

Curriculum Description for London Examinations GCE 'A' Level

Accounting (8011) & Accounting (9011)

Introduction

Candidates who successfully follow this syllabus will have a good knowledge and understanding of the principles, concepts and techniques of accounting. It lays a secure foundation for further study of Accounting or related subjects. In addition, it provides a worthwhile course for candidates who will end their study at the Advanced Subsidiary or Advanced level stage. This syllabus will be particularly suited to candidates who have followed the GCE Ordinary level Accounting syllabus.

Key features

- _ Provides continuity with the previous Advanced level syllabus in Accounting (9011)
- _ Maintains the GCE Advanced level standards established by the previous syllabus
- _ Introduces the Advanced Subsidiary Level on completion of unit 1 which may be used as a 'stepping stone' to the award of a full Advanced level or a qualification in its own right
- _ Provides a smooth transition from the GCE Ordinary level course in Accounting which has been revised in conjunction with this Advanced level syllabus

The syllabus and specimen papers are available online at www.edexcel-international.org and also from Edexcel International Publications.

Prior level of attainment and recommended prior learning

Candidates who have followed the Ordinary Level specification in Accounting will find the transition to A Level easier as the Accounting (9011) specification builds on the skills developed at O Level. Unit 1 builds upon the basic accounting model. Unit 2 develops Limited Company accounts.

Aims

The syllabus aims are to develop:

1. a knowledge and understanding of the purposes of accounting, of accounting concepts and techniques and to develop the application of those techniques;
2. the skills of numeracy, communication, presentation, analysis and evaluation of accounting information;
3. the ability to compile accounting reports in good format and to use them as the basis of informed and rational decision-making;
4. a capacity for logical and objective thought which will serve as an end in its own right, as well as a basis for further study in accounting.

Assessment objectives

The scheme of assessment will assess candidates' ability to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of accounting procedures and understanding of the principles on which they are based;
2. select and apply their knowledge and understanding of accounting procedures to a variety of accounting problems;
3. analyse and present information in appropriate accounting format and communicate reasoned explanations;
4. evaluate evidence and make informed recommendations and decisions.

Unit-based scheme of assessment

The AS unit – Unit 1 – represents 50 per cent of Advanced GCE. The AS unit will assess the knowledge, understanding and skills expected of students who have completed the first half of the full Advanced GCE course.

The Advanced unit – Unit 2 – represents 50 percent of Advanced GCE. The A2 unit will assess the knowledge, understanding and skills expected of students who have completed the full Advanced GCE course.

AS students must take the AS Unit 1.

Advanced GCE students must take the AS Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Advanced GCE students may take Units 1 and 2 in the same session as an end-of-course examination. Alternatively, students may take Unit 1 at the end of the first year or during their programme of study and Unit 2 at the end of the second year. Students following this examination pattern may re-take any individual unit once only and the better result will count towards the final award. The full qualification at both AS and Advanced GCE may be retaken more than once.

Unit required for AS (8011)

Unit 1 The accounting system and costing 3 hours 100%

Units required for Advanced GCE (9011)

Unit 1 The accounting system and costing 3 hours 50%

Unit 2 Corporate and management accounting 3 hours 50%

Each Unit is divided into **two** Sections to enable an appropriate range and style of questions to be presented. Section A will contain three questions, of which candidates will be required to attempt **two** questions. Section B will contain four questions, of which candidates will be required to attempt **three** questions. Each question in Section A will be allocated 26 marks and each question in Section B will be allocated 16 marks.

Questions will require candidates to demonstrate underpinning knowledge and understanding, the application of principles and processes, analysis of information and data and evaluation leading to effective decision making. Questions may contain section(s), which require answers in continuous prose. Candidates are required to organise and present relevant information, using specialist accounting vocabulary. Such section(s) would normally represent 20-25% of the marks available for the question.

Syllabus content

Unit 1 – THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND COSTING

- 1. Principles of accounting and double entry book-keeping**
- 2. Control procedures**
- 3. Final Accounts of organizations**
- 4. Introduction to costing and decision making**
- 5. Evaluation of accounting statements**

Unit 2 – CORPORATE AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

- 1. Limited companies**
- 2. Investment Evaluation**
- 3. Cash flow statements**
- 4. Budgeting**
- 5. Standard costing**
- 6. Capital budgeting and appraisal**
- 7. Cost behaviour and break-even**
- 8. Marginal and absorption costing**

Textbooks and other resources

Harold Randall A Level Accounting, 3rd Ed. Letts Educational
ISBN 1858051622 1996

Frank Wood A Level Accounting Financial Times/Pitman
ISBN 0273631616 1998

Frank Wood and Business Accounting 1, 8th Ed. Financial Times/Pitman
Alan Sangster ISBN 0273637428 1999

Frank Wood and Business Accounting 2, 8th Ed. Financial Times/Pitman
Alan Sangster ISBN 0273637436 1999

Riad Izhar Accounting, Costing and Management Oxford University Press
ISBN 0198327463 1990

Useful websites

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
<http://www.icaew.co.uk>

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
<http://www.cima.org.uk>