

Student Guidance Notes

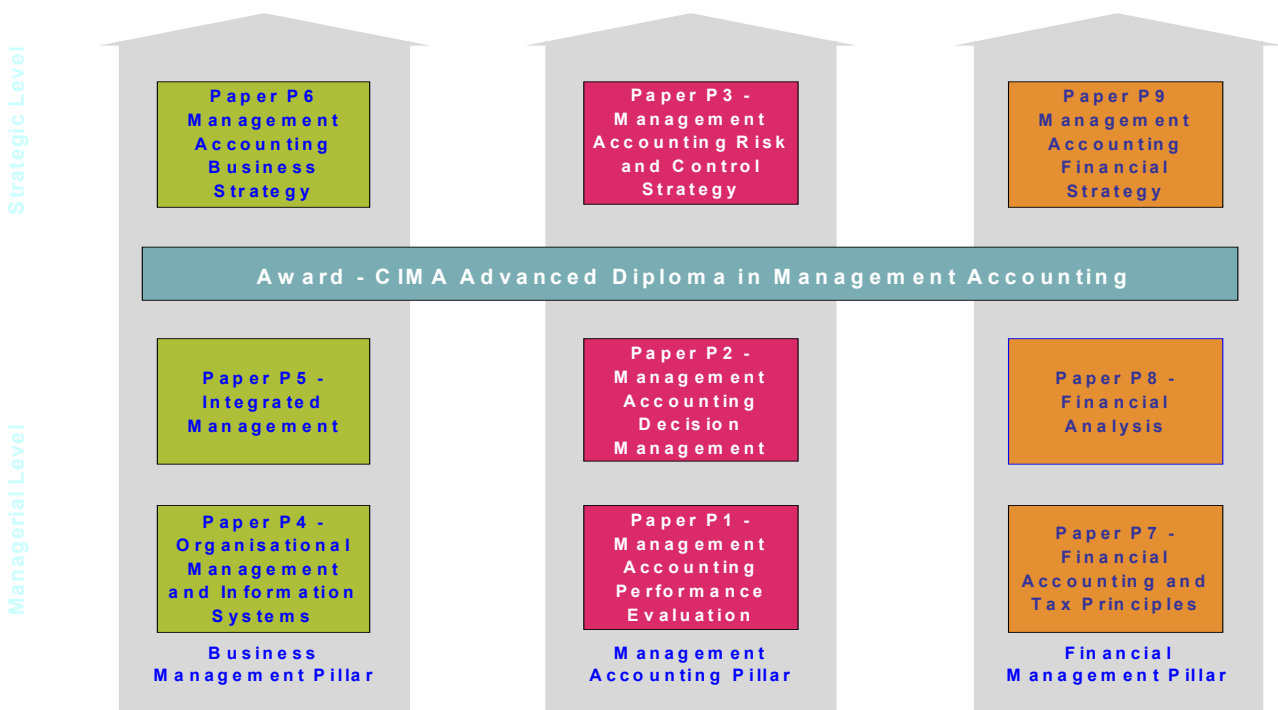
Guide 1

An overview of the 2005 syllabus

This guide provides:

- ◆ An overview of the 2005 syllabus
- ◆ Some general notes relating to the 2005 syllabus
- ◆ Progression rules
- ◆ A discussion of the transition arrangements for students transferring from the 'Beyond 2000' syllabus
- ◆ Some frequently asked questions relating to the 2005 syllabus

The 2005 syllabus has nine papers, divided into two levels (strategic and managerial) and three learning pillars, as shown below.



General notes

International Accounting Standards

The examinations will be set in accordance with relevant International Accounting Standards issued up to and including 1 December preceding the examination concerned. This date is particularly relevant to Paper P7 - Financial Accounting and Tax Principles and Paper P8 - Financial Analysis.

Exposure Drafts

This date of up to and including 1 December preceding the examination also applies to material contained in Financial Reporting Exposure Drafts, which are especially relevant to Paper P8 - Financial Analysis.

Examination Notices

Students are advised to refer to the notice of examinable legislation published regularly in CIMA Insider and on the CIMA website, to ensure they are up to date.

Time Management in Examinations

Students are advised to strictly manage their time when answering questions in examinations. The time allocated to read, answer and review the answer to a question should be proportional to the maximum marks available for the question. For example, a short answer question worth 5 marks, within a 3 hour examination, where a total of 100 marks are available, should be allocated a maximum of 9 minutes to read, answer and review.

