, options and reservations based on valid evidence. • Make evidence-based recommendations which can be justified by reference to supporting data and other information. • Develop recommendations which combine different technical skills in a practical situation.	• Present a basic or routine memorandum or briefing note in writing in a clear and concise style. • Present analysis and recommendations in accordance with instructions. • Communicate clearly to a specialist or non-specialist audience in a manner suitable for the recipient. • Prepare the advice, report, or notes required in a clear and concise style.

ACA Syllabus

The ACA syllabus is updated annually. The aim of the annual update is to ensure that the syllabus remains fit for purpose and can include amendments to cater for technical changes, clarification of learning outcomes, inclusion of new areas of knowledge impacting ICAEW Chartered Accountants, and removal of content for subject areas where there is duplication, repetition or content no longer relevant within the qualification. The process includes consultation with all key stakeholder groups and covers the skills, learning outcomes and technical knowledge grids of each module.

This document presents the learning outcomes for each of the ACA exams at Certificate, Professional and Advanced Levels. The learning outcomes in each exam should be read in conjunction with the relevant technical knowledge grids and, where applicable, the skills development grid.

UNDERSTANDING THE SYLLABUS FOR EACH MODULE

Each module has the following syllabus components:

Module aims	These are a series of abilities which trainees will possess once they complete the learning and assessment for this particular module.
Method of assessment	This sets out the length and structure of the exam for each module.
Ethics and professional scepticism	Students are assessed on their understanding of, and reaction to, ethical dilemmas within the context of the subject matter of each module. The application of professional scepticism and critical thinking are a crucial part of the exercise of ethical judgement.
Sustainability	Students are assessed on their understanding of sustainability related issues within the context of the subject matter of each module. Understanding the broader implications of environmental, social and governance issues to organisations and actively using their business skills to analyse how to make the new sustainable economy work for their business.
Specification grid	Each module aim creates a syllabus area of technical and skills-based learning. The specification grid assigns an assessment weighting to each syllabus area, which indicates the proportion of learning represented by each syllabus area in the exam.
Learning outcomes	Detailed statements which identify what the learner will know and be able to do by the end of the module, and which will be demonstrable on passing the exam.
Skills assessed	Each module identifies the specific skills that are assessed and how they are assessed.

Technical knowledge grids

The technical knowledge grids show the technical knowledge in the disciplines of assurance and audit, business analysis, ethics codes and standards, financial reporting, and taxation covered in the ACA syllabus by module. For each technical area, the level of knowledge required is indicated by a letter from A to D, as follows:

- Level A - thorough knowledge with a solid understanding
- Level B - working knowledge with a broad understanding
- Level C - general knowledge with a basic understanding
- Level D - awareness of the scope of the standard

Advanced Level

Strategic Case Study

MODULE AIM

To enable students to demonstrate quantitative and qualitative skills, in order to make realistic recommendations in complex business and financing scenarios. Business awareness will need to be demonstrated at strategic, operating and transactional levels. Candidates will also be required to demonstrate the ability to analyse data, exercise professional and ethical judgement, and develop conclusions and recommendations.

To achieve this aim, students will be required to use technical knowledge and professional skills to apply appropriate models and techniques to analyse quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources, including management information, corporate reports and spreadsheet data, in order to evaluate alternatives and determine appropriate solutions.

On completion of this module, for a range of different business structures and industry scenarios and in a national or global context, students will be able to:

- analyse and identify the external environment and internal strategic capability of an entity; evaluate the consequences of strategic choices; recommend strategies to achieve stakeholder objectives, recommend appropriate methods of implementing strategies and monitoring strategic performance; manage business risks; and advise on corporate governance;
- identify and advise upon appropriate finance requirements; evaluate financial risks facing a business and advise upon appropriate methods of managing and quantifying those risks; provide valuations for businesses and securities; and advise upon investment and distribution decisions;
- analyse financial and non-financial data, including the use of spreadsheets, to prepare management information to support business and financing decisions;
- interpret and apply corporate reporting information in evaluating business and financial performance; recognise and explain the corporate reporting consequences of business and financial

decisions; apply corporate reporting information in appropriate models to determine asset, equity and entity valuations, demonstrating an understanding of the usefulness and limitations of accounting information in this context;

- appraise and explain the role of assurance in raising new equity and debt funding and in the subsequent monitoring of such funding arrangements; understand, explain and evaluate the role of assurance in selecting and implementing key business decisions, including acquisitions, strategic alliances; sustainability issues and understand and explain the role of assurance in financial and business risk management;
- identify and explain ethical issues and apply professional scepticism. Where ethical dilemmas arise, students will be able to evaluate, recommend, justify and determine appropriate actions and ethical safeguards to mitigate threats, including those relating to sustainability, ESG and the public interest;
- identify, evaluate and explain the impact of sustainability issues and related risks for the business and its investment decisions. Assess and explain sustainability opportunities and challenges and the related impacts and dependencies for the organisation. Advise on sustainability linked measurement and disclosures from standards, regulation and guidance;
- analyse and evaluate the use of technology for an organisation. Explain and recommend the use of new technological solutions to improve business performance; and
- evaluate and interpret data. Identify risks and limitations associated with data analysis.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

This module assumes and develops the knowledge and skills acquired in the Professional Level modules, in particular 'Business and Digital Strategy' and 'Corporate Financial Strategy'.

Background knowledge based upon Professional Level will also include: Assurance, Risk and Reporting; and Corporate Reporting, Data and Assurance.

CASE STUDY FORMAT

The Strategic Case Study scenario may be based on any one of a variety of different industries, organisational structures or operations. The organisations in the scenario may vary in size and may have international operating and financial issues.

Students will be provided with Advance Information which will describe the organisation and its business environment and introduce some potential issues. The Advance Information will comprise material in a variety of formats including: narrative exhibits, data, financial statements, and visualisations (eg, graphs, pie-charts, heat maps).

This information will not give specific direction to all the eventual requirements of the Strategic Case Study but it may indicate some core areas for further study. Students will be expected to familiarise themselves with the information provided about the organisation and the industry in which it operates, by undertaking detailed analysis of that Advance Information and some additional analysis and research where necessary. Students may take the results of their work into the case study.

The Advance Information for the Strategic Case Study will be the same as that for the Technical Case Study.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The Strategic Case Study exam is 4 hours. The exam will contain requirements requiring integration of wide-ranging knowledge and skills required of an ICAEW Chartered Accountant applied to solve problems in business and finance.

The exam will be open book. Students will be able to access their personal ICAEW Bookshelf and any ICAEW digital learning materials held there, during the exam. Students will also be permitted to take any written or printed material into the exam, subject to practical space restrictions. To see the recommended text(s) for this exam, go to [icaew.com/examtexts](https://www.icaew.com/examtexts).

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL SCEPTICISM

Ethical thinking must be at the forefront of the strategic business and financial awareness that students will be demonstrating.

Students will be considering issues of: public interest, stakeholder impact, business trust, professional competence, legal obligations and professional scepticism. Appropriate actions and safeguards will also be required.

Students are required both to identify and to evaluate ethical issues and dimensions in complex scenarios which may include analysis of data, critical evaluation and professional judgement. Recommendations will need to be realistic, reasoned and justified.

Professional scepticism will be an underlying requirement within the complex scenarios that the Strategic Case Study presents. It must be applied being mindful of provenance and self interest. Professional scepticism will need to be evidenced in complex scenarios, recognising bias and gaps in evidence.

Ethical issues may relate to issues of social, environmental and business sustainability.

Ethical codes will be those issued by IESBA and ICAEW. The ethical implications will be at both the organisational level and for individuals, particularly with respect to the accountant in business.

SUSTAINABILITY

The application of sustainability knowledge and understanding gained at Certificate Level and Professional Level is a key progression for the ICAEW Chartered Accountant at Advanced Level. Students will be expected to understand more advanced and interrelated sustainability concepts and their business, finance, reporting, assurance, governance and ethical implications. For example, the different stakeholder perspectives on sustainability and climate change, and how they relate to sustainability and the concept of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG). This is an important progression in using judgement to evaluate competing objectives relating to strategy, operations, finance, risk, measurement, assurance and governance of sustainability-related inputs and outcomes.

TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL SKILLS

Technology is central to business and financial strategy, impacting almost all companies and being core to technology-driven business models. ICAEW Chartered Accountants need to understand the opportunities that technology offers, but also the limitations and risks for a

given business model. At Advanced Level, students will be expected to understand and apply their knowledge of a wide range of current technologies in developing a digital strategy and showing how technology contributes to business and financial strategies and operations.

Understanding how technologies can be used to capture, analyse, communicate, store and use data is a key competence. Students will be expected to demonstrate digital skills in analysing data and using their analysis to evaluate the likely consequences of strategic choices, including consideration of data bias.

SPECIFICATION GRID

The grid below shows the relative weightings of subjects within this module and should guide the study time spent on each. Over time the marks available in the assessment will be within the ranges of weightings below, while slight variations may occur in individual assessments to enable suitably rigorous questions to be set.

SYLLABUS AREA	WEIGHTING
Business and Digital Strategy and Business Management	30-40%
Financial Strategy	25-35%
Corporate Reporting	15-25%
Assurance	10-15%

Integrated competencies cover the key areas of ethics, sustainability and technology. These integrated competencies along with the key areas of professional scepticism and digital skills will be assessed across the syllabus areas identified in the specification grid above. The weightings available for these integrated competencies and skills will be 10-25% across the four identified syllabus areas. All five areas of ethics, sustainability, technology, professional scepticism and digital skills have their own separately identified learning outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

BUSINESS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Students will be able to analyse and identify the external environment and internal strategic capability of an entity; evaluate the consequences of strategic choices; recommend strategies to achieve stakeholder objectives, recommend appropriate methods of implementing strategies and monitoring strategic performance; measure and manage business risks; and advise on corporate governance. Data analysis, using spreadsheet data and spreadsheet functions, to provide information and reports to management may be required. Students will also be able to apply corporate reporting and assurance principles and practices in the context of key business decisions and events.

In the assessment, students may be required to:

1 STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

- describe and explain the strategic objectives of an entity considering the interests of stakeholders;

- analyse and evaluate, for a given scenario, the external economic, market and industry environment which may impact upon, or be impacted by, a business's performance and operations, including climate change externalities and sustainable supply chains;
- identify and evaluate the significance of the internal organisational and operational capabilities in a given scenario which may influence an entity's ability to achieve its chosen strategic objectives, (including core competencies, technology, existing business processes, human capital and workforce flexibility);
- analyse and evaluate an entity's current position and performance, from both a financial perspective and a non-financial perspective, using a variety of internal and external information sources;
- demonstrate how strategic analysis tools can be used in a complex scenario;
- demonstrate how business strategy and financial strategy can interrelate in a complex scenario;

- g. evaluate and advise upon the strategic capability of an entity;
- h. evaluate strategy at corporate, business unit and operational levels;
- i. explain, demonstrate and evaluate how data from multiple sources can be selected, captured and analysed to provide management information, recognising the causes and effects of different types of data bias, data omissions, data limitations and data trends;
- j. explain and analyse an organisation's current position and performance using both financial and non-financial data, presented in different formats, applying appropriate statistical and data analysis tools, including spreadsheets;
- k. explain and evaluate the causes and effects of different types of data distributions and data trends using appropriate statistical and data analysis tools, including the implications for business risk; determining and explaining sensitivity in a range of scenarios; and
- l. demonstrate a holistic approach to developing business and operating strategies, including systems thinking.

2 STRATEGIC CHOICE

- a. assess, advise on and propose appropriate business strategies to meet stated objectives;
- b. identify and evaluate business unit strategies to achieve sustainable competitive advantage;
- c. explain and demonstrate how financial and non-financial data can be analysed in order to select an optimal business strategy, including the impact of big data on business models;
- d. explain and demonstrate how strategic business models can be used in a given scenario, to identify factors that a business can consider in choosing between competing strategies;
- e. explain international strategies; appraise international value chains and markets; including the concepts of globalisation and the borderless business; and show the impact on individual and group financial statements of changes in foreign exchange rates;
- f. evaluate digital strategies, including but not limited to, the use of cloud accounting,

software selection, digital assets, automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotic process automation;

- g. explain and demonstrate how management information can be used to evaluate proposed strategies, taking account of limitations of data, including data bias; and
- h. structure, assimilate and evaluate historic and estimated data in appropriate ways, using appropriate statistical and data analysis tools, to support business decisions.

3 STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION

- a. demonstrate and explain the impact of acquisitions and strategic alliances in implementing corporate strategy and evaluate the nature and role of assurance procedures in selecting, controlling and monitoring such strategies;
- b. evaluate and explain the relationship between business strategy and organisational structure;
- c. explain and evaluate the nature and methods of change management and advise on the implementation of change in complex scenarios, including digital disruption and climate change transition;
- d. demonstrate and explain the techniques that may be used in implementing a strategy to reduce costs; for example, supply chain management, business process re-engineering and outsourcing;
- e. evaluate, in a given scenario, the functional strategies necessary to achieve a business's overall strategy;
- f. develop business plans and proposals and advise on technical issues relating to business and organisational plans, assessing the impact on historic and projected corporate reporting information;
- g. demonstrate an understanding of, and provide advice on, data security issues, including cyber security issues, arising from communications, shared systems and data sharing throughout the supply chain and with strategic partners; and
- h. identify and explain barriers to implementation of digital strategy, including digital transformation, and make recommendations as to how they may be overcome.

4 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- a. advise on, and develop, appropriate performance management approaches for

businesses and business units, including the use of data analytics;

- b. explain and demonstrate how a business can analyse complex, quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources to provide strategic management information to implement, monitor and modify a strategy at an appropriate organisational level in order to create competitive advantage;
- c. use financial and non-financial performance data from a variety of sources, including integrated reporting disclosures, to measure and monitor multiple aspects of performance at a variety of organisational levels;
- d. advise on, and develop, appropriate remuneration and reward packages for staff and executives linked to performance, considering agency relationship issues; and
- e. evaluate the impact on corporate reports arising from employee remuneration, including pensions and share-based payment.

5 STRATEGIC MARKETING AND BRAND MANAGEMENT

- a. assess and evaluate strategic marketing issues and demonstrate the application of quantitative and qualitative marketing techniques in complex scenarios;
- b. evaluate and analyse markets and the marketing environment and develop a marketing strategy consistent with the overall business strategy;
- c. explain, using information provided, how to position particular products and services in the market place (domestic or international) to maximise competitive advantage, and assess the corporate reporting impact arising;
- d. demonstrate, across a range of industries, how elements of the marketing mix can be used to promote competitive advantage;
- e. develop and explain marketing strategies using databases, big data and information technology applications such as social media and other internet sources;
- f. develop and explain the strategies for managing and sustaining existing brands;
- g. prepare marketing strategies and show how they can be used to develop brands; and
- h. demonstrate how appraisal techniques can be used for valuing brands, patents,

R&D projects and intellectual property and evaluate relevant corporate reporting recognition and measurement for intangible assets.

6 BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

- a. analyse and evaluate the key types of business risks using relevant quantitative and qualitative data and assess their implications within a given scenario, for business strategy and corporate reporting disclosures;
- b. advise on the risks involved in business and organisational plans and show how these risks can be managed by assurance procedures and other forms of risk mitigation, including managing strategic, operating and financial risks;
- c. explain the responsibility of those charged with governance for managing risk and assess the role of assurance in risk mitigation;
- d. assess the impact of risk on a variety of stakeholders;
- e. explain and assess the various steps involved in constructing a business risk management plan, by establishing context, identifying risks and the assessment and quantification of risk;
- f. evaluate and explain the limitations of business risk management;
- g. assess and explain enterprise risk management, evaluating its framework and its benefits; and
- h. analyse, structure and assimilate data provided to evaluate business risks under a range of complex scenarios using appropriate statistical and data analysis tools, recognising various types of data bias in a variety of scenarios.

