

Corporate and Business Law (PKN) (F4) June 2008

This syllabus and study guide is designed to help with planning study and to provide detailed information on what could be assessed in any examination session.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

Relational diagram of paper with other papers

This diagram shows direct and indirect links between this paper and other papers preceding or following it. Some papers are directly underpinned by other papers such as Advanced Performance Management by Performance Management. These links are shown as solid line arrows. Other papers only have indirect relationships with each other such as links existing between the accounting and auditing papers. The links between these are shown as dotted line arrows. This diagram indicates where you are expected to have underpinning knowledge and where it would be useful to review previous learning before undertaking study.

Overall aim of the syllabus

This explains briefly the overall objective of the paper and indicates in the broadest sense the capabilities to be developed within the paper.

Main capabilities

This paper's aim is broken down into several main capabilities which divide the syllabus and study guide into discrete sections.

Relational diagram of the main capabilities

This diagram illustrates the flows and links between the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus and should be used as an aid to planning teaching and learning in a structured way.

Syllabus rationale

This is a narrative explaining how the syllabus is structured and how the main capabilities are linked. The rationale also explains in further detail what the examination intends to assess and why.

Detailed syllabus

This shows the breakdown of the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus into subject areas. This is the blueprint for the detailed study guide.

Approach to examining the syllabus

This section briefly explains the structure of the examination and how it is assessed.

Study Guide

This is the main document that students, tuition providers and publishers should use as the basis of their studies, instruction and materials. Examinations will be based on the detail of the study guide which comprehensively identifies what could be assessed in any examination session. The study guide is a precise reflection and breakdown of the syllabus. It is divided into sections based on the main capabilities identified in the syllabus. These sections are divided into subject areas which relate to the sub-capabilities included in the detailed syllabus. Subject areas are broken down into sub-headings which describe the detailed outcomes that could be assessed in examinations. These outcomes are described using verbs indicating what exams may require students to demonstrate, and the broad intellectual level at which these may need to be demonstrated (*see intellectual levels below).

Reading lists

ACCA examiners will recommend study texts and text books where these are available, which students may read as part of their preparation for the exam. Relevant articles will also be published in *student accountant*.

INTELLECTUAL LEVELS

The syllabus is designed to progressively broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and professional values demonstrated by the student on their way through the qualification.

The specific capabilities within the detailed syllabuses and study guides are assessed at one of three intellectual or cognitive levels:

Level 1: Knowledge and comprehension

Level 2: Application and analysis

Level 3: Synthesis and evaluation

Very broadly, these intellectual levels relate to the three cognitive levels at which the Knowledge module, the Skills module and the Professional level are assessed.

Each subject area in the detailed study guide included in this document is given a 1, 2, or 3 superscript, denoting intellectual level, marked at the end of each relevant line. This gives an indication of the intellectual depth at which an area could be assessed within the examination. However, while level 1 broadly equates with the Knowledge module, level 2 equates to the Skills module and level 3 to the Professional level, some lower level skills can continue to be assessed as the student progresses through each module and level. This reflects that at each stage of study there will be a requirement to broaden, as well as deepen capabilities. It is also possible that occasionally some higher level capabilities may be assessed at lower levels.

LEARNING HOURS

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.

Each syllabus contains between 23 and 35 main subject area headings depending on the nature of the subject and how these areas have been broken down.

GUIDE TO EXAM STRUCTURE

The structure of examinations varies within and between modules and levels.

The Fundamentals level examinations contain 100% compulsory questions to encourage candidates to study across the breadth of each syllabus.

The Knowledge module is assessed by equivalent two-hour paper based and computer based examinations.

The Skills module examinations are all paper based three-hour papers. The structure of papers varies from ten questions in the *Corporate and Business Law* (F4) paper to four 25 mark questions in *Performance Management* (F5) and *Financial Management* (F9). Individual questions within all Skills module papers will attract between 10 and 30 marks.

The Professional level papers are all three-hour paper based examinations, all containing two sections. Section A is compulsory, but there will be some choice offered in Section B.

For all three hour examination papers, ACCA has introduced 15 minutes reading and planning time.

This additional time is allowed at the beginning of each three-hour examination to allow candidates to read the questions and to begin planning their answers before they start writing in their answer books. This time should be used to ensure that all the information and exam requirements are properly read and understood.

During reading and planning time candidates may only annotate their question paper. They may not write anything in their answer booklets until told to do so by the invigilator.

The Essentials module papers all have a Section A containing a major case study question with all requirements totalling 50 marks relating to this case. Section B gives students a choice of two from three 25 mark questions.

