

6. Summary of changes to Strategic Business Reporting (SBR-IRL)

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

The areas which have been amended in the syllabus are summarised in the table below.

Table 1 – Amendments to SBR (IRL)

23/24 LO reference	Section and subject area	Syllabus content change (referring to 24/25 LO)
A1 a)	Fundamental ethical and professional principles	Added reference to sustainability standards and contemporary business scenarios.
C4 b)	Leases	Added reference to accounting for sub-leases.
C11	Other reporting issues	Becomes section C10 (24/25).
C11 d)	Other reporting issues	Amended LO C10 d) (24/25) relating to IAS 1 <i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i> to make explicit that features, structure and content of financial statements are examinable.
C11	Other reporting issues	Added a new Lo C10 e) (24/25) to clarify the inclusion of IFRS for SMEs.
C10	Reporting requirements of UK and Republic of Ireland entities	Becomes section C11 (24/25). New section title to ring fence UK and Republic of Ireland specifics.
C10	Reporting requirements of UK and Republic of Ireland entities	Section C11 g) added as a new LO. Candidates sitting (SBR-IRL) are required to know high level differences between IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and European Sustainability Reporting Standards. These key differences are detailed in the list of examinable documents.
D1 b)	Group accounting including statement of cash flows	Clarified wording.
D2 a)	Associates and joint arrangements	Clarified wording.
E	Interpret financial and non-financial information for different stakeholders	Amended section title to clarify scope.

E1	Analysis and interpretation of financial and non-financial information and measurement of performance.	Amended section title to clarify scope.
E1 d)	Analysis and interpretation of financial and non-financial information and measurement of performance.	Removed reference to sustainability reporting and added to LO E1 e).
E1 e)	Analysis and interpretation of financial and non-financial information and measurement of performance.	Widened the LO to include disclosures produced in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards and IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. Also clarified wording.
F1 b)	Discussion of issues in financial reporting	Clarified wording.
F1 d)	Discussion of issues in financial reporting	Detailed LO in response to the release of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2.

7. Approach to examining the syllabus

The syllabus is assessed by a three-hour fifteen-minute examination. It examines professional competences within the business reporting environment.

Students will be examined on concepts, theories, and principles, and on their ability to question and comment on accounting treatments. They will also be required to use a spreadsheet to adjust consolidated financial statements.

Students should be capable of relating professional issues to relevant concepts and practical situations. The evaluation of accounting practices and the identification of issues will be a key element of the exam. Professional and ethical judgement will need to be exercised, together with the integration of technical knowledge when addressing business reporting issues in a business context.

Students will be required to adopt either a stakeholder or an external focus in answering questions and to demonstrate professional skills such as problem solving, dealing with information and decision making. Students will also have to demonstrate communication skills appropriate to the scenario.

The exam also deals with specific professional knowledge appropriate to the preparation and presentation of consolidated and other financial statements from accounting data, to conform with accounting standards.

Section A

Section A will consist of two scenario-based questions. The first question will be worth 30 marks and the second will be worth 20 marks. The first question will examine group accounting (syllabus area D). Candidates will need to discuss issues in group accounting and use a spreadsheet to adjust a consolidated financial statement. The question is also likely to require consideration of some other financial reporting issues (syllabus area C). The second question in Section A will require candidates to consider the reporting implications and the ethical implications of specific events in a contemporary scenario.

Section B

Students will be required to answer a further two questions, each worth 25 marks. These discursive questions will be scenario-based and could contain computational elements. Section B could deal with any aspect of the syllabus but will always include either a full question, or part of a question, that requires the candidate to consider stakeholder perspectives.

Two professional marks will be awarded in question two and two in question four. Further guidance will be given in the questions clarifying what these professional marks will be awarded for.

8. Relational diagram linking Strategic Business Reporting (SBR-IRL) with other exams

This diagram shows links between this exam and other exams preceding or following it. Some exams are directly underpinned by other exams such as Strategic Business Reporting by Financial Reporting. This diagram indicates where students are expected to have underpinning knowledge and where it would be useful to review previous learning before undertaking study.



9. Guide to ACCA examination structure and delivery mode

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

The structure and delivery mode of examinations varies.

Applied Knowledge

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

Applied Skills

The Corporate and Business Law exam is a two-hour computer-based objective test examination for English and Global.

For the format and structure of the Corporate and Business Law or Taxation variant exams, refer to the 'Approach to examining the syllabus' section of the relevant syllabus and study guide.

The other Applied Skills examinations (PM, TX-UK, FR, AA, and FM) contain a mix of objective and longer type questions with a duration of three hours for 100 marks. These are assessed by a three-hour computer-based exam. Prior to the start of each exam there will be time allocated for students to be informed of the exam instructions.

The longer (constructed response) question types used in the Applied Skills exams (excluding Corporate and Business Law) require students to effectively mimic what they do in the workplace. Students will need to use a range of digital skills and demonstrate their ability to use spreadsheets and word processing tools in producing their answers, just as they would use these tools in the workplace. These assessment methods allow ACCA to focus on testing students' technical and application skills, rather than, for example, their ability to perform simple calculations.

Strategic Professional

Essentials:

Strategic Business Leader is ACCA's case study examination at Strategic Professional and is examined as a closed book exam of 3 hours and 15 minutes, including reading, planning and reflection time which can be used flexibly within the examination.

Pre-seen information for the Strategic Business Leader exam will be released two weeks before the exam sitting. The pre-seen information contains background and contextual details in order for students to familiarise themselves with the fictitious organisation that they will be examined on and the industry in which it operates.

The Strategic Business Leader exam will contain new information in the form of exhibits and students are required to complete several tasks. All questions are compulsory and each examination will contain a total of 80 technical marks and 20 professional skills marks.