7 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- a. assess the nature of governance and explain the characteristics and principles of good governance in a variety of scenarios;
- b. assess the interests and impact of organisational stakeholders in determining strategy and the consequences of strategic choices, including responsibilities to stakeholders;
- c. evaluate the impact of governance mechanisms on a range of stakeholders;

- d. assess and advise on appropriate corporate governance mechanisms, and evaluate stakeholder management;
- e. analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of corporate governance mechanisms and processes, including governance over data;
- f. evaluate the suitability of corporate governance and organisational structures for implementing strategy;
- g. explain the role of boards in monitoring corporate performance and risk, and assess the role of assurance procedures in this context; and
- h. explain the nature, and assess the consequences, of the legal framework within which businesses, assurance and governance systems operate (with particular reference to company law, fraud, money laundering, civil liabilities, social security law, employment law, contract law, tort and environmental law).

8 DATA ANALYSIS

- a. undertake appropriate quantitative and qualitative data analysis, statistical analysis, business analysis and financial statement analysis;
- b. explain financial and operational data and other management information, drawing inferences relating to its completeness, accuracy and credibility, as a basis for a meaningful analysis of the position, future prospects and risks for a business;
- c. demonstrate how suitable financial, strategic and operational analysis techniques can be used to analyse financial and operational data and to evaluate business position, prospects and risks, including the analysis and benefits of 'Big Data', artificial intelligence and machine learning;
- d. explain, stating any reservations regarding transparency and objectivity of data and information, the position, prospects and risks of a business, based on analysis of financial and operational data and information, including data analytics and assess the extent to which limited assurance and reasonable assurance engagements can identify and mitigate information risks in this context;
- e. analyse, structure and assimilate historic and forecast data provided to evaluate performance, position and risk using relevant statistical tools, data analysis and spreadsheets, recognising the sensitivity of forecasts to underlying assumptions and changes in estimates; and
- f. assimilate, structure and analyse transactions and other granular data provided, using spreadsheets.

9 INFORMATION STRATEGY

- a. outline proposals and advise on outline requirements for information technology applications to support business strategy; for example, in the context of e-commerce, e-business, virtual arrangements, artificial intelligence, digital assets and cloud computing, including assurance issues in relation to data security;
- b. use management accounting information (for example, costs, prices, budgets, transfer prices) and management accounting tools (for example, break-even, variances, limiting factors, expected values, ABC, balanced scorecard) to evaluate short and long-term aspects of strategy;
- c. explain and appraise how management information systems can provide relevant quantitative and qualitative data to analyse markets, industry and performance, including the capture and analysis of big data;
- d. demonstrate and explain methods for determining the value of information in the context of developing an information strategy;
- e. assess financial and operational data and information from management information systems, drawing inferences relating to its completeness, accuracy and credibility, and provide an evaluation of assurance procedures in evaluating information risks, including those relating to cyber security;
- f. demonstrate and explain how businesses capture, analyse and utilise information to develop competitive advantage and monitor the achievement of business goals;
- g. evaluate the impact of cloud computing and the borderless business on the provision of strategic management information, including the use of cryptocurrencies;
- h. explain and appraise corporate strategies for ensuring security of data and preventions of

attacks against data in the context of cyber security; and

- i. explain the impact of regulations relating to data security (eg, GDPR) including the issues incurred in complying with such regulation.

10 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- a. assess, explain and advise on the role of human resource management in implementing strategy;
- b. demonstrate and explain how human resource management can contribute to business strategy, including flexible workforce management;
- c. identify the impact of remuneration structures on organisational behaviour and other aspects of human resource management, and show the corporate reporting consequences;
- d. explain the relevance of social security law to social sustainability and ethical professional conduct; and
- e. demonstrate and explain the role and impact of human resource management in change management.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Students will be able to identify and advise upon appropriate finance requirements; evaluate financial risks facing a business and advise upon appropriate methods of managing and quantifying those risks; provide valuations for businesses and securities; and advise upon investment and distribution decisions. Students will also be able to apply corporate reporting and assurance principles and practices in the context of key financing decisions and events.

In the assessment, students may be required to:

11 FINANCE AWARENESS

- a. demonstrate and explain the financing alternatives available for projects and assets, and make informed choices as to which alternative is the most compatible with the overall financial strategy of the entity, showing the corporate reporting consequences relating to presentation, disclosure, recognition and measurement of projects and their financing;
- b. identify and evaluate current and emerging issues in finance and explain their impact on business operations and risk management;

- c. explain how significant global financial events, or the expectation of such events, may impact on approaches and attitudes to financial risk; and
- d. explain the role and impact of the finance function as a business partner.

12 BUSINESS AND SECURITIES VALUATION

- a. explain, advise on and demonstrate appropriate valuation methods for businesses and equity securities using: asset-based; adjusted earnings-based; and cash-based methods (for example, SVA, EVAR, VBM, MVA and other appropriate techniques);
- b. critically appraise business and securities valuation methods in the context of specified complex scenarios, including the consideration of natural capital and growing, loss-making businesses;
- c. explain and demonstrate appropriate valuation techniques in the context of acquisitions and mergers; assess the contribution of due diligence procedures; and show the impact on corporate reports arising from acquisitions for groups in consolidated financial statements;
- d. explain and demonstrate appropriate valuation techniques in the context of demergers and for disposal of entities and business units, and show the impact on corporate reporting issues relating to discontinued operations;
- e. determine the value of debt and explain the techniques used; and
- f. analyse, structure and assimilate historic and forecast data provided to evaluate the impact on valuations using data analysis, relevant statistical tools and spreadsheets, recognising the sensitivity of valuations to underlying assumptions and changes in estimates.

13 CAPITAL STRUCTURE

- a. appraise and evaluate the sources of finance and the process for raising finance;
- b. advise on and develop proposals for determining the appropriate financing mix for new businesses and projects;
- c. explain and advise on issues relating to the cost of capital;

- d. show and explain how dividend policy impacts upon equity value and financing and investment decisions; and
- e. appraise and explain how the choice of financing impacts on reported corporate performance, and on the recognition and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities.

14 FINANCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

- a. show and explain how financial reconstruction takes place and explain the consequences of such reconstructions for corporate reporting;
- b. appraise and evaluate financial reconstruction proposals in a given scenario, and determine the nature and role of assurance procedures in this context;
- c. explain the different reasons for refinancing, and demonstrate how companies in financial distress can be managed, having regard to insolvency law;
- d. explain and appraise the workings of, and reasons for, securitisation, showing the impact on financial statement information;
- e. explain and appraise the nature and consequences of leveraged buy outs; and
- f. appraise and evaluate various forms of reconstruction (for example, spin-off, MBO, divestment, demergers, purchase of own shares, use of distributable profits), explaining the corporate reporting impact.

15 SMALL AND MEDIUM COMPANY FINANCING

- a. appraise and explain the small and medium-sized enterprise financing problem;
- b. appraise and evaluate the various methods of financing available to small and medium-sized enterprises;
- c. explain the nature and role of assurance for small and medium-sized companies in raising finance; and
- d. assess and explain the characteristics of sources of equity for smaller companies and the financial institutions operating in these markets (for example, venture capital and private equity).

16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

- a. assess and explain the different types of financial instruments, including equity

securities, fixed interest securities and derivative securities;

- b. explain the role and characteristics of financial markets and the financial institutions operating in these markets;
- c. appraise and explain the roles and characteristics of different securities markets and the financial institutions operating in these markets;
- d. appraise and evaluate the use of bonds/loans as a method of finance, and explain the implications of terms included in loan agreements in a given scenario (for example, covenants and guarantees) and explain the procedures by which monitoring and assurance can be provided in respect of such agreements;
- e. explain and appraise bond valuation techniques and assess flat and gross redemption yields;
- f. explain and appraise yield curves, duration, sensitivity to yield and components of the yield;
- g. appraise and evaluate the characteristics of forwards, futures, options, swaps, credit derivatives;
- h. evaluate and explain interest rate risk;
- i. appraise and evaluate credit risk and credit spread;
- j. set out and explain the corporate reporting treatment relating to the presentation, disclosure, recognition and measurement of financial instruments for complex transactions and complex scenarios; and
- k. describe and explain the nature and role of assurance procedures relating to financial instruments.