Section A of each of the Options papers contains 50-70 compulsory marks from two questions, each attracting between 25 and 40 marks. Section B will offer a choice of two from three questions totalling 30-50 marks, with each question attracting between 15 and 25 marks.

The pass mark for all ACCA Qualification examination papers is 50%.

GUIDE TO EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT

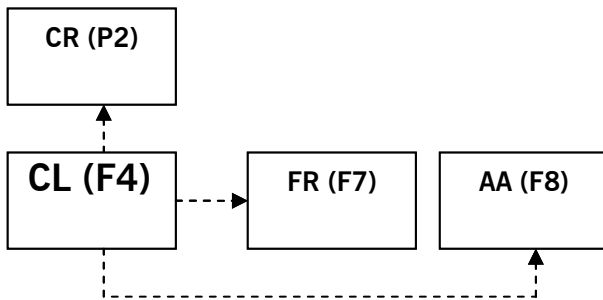
ACCA reserves the right to examine anything contained within the study guide at any examination session. This includes knowledge, techniques, principles, theories, and concepts as specified.

For the financial accounting, audit and assurance, law and tax papers, ACCA will publish *examinable documents* every six months to indicate exactly what regulations and legislation could potentially be assessed at the following examination session.

Knowledge of new examinable regulations will not be assessed until at least six calendar months after the last day of the month in which documents are issued or legislation is passed. The relevant cut-off date for the June examinations is 30 November of the previous year, and for the December examinations, it is 31 May of the same year.

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.

Syllabus



AIM

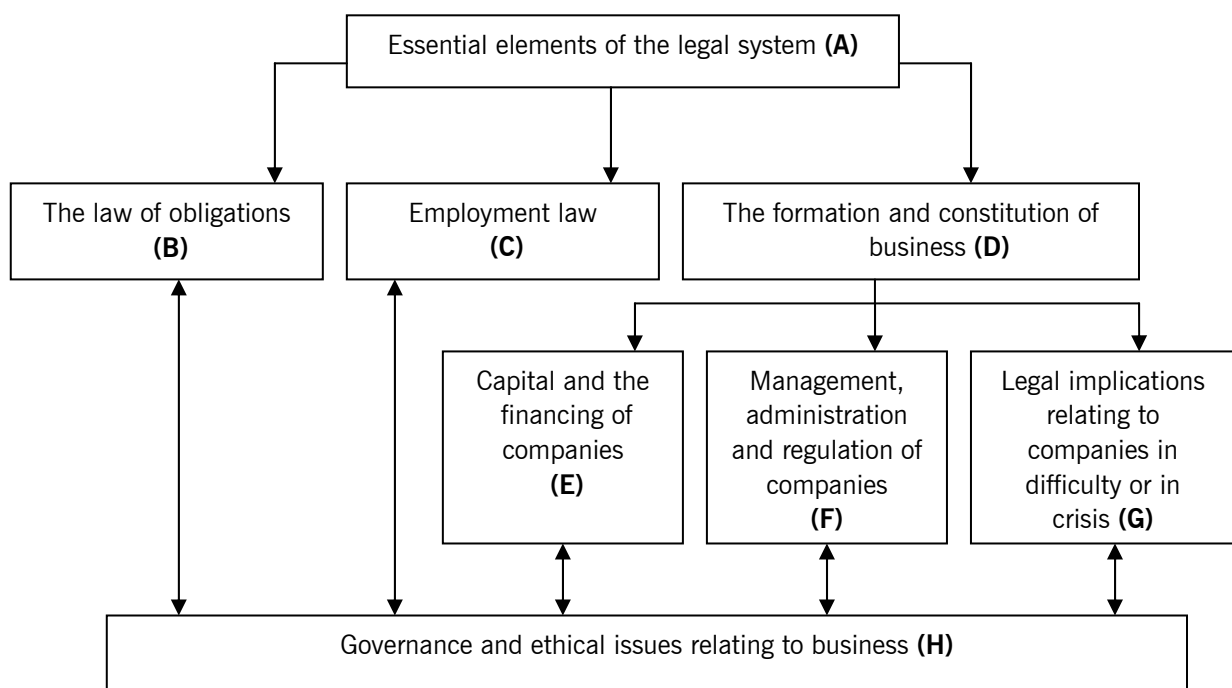
To develop knowledge and skills in the understanding of the general legal framework, and of specific legal areas relating to business, recognising the need to seek further specialist legal advice where necessary.

MAIN CAPABILITIES

On successful completion of this paper candidates should be able to:

- A** Identify the main sources of law, structure of courts and fundamental rights
- B** Recognise and apply the appropriate legal rules relating to the law of obligations
- C** Describe principal labour/employment legislation and the position of the “workman”
- D** Distinguish between alternative forms and constitutions of business organisations
- E** Recognise and compare types of capital and the financing of companies
- F** Describe and explain how companies are managed, administered and regulated
- G** Recognise the legal implications relating to companies in difficulty or in crisis
- H** Demonstrate an understanding of corporate governance and ethical issues relating to business.