Subject and Examination Paper Numbering

All subject and examination papers in the CIMA Professional Chartered Management Accounting qualification are prefixed with the letter '**P**' (for Professional). Papers are numbered vertically up each learning pillar. For example, papers in the Management Accounting learning pillar are numbered P1, P2 and P3, spanning Managerial and Strategic levels.

Progression rules

Managerial Level

Students must pass all Managerial level subject examinations, in each learning pillar, before attempting the Strategic level subjects. The Managerial level subject examinations may be taken in any order, in any combination of subjects and with any number of subjects at a particular diet, for example, all six Managerial papers may be taken by a student at a single examination diet, if they so wish. The pass mark for each of these examinations is 50% and permanent credit is awarded for any paper in which the candidate scores 50% or more.

On successful completion of the Managerial level subjects, students are awarded the CIMA Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting.

Strategic Level

When attempting the 'Strategic' level subjects, students must sit all three examination papers (P3, P6 and P9) together at the first sitting. The pass mark for each of these examinations is 50% and permanent credit is awarded for any paper in which the candidate scores 50% or more.

Note: At any necessary re-sits, these papers may be taken in any order and in any combination.

Practical Experience and Professional Competence

On successful completion of all 'Strategic' level subject examinations, students are requested to submit their 'CIMA Career Profile' for assessment of personal practical experience and skills development. In addition, students are required to sit and pass CIMA's Test of Professional Competence in Management Accounting (TOPCIMA) – a three hour assessment of competence, completed within a supervised environment.

Note: Although CIMA prefers and recommends that students submit their 'Career Profile' for assessment before sitting the Test of Professional Competence, students may undertake these two activities in the reverse sequence

Transition Arrangements

Managerial Level

Current Intermediate Level Syllabus	New Managerial Level Syllabus
4 - Finance	Nil
5 - Business Taxation	Nil (see note 1 below)
6 - Financial Accounting	Nil (see note 2 below)
5 - Business Taxation and 6 - Financial Accounting	P7 - Financial Accounting and Tax Principles
7 - Financial Reporting	P8 - Financial Analysis
8 - MA - Performance Management	P1 - MA - Performance Evaluation
9 - MA - Decision Making	P2 - MA - Decision Management
10 - Systems and Project Management	P5 - Integrated Management
11 - Organisational Management	P4 - Organisational Management and Information Systems

Note:

1. Candidates who, by the end of January 2005, have passed Paper 5 Business Taxation, BUT have not passed Paper 6 Financial Accounting, will be required to sit the new paper in Financial Accounting and Tax Principles (offered from May 2005 onwards).
2. Candidates who, by the end of January 2005, have passed Paper 6 Financial Accounting, BUT have not passed Paper 5 Business Tax, will be required to sit and pass either:
 - ◆ the new Paper 7 Financial Accounting and Tax Principles (offered from May 2005 onwards), or alternatively
 - ◆ the new CIMA Professional Development certificate level award in Business Taxation (offered from February 2005 onwards)

to gain exemption from the new paper P7.

Strategic Level

Current Final Level Syllabus	New Strategic Level Syllabus & TOPCIMA
12 - MA - Business Strategy	P6 - MA - Business Strategy
13 - MA - Financial Strategy	P9 - MA - Financial Strategy
14 - MA - Information Strategy	P3 - MA - Risk and Control Strategy
15 - MA - Case Study	P10 - Test of Professional Competence in Management Accounting (TOPCIMA)

**You can view your personal transition arrangements online by visiting
www.cimglobal.com/cimaonline**

FAQs

<p>Question 1: Will there be pilot papers for the new syllabus, so I can see the differences between the new papers and the old ones?</p>	<p>Answer: Yes. Pilot papers are available on the website at www.cimaglobal.com/professionalqualifications. A series of support guides is also available for the new syllabus papers, also on the website, at www.cimaglobal.com/professionalqualifications. These guides discuss key transition issues related to each paper.</p>
<p>Question 2: I have passed the old paper 4 (Finance). Do I get no credit at all for this?</p>	<p>Answer: Not directly. There is no corresponding paper in the new syllabus, but you should note that most of the content of IFIN is still in the Managerial Level syllabus. You also get a head start over other students when you sit the new paper 9, as you will already have covered part of that syllabus (see student guide S10).</p>
<p>Question 3: I have passed two of the Final Level papers, but not the Case Study. Can I sit the remaining Strategic Level paper and TOPCIMA together?</p>	<p>Answer: No. Under the new arrangements, you can't sit TOPCIMA until you have completed the Strategic Level.</p>