17 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

- a. analyse and evaluate financial risks and their implications (for example, financing, currency and interest rate risks) and show the application of qualitative and quantitative risk disclosures for financial instruments and other corporate reporting disclosures relevant to risk assessment;
- b. appraise and advise on appropriate methods to assess, manage and quantify financial risk in specific business scenarios;
- c. explain and appraise financial instruments available for hedging against interest rate

and foreign exchange rate risk, for example, swaps, collars and floors;

- d. demonstrate and explain the nature and operation of financial instruments underlying the disclosure, recognition and measurement requirements in financial statements; and
- e. demonstrate and explain how interest rate hedging strategies and foreign currency risk management strategies can be formulated, both at the level of the individual transaction and for macro hedging arrangements.

18 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- a. explain and appraise the various methods of financing available for foreign investments and evaluate the implications for disclosure, presentation, recognition and measurement of changes in foreign exchange rates in financial statements;
- b. appraise and explain global treasury organisation and international liquidity management;
- c. appraise and evaluate the factors affecting the capital structure of a multinational company;
- d. explain and appraise the advantages and risks associated with international borrowing;
- e. demonstrate and explain the risks associated with international trade and the ways in which these risks can be managed, and assess the nature and role of assurance procedures in mitigating risk and the financial reporting consequences of currency hedging;
- f. appraise and evaluate the different methods open to multinationals wishing to set up international operations and the choices of finance available, identifying tax and corporate reporting consequences;
- g. assess and explain the impact of exchange controls and how companies can overcome the effects of these controls;
- h. appraise and evaluate the management of dividends in multinational organisations;
- i. appraise and evaluate the management of transfer prices in multinational organisations and the implications for reported profit and tax; and
- j. evaluate the impact of taxation on international investment and financing decisions.

19 INVESTMENT APPRAISAL

- a. select and advise on investment appraisal techniques which are appropriate to the objectives and circumstances of a given business;
- b. appraise and advise on appropriate measures of return and risk for assessing business projects using appropriate statistical tools, data analysis and spreadsheets;
- c. demonstrate and evaluate investment appraisal techniques for international projects, identifying the impact of tax and the effects on corporate reporting;
- d. explain and appraise real options and determine the impact of options to abandon, expand, delay and redeploy;
- e. appraise and evaluate the quantitative and qualitative issues surrounding international investment appraisal;
- f. evaluate the impact of externalities when making investment appraisal decisions; and
- g. evaluate the implications of taxation on investment and financing decisions.

20 TREASURY AND WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- a. demonstrate and explain the role and responsibilities of the treasury management function;
- b. demonstrate and explain the role of treasury management in short-term finance, short-term investment and liquidity risk;
- c. appraise and evaluate the contribution of working capital management to short term and long-term financing;
- d. evaluate the risks arising from working capital management and how these may be mitigated;
- e. evaluate and explain working capital requirements for a range of different organisations and circumstances;
- f. demonstrate and explain the nature and role of working capital management within financial management; and
- g. appraise, evaluate and advise with respect to working capital management techniques.

INTEGRATED COMPETENCIES AND KEY SKILLS

21 ETHICS

- a. explain and evaluate the ethical, professional conduct and business trust factors to be considered in determining the scope and nature of an organisation's objectives and its strategic analysis, giving appropriate consideration to the legitimate interests of all stakeholder groups and the public interest;
- b. explain and evaluate the ethical, ESG and public interest implications and consequences of how an organisation chooses to implement and modify its strategies, suggesting appropriate courses of action to resolve ethical dilemmas that may arise;
- c. evaluate the ethical implications of an organisation's selection, capture, analysis and use of data, including consideration of data bias and the motivations for data bias;
- d. evaluate the impact of ethics on an entity, its stakeholders and the scope of its strategies and operations, considering the public interest;
- e. recommend and justify appropriate actions where ethical dilemmas arise in a given scenario;
- f. design and evaluate appropriate ethical safeguards; and
- g. evaluate and explain the ethical impact of sustainability policies, including climate change effects.

22 SUSTAINABILITY

- a. assess, advise on and propose appropriate business strategies to meet sustainability targets;
- b. evaluate the sustainability impacts and dependencies of a strategy or combination of strategies;
- c. develop measures to assess, monitor and evaluate performance in the context of sustainability, including the impacts and dependencies of: social responsibility, environmental factors, natural capital and climate change;
- d. demonstrate and explain how businesses capture, analyse and utilise information to monitor the success of sustainability goals;

- e. identify sustainability issues including, social responsibility and environmental factors for a range of financial stakeholders, including UN sustainable development goals, natural capital and green finance;
- f. identify and explain assurance and corporate reporting issues relating to all aspects of sustainability;
- g. assess and explain current and emerging issues regarding the role of finance in achieving sustainability goals;
- h. assess and explain the opportunities and challenges for small and medium-sized companies from implementing sustainability policies;
- i. explain the respective responsibilities and governance procedures for risk management and risk reporting relating to sustainability risks and opportunities;
- j. explain the role of boards in determining and evaluating an entity's policy for sustainability;
- k. explain and evaluate the range of different assurance engagements relating to environmental and sustainability disclosures;
- l. advise on the risks involved in business and organisational plans arising from sustainability impacts and dependencies, including climate change, and show how these risks can be managed;
- m. set out and explain assurance procedures for qualitative and quantitative disclosures relating to sustainability and developing sustainability assurance standards including, social responsibility, environmental matters and demonstrate how effective assurance can benefit stakeholders and the public interest;
- n. evaluate and explain current and emerging issues in providing assurance on information relating to sustainability, including the principles-based ISSA 5000 (Exposure Draft) focus on outcomes;
- o. advise on corporate reporting measurement and disclosures including the impact of IFRS S1 and S2; Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the UK Transition Plan Taskforce (TPT) Implementation Guidance for net zero and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD); and
- p. identify and measure social responsibility, sustainability and environmental

consequences of investment decisions, explaining corporate reporting issues in relation to such policies.

23 TECHNOLOGY

- a. evaluate how strategies for technology and innovation can support the organisation's achievement of its overall strategy;
- b. analyse and evaluate current technology developments including those relating to big data, internet of things, digital assets, automation, intelligent systems, the platform economy, distributed ledger technology eg, blockchain and cryptocurrencies;
- c. explain technology choices to support business strategy, including in the context of e-commerce, e-business, virtual arrangements, artificial intelligence, digital assets and cloud computing;
- d. recommend appropriate methods for an organisation to implement and monitor strategies, technology and innovation, and demonstrate how data can be used subsequently to measure and monitor strategic performance;
- e. explain and evaluate how an organisation can use data analytics software to collect, analyse and present data in a variety of formats to aid management decision making; and
- f. explain the impact of businesses using developing technologies, including digital disruption, automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotic process automation.

24 DIGITAL SKILLS

- a. evaluate the limitations of data, having regard to data variability, data bias and risk, and considering the ethical implications of the selection, capture, analysis and use of data;
- b. organise, structure and assimilate historic and estimated data in appropriate ways, using available statistical tools, data analysis and spreadsheets, to support business decisions;
- c. analyse non-financial data from internal and external sources, presented in different formats including visualisations;
- d. explain and evaluate different types of data distributions and data trends using appropriate statistical tools, data analysis

and spreadsheets, including consideration of causes and effects;

- e. analyse the extent and implications of business risk and financial risk using spreadsheets to carry out sensitivity analysis and scenario analysis;
- f. explain and demonstrate the causes and effects of different types of data bias and evaluate data distributions in evaluating financial risks, using appropriate statistical data analysis and spreadsheets;
- g. evaluate and interpret data provided, including identifying and explaining the causes and effects of different types of data bias, and applying an appropriate degree of professional scepticism;
- h. assimilate, structure and analyse transactions and other granular data provided, using spreadsheets; and
- i. explain and demonstrate how data can be selected, assimilated, structured and analysed using spreadsheets to provide management with information to monitor or modify strategic or operating decisions.