RELATIONAL DIAGRAM OF MAIN CAPABILITIES



RATIONALE

Corporate and Business Law is essentially divided into eight areas.

The syllabus starts with an introduction to the sources of law, including Islamic, the structure of courts in Pakistan and fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. From there it progresses into the realm of the law of obligations covering contract formation, void agreements and voidable contracts, different kinds of contracts which have divergent implications for parties involved, privity of contract and breach and discharge of a contract. Coverage of torts includes meaning, kind, defences and remedies to torts.

The syllabus briefly covers the laws relating to employment and undertakes a comparative study of different kinds of business organisations.

The coverage of company law includes the formation, constitution and types of companies, the comparison between partnerships and companies, the financing of companies and types of capital, the management, administration and regulation of companies and their winding up.

At the end the syllabus deals with corporate governance and insider trading.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

A Essential elements of the legal system

1. Court structure
2. Sources of law
3. Fundamental rights

B The law of obligations

1. Formation of contract
2. Void agreements and voidable contracts
3. Kinds of contract: contingent, indemnity, guarantee, bailment, pledge and hypothecation
4. Breach of contract and remedies
5. Discharge of contract

6. The law of torts

C Employment law

1. Scope of principal labour legislation
2. Streams of employment (workmen, government employees, and master and servant)

D The formation and constitution of business organisations

1. Agency
2. Partnership
3. Companies and legal personality
4. Company formations
5. Non-banking finance companies

E Capital and the financing of companies

1. Share capital
2. Loan capital
3. Capital maintenance and dividend law

F Management, administration and regulation of companies

1. Company directors
2. Company secretary and chief financial officer
3. Company auditors
4. Company meetings and resolutions

G Legal implications relating to companies in difficulty or in crisis

1. Winding up

H Governance and ethical issues relating to business

1. Corporate governance
2. Insider trading

APPROACH TO EXAMINING THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is assessed by a three hour paper-based examination.

The examination consists of seven 10 mark questions assessing knowledge of the law, and three 10 mark application questions.

Study Guide

A ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

1. Court structure

- a) Explain the structure and operation of the courts including the Federal Shariat Court.^[1]
- b) Identify the constitutional jurisdiction of the supreme court and the high courts.^[1]

2. Sources of law

- a) Explain the sources of law and the position of Islamic law as a source.^[2]
- b) Explain the composition of parliament.^[1]
- c) Explain legislation and evaluate delegated legislation.^[2]

3. Fundamental rights

- a) Identify the concept of fundamental rights as expressed in the constitution of Pakistan, 1973.^[2]
- b) Explain the constitutional safeguards available for the protection of fundamental rights.^[2]

B THE LAW OF CONTRACT

1. Formation of contract

- a) Analyse the nature of a simple contract.^[2]
- b) Analyse the meaning of offer and distinguish it from an invitation to treat.^[2]
- c) Explain the meaning and consequence of acceptance.^[2]
- d) Explain consideration including those which are lawful or not.^[2]
- e) Analyse the doctrine of privity of contract.^[2]
- f) Explain the legal requirements for creation of a contract.^[2]

2. Void agreements and voidable contracts

- a) Analyse the categories of agreements that are void.^[2]
- b) Explain the circumstances which render contracts voidable.^[2]

3. Kinds of contract : contingent, indemnity, guarantee, bailment, pledge and hypothecation

- a) Analyse contingent contracts.^[2]
- b) Identify differences between contracts of indemnity and guarantee.^[2]
- c) Analyse the difference between pledge and hypothecation.^[2]
- d) Explain contract of bailment.^[2]

4. Breach of contract and remedies

- a) Explain the meaning and effect of breach of contract.^[2]
- b) Explain the rules relating to the award of damages.^[2]
- c) Analyse the equitable remedies for breach of contract.^[2]

5. Discharge of contract

- a) Explain the concept of discharge of contract.^[2]
- b) Discuss the discharge of contract by frustration.^[2]

6. The law of torts

- a) Explain meaning of tort.^[2]
- b) Identify kinds of tort including 'passing off' and 'negligence'.^[2]
- c) Identify defences to torts.^[2]
- d) Identify remedies to torts.^[2]

C EMPLOYMENT LAW

1. Scope of principal labour legislation

- a) Describe the scope of:^[1]
 - i) Industrial Relations Ordinance, 2002
 - ii) West Pakistan Industrial and Commercial Employment (Standing Order) Ordinance, 1958
 - iii) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