As this is a closed book exam, the pre-seen information is also available within the examination.

Strategic Business Reporting is a three-hour 15 minutes exam. It contains two sections and all questions are compulsory. This exam contains four professional marks.

Options:

The Strategic Professional Options are all three hours and 15 minutes computer-based exams. All contain two sections and all questions are compulsory.

All option exams contain a total of 80 technical marks and 20 professional skills marks.

The question types used at Strategic Professional require students to effectively mimic what they would do in the workplace.

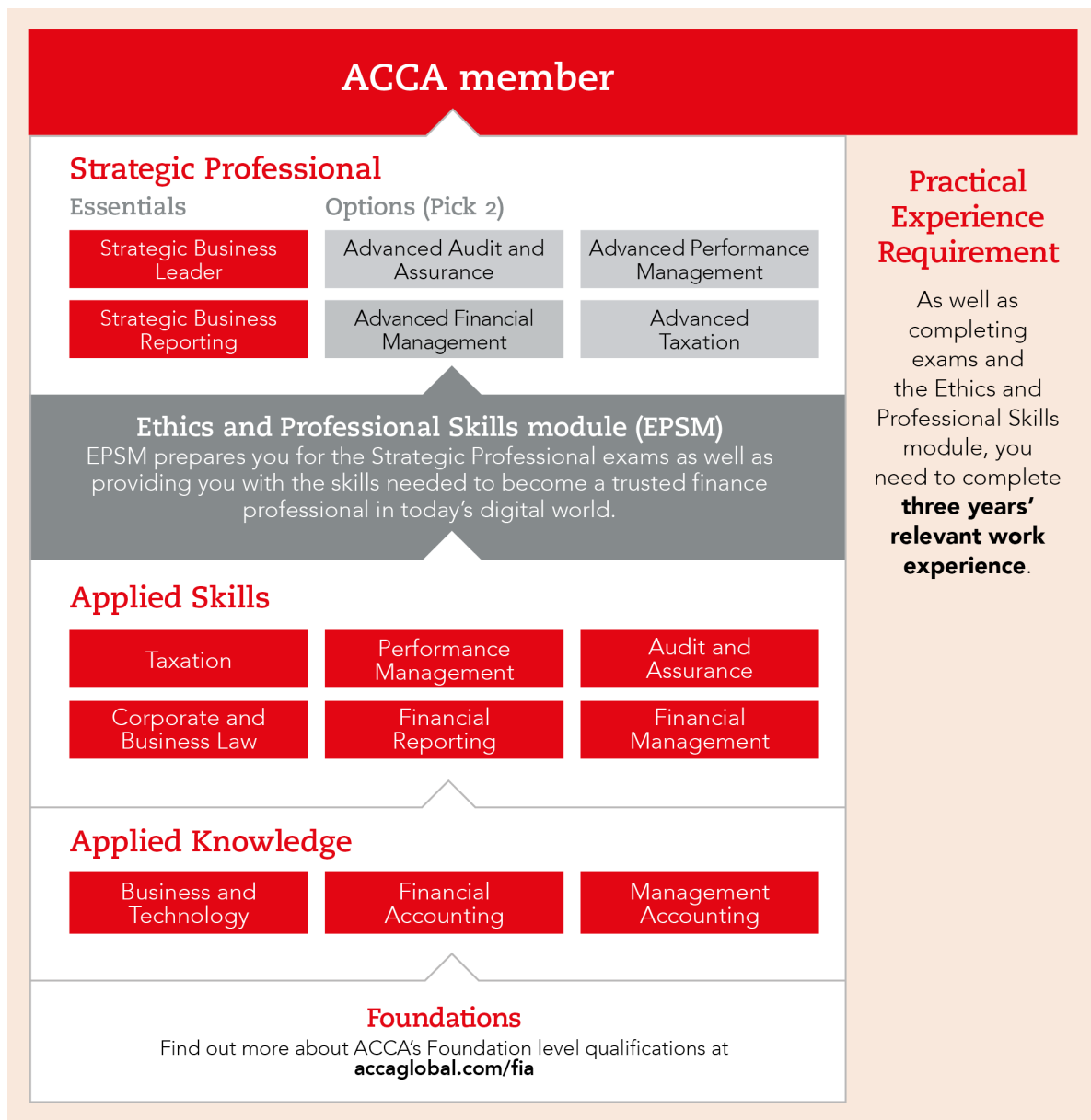
These exams offer ACCA the opportunity to focus on the application of knowledge to scenarios, using a range of tools including word processor, spreadsheets and presentation slides - not only enabling students to demonstrate their technical and professional skills but also their use of the technology available to today's accountants.

Time management

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

Students should ensure that all the information and exam requirements are properly read and understood.

10. The structure of ACCA qualification



*See accaglobal.com for details

11. Guide to ACCA examination assessment

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

For most examinations (not tax), regulations **issued** or legislation **passed** on or before 31 August annually, will be examinable from 1 September of the following year to 31 August of

the year after that. Please refer to the examinable documents for the exam (where relevant) for further information.

Regulations issued or legislation passed in accordance with the above dates will not be examinable if the **effective** date is in the future, unless explicitly stated otherwise in this syllabus and study guide or examinable documents.

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

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

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

For **UK** tax exams, examinations falling within the period 1 June to 31 March will generally examine the Finance Act which was passed in the previous year. Therefore, exams falling in the period 1 June 2024 to 31 March 2025 will examine the Finance Act 2023 and any examinable legislation which is passed outside of the Finance Act before 31 May 2023.

For additional guidance on the examinability of specific tax rules and the depth in which they are likely to be examined, reference should be made to the relevant Finance Act article written by the examining team and published on the ACCA website.

None of the current or impending devolved taxes for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland is, or will be, examinable.

12. Learning hours and education recognition

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

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

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

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