25 PROFESSIONAL SCEPTICISM

- a. apply professional scepticism by questioning information in written, digital and oral forms from internal and external sources;
- b. apply an appropriate degree of professional scepticism in identifying the causes and effects of different types of data bias and patterns, including data omissions, data variability, data limitations and data trends, having regard for the motivations and competences of those collecting and analysing the data;
- c. apply professional scepticism to data sources and data capture in interpreting quantitative and qualitative information;
- d. apply professional scepticism, curiosity and critical thinking to identify trends, weaknesses, inconsistencies from a range of relevant data sources;
- e. apply appropriate degrees of professional scepticism, professional judgement and management challenge in evaluating the extent to which behaviours are ethical and competent;
- f. apply professional scepticism, judgement and critical thinking to identify faults, gaps, inconsistencies and interactions from a range of relevant information sources

- and relate issues to your knowledge of a business and its environment;
- g. identify issues relating to the collection of data (data bias) and interpretation of data (correlation v causation; professional scepticism) for budgeting and forecasting; and
- h. show professional scepticism and management challenge in assessing the risk of data manipulation, having regard to the reliability of management.

SKILLS ASSESSED

ASSIMILATING AND USING INFORMATION

Understand the situation and the requirements:	Identify and use relevant information:	Identify and prioritise key issues and stay on task:
• Demonstrate understanding of the business context. • Identify and understand the requirements. • Recognise new and complex ideas within a scenario. • Identify and explain the needs of customers and clients. • Explain different stakeholder perspectives and interests. • Identify and evaluate risks within a scenario. • Identify and evaluate elements of uncertainty within a scenario. • Identify and explain ethical issues including public interest and sustainability issues within a scenario.	• Interpret and assimilate information provided in various formats. • Evaluate the relevance of information provided. • Use multiple information sources. • Filter information provided to identify critical facts.	• Identify and explain business and financial issues from a scenario. • Prioritise key issues. • Work effectively within time constraints. • Operate to a brief in a given scenario.

HOW SKILLS ARE ASSESSED:

Students may be required to:

- use the Advance Information, exam, knowledge of ethical codes and professional experience to define the specific issue;
- use the key financial figures from the Advance Information and exam, which may be provided in spreadsheets;
- recognise where a business is in its life cycle;
- draw conclusions in the following ways:
 - from data, facts, calculations, judgements and own analysis;
 - by identifying weaknesses in financial information systems and their potential consequences; and
 - by distinguishing between the qualities of data provided or other evidence generated.
- present and communicate their recommendations in the following ways:
 - from using a report/memorandum in response to a specific technical issue and in accordance with client requirements;
 - by using reasoned, practicable advice that is clear and concise, supported by calculations or analysis of technical/business issues identified; and
 - by justifying a specific recommended action when a variety of options are available.
- explain the limitations of their conclusions or recommendations; and
- demonstrate an awareness of ethical and business trust, environmental, social and business sustainability issues and situations.

STRUCTURING PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Structure data:	Develop solutions:
• Structure information from various sources into suitable formats for analysis. • Identify any information gaps. • Frame questions to clarify information. • Use a range of data types and sources to inform analysis and decision making. • Structure and analyse financial and non-financial data to enhance understanding of business issues and their underlying causes. • Present analysis in accordance with instructions and criteria.	• Identify and apply relevant technical knowledge and skills to analyse a specific problem. • Use structured information to identify evidence-based solutions. • Identify creative and pragmatic solutions in a business environment. • Identify opportunities to add value. • Identify and anticipate problems that may result from a decision. • Identify a range of possible solutions based on analysis. • Identify ethical dimensions of possible solutions. • Select appropriate courses of action using an ethical framework. • Identify the solution which is the best fit with acceptance criteria and objectives. • Define objectives and acceptable criteria for solutions.

HOW SKILLS ARE ASSESSED:

Students may be required to:

- Business management:
 - Undertake a critical assessment of key business issues.
 - Structure market data and industry data from various sources.
 - Explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of an organisation or segments of an organisation.
 - Evaluate the impact of decisions on business strategy.
 - Evaluate the impact of financial strategy on business strategy.
- Finance:
 - Undertake valuations, where the information is incomplete, suspect or unsuitable.
 - Undertake financial risk analysis and consider the management of financial risks.
 - Evaluate the impact of business strategy on financial strategy.
 - Perform relevant analysis on numerical and other relevant data.
- Corporate reporting:
 - Consider relevance and reliability of unstructured information.
 - Comment on assumptions provided.
 - Evaluate the impact and legitimacy of a range of financial reporting treatments.
 - Deal with complex financial reporting information.
 - Consider the impact of future events on financial statements.
 - Consider the impact on financial statements of delaying or modifying business and financial decisions.
 - Evaluate business position, prospects and risks.

- Assurance:
 - Understand business and inherent risks in complex scenarios.
 - Evaluate the control environment.
 - Undertake selective financial analysis.
 - Evaluate risk and control evaluation in the context of IT.
 - Undertake assurance to support specific transactions (eg, due diligence).
 - Apply professional scepticism.
- Ethics:
 - Identify ethical problems in complex scenarios and structuring appropriate actions.

APPLYING JUDGEMENT

Apply professional scepticism and critical thinking:	Relate issues to the environment:
• Recognise bias and varying quality in data and evidence. • Identify faults in arguments • Identify gaps in evidence. • Identify inconsistencies and contradictory information. • Assess interaction of information from different sources. • Exercise ethical judgement.	• Appreciate when more expert help is required and always appropriately challenge and critically review the expert's work. • Identify related issues in scenarios. • Assess different stakeholder perspectives when evaluating options. • Retain an overview of the business issue or scenario. • Appraise corporate responsibility and sustainability issues. • Appraise the effects of alternative future scenarios. • Appraise ethical, public interest and regulatory issues.

HOW SKILLS ARE ASSESSED:

Students may be required to:

- drawing of inferences and conclusions from prior qualitative and quantitative analysis, and other information, in order to solve problems and develop solutions, or provide alternative solutions;
- select between technical choices;
- filter data to identify critical elements;
- prioritise information, issues or tasks;
- identify omissions and shortcomings in the information provided;
- evaluate inconsistencies in information;
- distinguish between the various qualities of the data provided;
- evaluate the impact of business, financial and economic factors;
- evaluate the effects of future events;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policy and estimation selection;
- compare the effects of a range of estimates, outcomes or financial treatments;
- exercise ethical judgement;
- demonstrate professional scepticism;
- evaluate and balance options; and
- draw appropriate conclusions from data provided to satisfy specified objectives and assess the materiality of errors and omissions.

CONCLUDING, RECOMMENDING AND COMMUNICATING

Conclusions:	Recommendations:	Communication:
• Apply technical knowledge to support reasoning and conclusions. • Apply professional experience and evidence to support reasoning. • Use valid and different technical skills to formulate opinions, advice, plans, solutions, options and reservations.	• Present recommendations in accordance with instructions and defined criteria. • Make recommendations in situations where risks and uncertainty exist. • Formulate opinions, advice, recommendations, plans, solutions, options and reservations based on valid evidence. • Make evidence-based recommendations which can be justified by reference to supporting data and other information. • Develop recommendations which combine different technical skills in a practical situation.	• Present a basic or routine memorandum or briefing note in writing in a clear and concise style. • Present analysis and recommendations in accordance with instructions. • Communicate clearly to a specialist or non-specialist audience in a manner suitable for the recipient. • Prepare the advice, report or notes required in a clear and concise style.