2. Streams of employment (workmen, governmental employees, and master and servant)

- a) Describe the three streams of employment under the laws of Pakistan.^[1]
- b) Explain the position of "workman".^[1]

D THE FORMATION AND CONSTITUTION OF BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

1. Agency

- a) Define the role of the agent in comparison to partners and company directors.^[2]
- b) Explain how the agency relationship is established.^[2]
- c) Define the authority of the agent.^[2]
- d) Explain the potential liability of both principal and agent.^[2]

2. Partnerships

- a) Discuss how partnerships are established.^[2]
- b) Explain the authority of partners in relation to partnership activity.^[2]
- c) Analyse the liability of various partners for partnership debts.^[2]
- d) State ways by which a partner may retire from a firm and his liability afterwards.^[2]
- e) Explain the way by which partnerships can be brought to an end.^[2]

3. Companies and legal personality

- a) Distinguish between partnerships and companies.^[2]
- b) Explain the meaning and effect of limited liability.^[2]
- c) Analyse different types of companies, especially private and public companies.^[2]
- d) Illustrate the effect of separate personality and instances in which it can be ignored.^[2]

4. Company formations

- a) Describe the procedure for registering companies, both public and private.^[2]
- b) Describe the statutory books, records and returns that companies must keep or make.^[1]
- c) Explain the content and effect of the memorandum of association.^[2]
- d) Describe the contents of Table A articles of association.^[1]
- e) Analyse the effect of a company's constitutional documents.^[2]
- f) Explain how memorandum of association and articles of association can be altered.^[2]

5. Non-banking finance companies

- a) Explain the status of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC).^[2]
- b) Discuss are the requirements for the formation of a NBFC.^[2]
- c) Explain the different kinds of businesses that a NBFC can undertake.^[2]
- d) Identify anti-money laundering requirements for NBFCs.^[2]

E CAPITAL AND THE FINANCING OF COMPANIES

1. Share capital

- a) Distinguish share capital from loan capital.^[2]
- b) Illustrate the difference between various classes of shares.^[2]
- c) Explain the procedure for altering class rights.^[2]
- d) Discuss public offering of shares and prospectus.^[2]

2. Loan capital

- a) Explain the meaning of debenture.^[2]
- b) Explain redeemable capital.^[2]
- c) Explain the concept of a company charge and distinguish between fixed and floating charges.^[2]
- d) Describe the need and the procedure for registering company charges.^[2]

3. Capital maintenance and dividend law

- a) Explain the concept of capital maintenance and capital reduction.^[2]
- b) Examine the effect of issuing shares at either a discount, or at a premium.^[2]
- c) Explain the rules governing the distribution of dividends in both private and public companies.^[2]

F MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION OF COMPANIES

1. Company directors

- a) Explain the role of directors in the management of a company.^[2]
- b) Discuss the ways by which directors are appointed, can lose their office or be subject to disqualification.^[2]

c) Distinguish between the powers of the board of directors, the managing director and individual directors to bind their company.^[2]

d) Explain the duties that directors owe to their companies.^[2]

e) Explain the role of the chief executive officer, his appointment and removal.^[2]

2. Company secretary and chief financial officer

a) Discuss the appointment procedure relating to, and the duties and powers of, a company secretary.^[2]

b) Discuss the appointment procedure relating to, and the duties and powers of the chief financial officer.^[2]

3. Company auditors

a) Discuss the appointment procedure relating to, and the duties and powers of company auditors.^[2]

4. Company meetings and resolutions

a) Distinguish between types of meetings: statutory, annual general meeting and extraordinary general meetings.^[1]

b) Explain the procedure for calling and conducting such meetings.^[2]

c) Distinguish between types of resolutions: ordinary, extra-ordinary and special.^[2]

G LEGAL IMPLICATIONS RELATING TO COMPANIES IN DIFFICULTY OR IN CRISIS

1. Winding up

a) Explain the meaning of and procedure involved in voluntary winding up by both members or creditors.^[2]

b) Explain the meaning of and procedure involved in compulsory winding up.^[2]

c) Explain winding up under court supervision.^[2]

H GOVERNANCE AND ETHICAL ISSUES RELATING TO BUSINESS

1. Corporate governance

- a) Explain the purpose and salient features of the Code of Corporate Governance.^[2]
- b) Explain how the Code of Corporate Governance is implemented/enforced in Pakistan. ^[2]
- c) List the financial reporting requirements of companies in relation to the Code of Corporate Governance.^[1]
- d) Identify the role of auditors.^[2]

2. Insider trading

- a) Explain the legal definition of insiders. ^[2]
- b) Explain the nature and legal effects of insider trading.^[2]