HOW SKILLS ARE ASSESSED:

Students may be required to:

- draw conclusions from data, facts, calculations, judgements and own analysis;
 - draw conclusions by identifying weaknesses in financial information systems and their potential consequences;
 - draw conclusions by distinguishing between the qualities of data provided or other evidence generated and form an opinion on the validity of information sources;
 - draw conclusions by developing risk management solutions and making strategic decisions;
 - draw conclusions by valuing a company or a financial instrument;
 - present a report/memorandum in response to a specific technical or business issue and in accordance with client requirements;
 - present reasoned, practicable advice that is realistic, clear and concise, supported by calculations or analysis of technical or business issues identified;
 - identify where any specific additional advice may be required;
 - justify a specific recommended action when a variety of options are available; and
 - resolve any identified ethical dilemmas or issues of business trust.
-

Technical knowledge

The tables contained in this section show the technical knowledge in the disciplines of financial reporting, audit and assurance, business analysis, ethics and taxation covered in the ACA syllabus by module.

For each individual standard the level of knowledge required in the relevant Certificate and Professional Level module and at the Advanced Level is shown.

The knowledge levels are defined as follows:

LEVEL D

An awareness of the scope of the standard.

LEVEL C

A general knowledge with a basic understanding of the subject matter and training in its application thereof sufficient to identify significant issues and evaluate their potential implications or impact.

LEVEL B

A working knowledge with a broad understanding of the subject matter and a level of experience in the application thereof sufficient to apply the subject matter in straightforward circumstances.

LEVEL A

A thorough knowledge with a solid understanding of the subject matter and experience in the application thereof sufficient to exercise reasonable professional judgement in the application of the subject matter in those circumstances generally encountered by chartered accountants.

KEY TO OTHER SYMBOLS:

→ The knowledge level reached is assumed to be continued.

Assurance and Audit

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
	ASSURANCE AND RISK FUNDAMENTALS	FUNDAMENTAL CASE STUDY	ASSURANCE, RISK AND REPORTING	CORPORATE REPORTING, DATA AND ASSURANCE	
The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board			D	D	C
The Authority Attaching to Standards Issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board			C	B	A
The Authority Attaching to Practice Statements Issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board					A
FRC Scope and Authority of Audit and Assurance Pronouncements (March 2023)	B	B	A	A	→
Discussion Papers					C
Working Procedures					C

International Standards on Quality Management (ISQMs) (UK)

1 Quality Management for Firms That Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (Updated September 2025)				C	B
2 Engagement Quality Reviews (Updated September 2025)				C	B

International Standards on Auditing (UK)

200 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK)	B	B	A	A	→
210 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements			B	B	B
220 (Revised July 2021) (Updated September 2025) Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements				B	B
230 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Audit Documentation	C	C	B	B	A
240 (Revised May 2021) (Updated September 2025) The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements	C	C	B	B	A
250 Section A (Revised November 2019) (Updated September 2025) Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements			B	B	A
250 Section B (Revised November 2019) The Auditor's Statutory Right and Duty to Report to Regulators of Public Interest Entities and Regulators of Other Entities in the Financial Sector					C
260 (Revised November 2019) (Updated September 2025) Communication with Those Charged with Governance				B	A

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
	ASSURANCE AND RISK FUNDAMENTALS	FUNDAMENTAL CASE STUDY	ASSURANCE, RISK AND REPORTING	CORPORATE REPORTING, DATA AND ASSURANCE	
265 (Updated September 2025) Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management				B	A
300 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Planning an Audit of Financial Statements	B	B	A	A	→
315 (Revised July 2020) (Updated September 2025) Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement	B	B	A	A	→
320 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit	C	C	B	A	→
330 (Revised July 2017) (Updated September 2025) The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks	C	C	B	B	A
402 (Updated September 2025) Audit Considerations Relating to an Entity Using a Service Organization					C
450 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Evaluation of Misstatements Identified During the Audit	C	C	B	A	→
500 (Updated September 2025) Audit Evidence	B	B	A	A	→
501 (Updated September 2025) Audit Evidence - Specific Considerations for Selected Items				B	A
505 (Updated October 2025) External Confirmations	B	B	B	B	A
510 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Initial Audit Engagements - Opening Balances	C	C	C	B	A
520 (Updated September 2025) Analytical Procedures	B	B	B	A	A
530 (Updated September 2025) Audit Sampling	B	B	B	B	A
540 (Revised December 2018) (Updated September 2025) Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures	C	C	C	B	A
550 (Updated September 2025) Related Parties			B	B	A
560 Subsequent Events (Updated September 2025)				B	A
570 (Revised September 2019) (Updated September 2025) Going Concern			B	A	A
580 (Updated September 2025) Written Representations	C	C	B	B	A
600 (Revised September 2022) (Updated September 2025) Special Considerations - Audits of Group Financial Statements (including the Work of Component Auditors)				C	A

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
	ASSURANCE AND RISK FUNDAMENTALS	FUNDAMENTAL CASE STUDY	ASSURANCE, RISK AND REPORTING	CORPORATE REPORTING, DATA AND ASSURANCE	
610 (Revised June 2013) (Updated September 2025) Using the Work of Internal Auditors	C	C	B	B	A
620 (Revised November 2019) (Updated September 2025) Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert			B	B	A
700 (Revised November 2019) (Updated September 2025) Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements	B	B	A	A	→
701 (Revised November 2019) (Updated September 2025) Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report				B	A
705 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report			B	A	→
706 (Revised June 2016) (Updated September 2025) Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report				A	→
710 (Updated September 2025) Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements					B
720 (Revised November 2019) (Updated September 2025) The Auditor's Responsibility Relating to Other Information				B	A
800 (Revised) (Updated September 2025) Special Considerations – Audits of Financial Statements prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks					C
805 (Revised) (Updated September 2025) Special Considerations – Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement			C	B	A
International Standards on Assurance Engagements (ISAEs) (UK)					
3000 (July 2020) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information	C	C	C	C	B
International Standards on Auditing					
810 (Revised) Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements					B
International Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities					B
International Auditing Practice Note (IAPN)					
1000 Special Considerations in Auditing Financial Instruments					B

	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
TOPIC	ASSURANCE AND RISK FUNDAMENTALS	FUNDAMENTAL CASE STUDY	ASSURANCE, RISK AND REPORTING	CORPORATE REPORTING, DATA AND ASSURANCE	
International Standards on Review Engagements (ISREs)					
2400 (Revised) Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements				C	B
International Standards on Review Engagements (UK)					
2410 (Revised May 2021) Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity				C	B
International Standards on Assurance Engagements (ISAEs)					
3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information				C	A
3402 Assurance Reports on Controls at a Service Organisation				C	B
International Standards on Related Services (ISRSs)					
4400 Agreed-upon Procedures Engagements (Revised)					B
4410 Compilation Engagements (Revised)					B
Other Guidance					
Bulletin (August 2021): Illustrative Auditor’s Reports on UK Private Sector Financial Statements			B	B	→
ISSA (UK) 5000 General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements			B	B	→

Business and Finance

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
	BUSINESS INSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE	SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS	CORPORATE FINANCIAL STRATEGY	BUSINESS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY	
STRATEGIC ANALYSIS					
Industry and market analysis tools					
PESTEL analysis				A	→
Porter's five forces				A	→
Product life cycle				A	→
Boston consulting group matrix				A	→
Prices and markets				A	→
Competitor analysis				A	→
Positional and other analysis tools					
Resource audit				A	→
Resource-based strategy				A	→
Value chain analysis				A	→
SWOT analysis				A	→
Gap analysis				A	→
Marketing analysis				A	→
Competitive advantage				A	→
Benchmarking				A	→
Directional policy matrix					B
Business process analysis				B	A
Strategic risk analysis				A	→
Balanced scorecard				A	→
STRATEGIC CHOICE					
Strategy formulation, evaluation and choice				A	→
Business risk management				A	→
Financial analysis and data analysis				A	→
Stakeholder analysis				A	→
Objectives and stakeholders' preferences				A	→
STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION					
Business plans				A	→
Organisational structure				A	→
Information management				B	A
Change management				A	→
Project management					A
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT					
Performance management				C	A
Strategic marketing and brand management				B	A
Corporate governance			B	B	A
Information strategy				B	A
Human resource management				B	A

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS				ADVANCED LEVEL
	BUSINESS INSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE	SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS	CORPORATE FINANCIAL STRATEGY	BUSINESS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY	

COST ANALYSIS FOR DECISION MAKING

Costing

Cost classification	B			B	→
Costing systems – direct, marginal, absorption	B			B	→
Activity based costing (ABC)	C			C	B
Break even analysis	B			B	A
Multi-product break even analysis					B
Budgeting and performance management	B			B	A

Pricing

Pricing decisions	B			A	→
Transfer pricing	B			A	→

Decision making techniques

Expected values			B	B	A
Relevant cash flows				B	A
Sensitivity analysis			B	B	A

BUSINESS AND SHAREHOLDER VALUE

Valuation Techniques

Income – dividend yield			B		A
Income – P/E			B		A
Income – discounted cash flow			B		A
Asset based measures			B		A
Options approach					B

Shareholder value

Value based management (VBM)					B
Value drivers			B		A
Shareholder value analysis (SVA)			B		A
Short and long term growth rates and terminal values					A
Economic profit					A
Cash flow return on investment (CFROI)					A
Total shareholder return (TSR)					A
Market value added (MVA)					A

INVESTMENT APPRAISAL AND RISK ANALYSIS

Project appraisal

NPV	C		A		→
IRR	C		A		→
MIRR					A
Payback	C		A		→
Relevant cash flows			A		→
Tax and inflation			A		→
Replacement analysis			A		→
Capital rationing			A		→
Adjusted present value (APV)			B		→

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS				ADVANCED LEVEL
	BUSINESS INSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE	SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS	CORPORATE FINANCIAL STRATEGY	BUSINESS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY	

Assessing risk

Project appraisal and risk			B		A
Expected values			B		A
Scenario planning					A
Gap analysis				B	→
Continuous vs. event risk				B	→

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Cost of capital

Cost of equity			B		A
Cost of debt			B		A
Cost of preference shares			B		A
Cost of bank loans			B		A
Weighted average cost of capital (WACC)			B		A
Effective interest rates			B		A
Splitting convertibles into equity and debt elements					A
Equity instruments			B		A

Portfolio theory and CAPM

Portfolio theory			B		A
CAPM			B		A
Asset pricing models			C		B
CAPM and cost of capital			B		A
International cost of capital					A

Bonds and fixed interest securities

Bond pricing			B		A
Yields to maturity			B		A
Duration and price volatility					A
Convexity					A
Term structure of interest rates			B		A
Corporate borrowing and default risk					A

Data analytics

Spreadsheet functions (per published list)			A	A	→
Sensitivity analysis			B	B	A
Scenario analysis			B	B	A
Data distributions			B	B	A
Data bias	B		A	A	→
Data visualisation	C		B	B	A

Quantitative methods

Standard deviation			C	C	B
Co-efficient of variation			C	C	B
Probabilities			B	B	A
Correlation	C		C	C	B
Z-score					B
Confidence intervals					B

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS				ADVANCED LEVEL
	BUSINESS INSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE	SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS	CORPORATE FINANCIAL STRATEGY	BUSINESS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY	

SOURCES OF FINANCE AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

Short-, medium- and long term sources of finance			B		A
Green finance			B		A
Loan agreement conditions (warranties; covenants; guarantees)			B		A
Raising capital			B		A
Gearing and capital structure			B		A
Dividend policy			B		A
Financing reconstructions (eg, group reconstruction, spin off, purchase of own shares, use of distributable profits)			B		A
Treasury and working capital management	C		B		A
Small and medium company financing					B
History of finance					C

FINANCIAL ENGINEERING

Futures, options and swaps

Options			B		A
Interest rate futures			B		A
Interest rate options			B		A
Interest forward rate agreements (FRAs)			B		A
Interest rate swaps			B		A
Commodity derivatives					A
Hedging			B		A

Foreign exchange

Currency forward contracts			B		A
Currency money market cover			B		A
Currency options			B		A
Currency swaps			B		A
Managing currency risk			B		A
Determinants of foreign exchange rates			B		A

Option value

Valuing call and put options			C		B
Black Scholes option pricing model					B
Binomial Option Pricing Model					B
Real options			C		B

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS				ADVANCED LEVEL
	BUSINESS INSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE	SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS	CORPORATE FINANCIAL STRATEGY	BUSINESS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY	

SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Types of sustainability (environmental, social, economic)	C	C	B	A	→
ESG	C	C	B	A	→
Corporate responsibility, sustainability and climate change		C		B	A
Green finance		C	B		A
Measurement and metrics in sustainability	C	C		B	A
Reporting on sustainability (mandatory and non-mandatory)		C			A
Risk management and sustainability		C	B		A
Regulation of sustainability		C			B
Sustainability and ethics		C	B	B	A

Ethics Codes and Standards

ETHICS CODES AND STANDARDS	LEVEL	MODULES
IESBA International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (October 2025 Handbook version) (parts 1, 2 and 3 and Glossary) ICAEW Code of Ethics (effective from 1 July 2025) FRC Revised Ethical Standard (January 2024) and Glossary of Terms - Ethics and Auditing (Updated December 2024)	Certificate Level	
	C/D	Accounting
	B	Assurance and Risk Fundamentals
	D	Business Law
	C	Business Insight and Performance
	A	Sustainability and Ethics
	C	Tax Fundamentals
	Professional Level	
	B	Fundamental Case Study
	A	Assurance, Risk and Reporting
	B	Business and Digital Strategy
	B/C	Corporate Financial Strategy
	A	Corporate Reporting, Data and Assurance
	B	Tax Compliance and Planning
	Advanced Level	
	A	Technical Case Study
	A	Strategic Business Management
	Certificate Level	
	B	Assurance and Risk Fundamentals
	A	Sustainability and Ethics
	Professional Level	
	A	Assurance, Risk and Reporting
	A	Corporate Reporting, Data and Assurance
	Advanced Level	
	A	Technical Case Study
	A	Strategic Case Study

Financial Reporting - IFRS

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
	ACCOUNTING FUNDAMENTALS	FUNDAMENTAL CASE STUDY	ASSURANCE, RISK AND REPORTING	CORPORATE REPORTING, DATA AND ASSURANCE	
Preface to International Financial Reporting Standards			A	A	→
Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting	B	B	A	A	→
IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements					
IAS 2 Inventories	B	B	A	A	→
IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows			B	A	→
IAS 8 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements	B	B	B	A	→
IAS 10 Events after the Reporting Period				A	→
IAS 12 Income Taxes			C	B	A
IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment	B	B	A	A	→
IAS 19 Employee Benefits		-			A
IAS 20 Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance				A	→
IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates			B	B	A
IAS 23 Borrowing Costs				A	→
IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures			B	A	→
IAS 26 Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans					
IAS 27 Separate Financial Statements				B	A
IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures				B	A
IAS 29 Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economics					
IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation			B	B	A
IAS 33 Earnings Per Share				B	A
IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting					A
IAS 36 Impairment of Assets			B	A	→
IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets	C	C	B	A	→
IAS 38 Intangible Assets	C	C	A	A	→
IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement (Hedging only) (Note 1)					A
IAS 40 Investment Property (Note 1)					A
IAS 41 Agriculture					
IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of IFRS					C
IFRS 2 Share-based Payment					A
IFRS 3 Business Combinations				B	A
IFRS 5 Non-Current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations		-	B	B	A

TOPIC	CERTIFICATE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL				ADVANCED LEVEL
	ACCOUNTING FUNDAMENTALS	FUNDAMENTAL CASE STUDY	ASSURANCE, RISK AND REPORTING	CORPORATE REPORTING, DATA AND ASSURANCE	
IFRS 6 Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources					
IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures				C	A
IFRS 8 Operating Segments					A
IFRS 9 Financial Instruments			C	B	A
IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements				B	A
IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements				B	A
IFRS 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities					A
IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement			C	C	A
IFRS 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts					
IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	C	C	B	B	A
IFRS 16 Leases			B	B	A
IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts					C
IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements	A	A	A	A	→
IFRS 19 Subsidiaries without public accountability: Disclosure					A
IFRS for SMEs					C
IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information	C	C	C	B	A
IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures	C	C	C	B	A

Taxation

TOPIC	TAX FUNDAMENTALS	TAX COMPLIANCE AND PLANNING
LEGAL AND ETHICAL FRAMEWORK		
Anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing guidance	C	B
Devolution of taxes		C
General anti-abuse rule (GAAR)		C
HMRC	B	→
Objectives of taxation	C	→
Professional Conduct in Relation to Taxation (PCRT)	C	B
Tax planning, evasion and avoidance	C	B
ADMINISTRATION		
Administration	B	A
Appeals	C	→
Apprenticeship levy		B
Digital accounts and digital record keeping	B	→
PAYE/NIC	B	A
Payments	B	A
Penalties and interest	B	→
Self-assessment	B	A
CAPITAL GAINS TAX		
Chargeable gains		
Annual exempt amount	B	A
Chargeable assets	C	B
Chargeable disposals	C	B
Chargeable persons	C	B
Chattels: wasting and non-wasting	B	→
Connected persons	B	A
Converted trading losses		B
Costs of acquisition and disposal	C	B
Nil gain/nil loss transfers		A
Part disposals		B
Qualifying corporate bonds		B
Rate of tax	B	A
Relief for capital losses		A
Shares and securities (including bonus and rights issues)		B
Chargeable gains reliefs		
Business asset disposal relief		B
Gift relief		B
Incorporation relief		B
Investors' relief		B
Letting relief		A
Private residence relief		A
Roll-over relief		B

TOPIC	TAX FUNDAMENTALS	TAX COMPLIANCE AND PLANNING
Overseas aspects of capital gains tax		
Arising basis		B
Deemed domicile		B
Domicile		B
Double tax relief		A
Gains on foreign assets		B
Remittance basis		B
Residence		C
UK taxation of non-domiciled individuals		B
INCOME TAX		
Trading profits		
Accrual basis of accounting	B	A
Adjustments to profits	B	A
Badges of trade	B	A
Capital allowances	B	A
Cash basis of accounting	B	A
Pension contributions		A
Pre-trading expenditure		A
Unincorporated businesses		
Basis of assessment	B	A
Partnerships	B	A
Trading losses		A
Treatment of terminal losses		A
Employment income		
Allowable deductions against employment income		A
Close company implications		A
Deemed employment payments		A
Employment income	B	A
Statutory Mileage Rates Scheme		A
Taxable and exempt benefits	B	A
Termination payments		B
Other income/expenditure		
Dividends from UK companies	B	A
Investment income	B	A
ISAs	B	→
Miscellaneous income		A
Property income	C	B
Savings income	B	A
Overseas aspects of income tax		
Arising basis		B
Deemed domicile		B
Domicile		B
Double tax relief		A
Income on foreign assets and income from foreign employment		B
Remittance basis		B
Residence		B
UK taxation of non-domiciled individuals		B

TOPIC	TAX FUNDAMENTALS	TAX COMPLIANCE AND PLANNING
Income tax computation		
Exempt income	B	A
Gifts of assets and cash to charity	B	A
Income tax liability and income tax payable	B	A
Income tax charge on child benefit		B
Independent taxation and jointly owned assets		B
Limit on income tax reliefs		A
Marriage allowance	B	A
Pension contributions – provisions for retirement		B
Pension contributions – tax reliefs		B
Personal allowances	B	A
Qualifying interest payments		B
Rates of taxation	B	A
Taxable persons	C	A
INHERITANCE TAX		
Fundamental principles of inheritance tax		
Chargeable persons	B	A
Chargeable property	B	A
Excluded property	B	B
Inter-spouse transfers	B	A
Rates of taxation	B	A
Related property		B
Seven-year accumulation period	B	A
Transfers of value	B	A
Trusts		C
Valuation	B	A
Inheritance tax on lifetime transfers	B	A
Relevant property trusts	B	A
Potentially exempt transfers	B	A
Inheritance tax on death		
Death estate	B	A
Deeds of variation		B
Lifetime transfers	B	A
Overseas aspects of inheritance tax		
Deemed domicile		C
Domicile		C
Double tax relief		A
Lex-situs rules		A
Reliefs and exemptions from inheritance tax		
Annual exemption	B	A
Business property relief		B
Fall in value relief		A
Gifts to charities and political parties	B	A
Gifts with reservation of benefit		A
Inter-spouse transfers	B	A
Marriage/civil partnership exemption	B	A
Normal expenditure out of income	B	A
Quick succession relief		B

TOPIC	TAX FUNDAMENTALS	TAX COMPLIANCE AND PLANNING
Small gifts exemption	B	A
Taper relief	B	A
NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS		
Class 1		
- calculation	A	→
- directors		B
- earnings	C	B
- employment allowance	A	→
Class 1A		
- calculation	A	→
- earnings	C	B
Class 1B		B
Class 4		
- calculation	A	→
- earnings	C	B
Maximum contributions		C
CORPORATION TAX		
Chargeable gains		
Chargeable assets	C	B
Chargeable disposals	C	B
Chargeable persons	C	B
Chattels: wasting and non-wasting	B	→
Costs of acquisition and disposal	C	B
Indexation		A
Nil gain/nil loss transfers		A
Part disposals		B
Purchase of own shares		A
Qualifying corporate bonds		B
Relief for capital losses		A
Rollover relief		B
Shares and securities (including bonus and rights issues)		B
Substantial shareholding exemption		C
Trading profits		
Adjustments to profits	B	A
Badges of trade	B	A
Capital allowances - plant and machinery	B	A
Capital allowances - structures and buildings		A
Long periods of account	C	A
Pension contributions		B
Taxable total profits		
Chargeable gains	B	A
Intangible fixed assets		C
Loan relationships	B	B
Miscellaneous income	B	A
Property income (excluding lease premiums)		B
Qualifying donations	B	A
Research and development expenditure		A
Trading losses - post April 2017		B

TOPIC	TAX FUNDAMENTALS	TAX COMPLIANCE AND PLANNING
Trading profits	B	A
Use of deficit on non-trading loan relationships - post April 2017		B
Corporation tax computation		
Accounting periods	C	B
Close companies		B
Corporation tax liability	B	A
Distributions		B
Double tax relief (including underlying tax and withholding tax)		B
Liquidation		B
Provision of services through a company		B
Rates of taxation	B	A
Residence	C	B
Groups		
Associated companies	C	B
Capital gains groups		B
Degrouping charges		B
Group loss relief		B
Group relationships		A
Non-coterminous accounting periods		B
Overseas companies and branches		C
Pre-acquisition gains and losses		B
Roll-over relief		B
Transfer of assets		B
STAMP TAXES		
Basic principles	C	B
Chargeable occasions	C	B
Exemptions	C	B
Stamp taxes for groups		B
VAT		
Capitals goods scheme		B
Classification of supplies		B
Distinction between goods and services		C
Overseas aspects		A
Group aspects		A
Input VAT	A	→
Output VAT	A	→
Partial exemption		B
Payments	A	→
Penalties and interest	A	→
Property transactions		B
Registration and deregistration	A	→
Single and multiple supplies		B
Small business reliefs	A	→
Taxable person	A	→
Taxable supplies	A	→
Transfer of a business as a going concern		B
VAT records, accounts and digital reporting	A	→