

A Level Accounting



Student Handbook 2023 - 2025

What is my exam board? AQA

Specific resources and specification details can be found here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/accounting/as-and-a-level/accounting-7127>

Task: over the summer you need to become familiar with the AQA website and past resources

What is Accounting?

Accounting is the recording of financial transactions plus storing, sorting, retrieving, summarizing, and presenting the information in various reports and analyses. Accountants prepare financial information for key stakeholders to use in order to make informed decisions about the best possible course of action.

Why is Accounting useful?

Accounting is a discipline that will allow you to understand how the business world calculates profit and loss as well as understanding how we can calculate worth. It will give you valuable insights as to how a Business can improve its position. Accountants predominantly use Quantitative information, however, Qualitative information is also important in order to be able to make the best decision possible for the firm.

Why study Accounting?

Accounting is a study of real world skills. What you learn in Accounting over these two years will enable you to jump straight into a degree or an apprenticeship and have a major advantage over the knowledge of others. You will be more employable and have organisational skills that employer's value.

What skills do you need in Accounting?

You must have good numeracy skills and be able to understand rules to process transactions. Having strong literacy skills will enable you to write extended answers to questions that require evaluation and analysis. Accounting is not just about numbers, it is mostly about what those numbers represent. You must be persistent, never giving up when you don't understand key topics, you must be able to work independently and research widely beyond the text book as well as

committing more than 4 hours per week to your study beyond your normal lesson.

What do Accountants do?

Accountants work for their clients, providing them with valuable and timely information to enable them to make informed decisions. Accountants work mostly for Accounting Firms who have a range of different clients. Some Accountants (called Management Accountants) work for one firm only doing a range of accounting work that a normal Accountant would not. Accountants complete the preparation of financial statements, normally called the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Position, as well as completing any tax return to HMRC.

Expectations

Due to the demands of A Level a lot is expected of you in order for you to maximize your grade;

- Ensure you have 100% commitment to the course – if you do not you will find the amount of content overwhelming
- Ensure you have excellent attendance and punctuality. If you are going to miss a lesson then let your teacher know in advance and copy up all the work that you miss
- Get yourself organised right from the start. Buy two folders over the summer before you start next year and make sure you have the right equipment, Pen, Pencil, Calculator and Ruler.
- Ensure you complete, at the very minimum, **4 hours of private study/homework** in Accounting each week. This includes homework that your teacher sets you, additional notes to extend understanding, organising folders, reading over class work, preparing revision notes and flash cards as the unit progresses. It is important to realise that you will have considerably more work to do than Y11. Not all work is set by your teacher. You must take responsibility for your own learning. You will need to do a lot of note taking and background reading in order to prepare yourself for the longer written answers testing analysis and evaluation.
- You will need to attend revision sessions on Saturday mornings and

holiday time when they take place

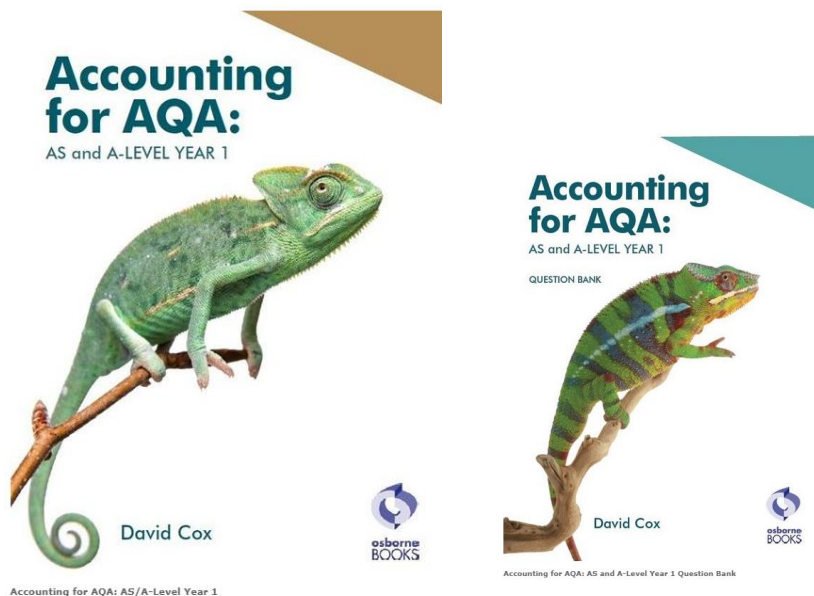
- Make sure you use all the resources that are available to you including the course text book, online resources and your teachers!

Resources

The following text book is recommended to purchase to help you with your study during the year

Course text book

Task: Please purchase a copy of the text book and Question Bank over the summer. These can be purchased from Amazon at a cost of £18 for the text book and £8 for the Question Bank book



What will I be doing at A Level?

There are currently 18 topics that must be covered over the two years including;

1. An introduction to the role of the accountant in business
2. Types of business organisation
3. The double entry model
4. Verification of accounting records
5. Accounting concepts used in the preparation of accounting records
6. Preparation of financial statements of sole traders
7. Limited company accounts
8. Analysis and evaluation of financial information
9. Budgeting
10. Marginal costing

11. Standard costing and variance analysis
12. Absorption and activity based costing
13. Capital investment appraisal
14. Accounting for organisations with incomplete records
15. Partnership accounts
16. Accounting for limited companies
17. Interpretation, analysis and communication of accounting information
18. The impact of ethical considerations

How will I be assessed at A Level?

Students will complete 2 papers in the summer of 2025 outlined below;

Paper 1
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Sections 1–8, 14–18 of the subject content</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 120 marks • 50% of A-level
<p>Questions</p> <p>Three compulsory sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A has 10 multiple choice questions and several short answer questions. The section is worth 30 marks. • Section B has two structured questions each worth 20 marks. The section is worth 40 marks. • Section C has two extended answer questions each worth 25 marks. The section is worth 50 marks.



Paper 2
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Sections 1–3, 8–13, 17–18 of the subject content</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 120 marks • 50% of A-level
<p>Questions</p> <p>Three compulsory sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A has 10 multiple choice questions and several short answer questions. The section is worth 30 marks. • Section B has two structured questions each worth 20 marks. The section is worth 40 marks. • Section C has two extended answer questions each worth 25 marks. The section is worth 50 marks.

Before the qualification can be awarded, students must undertake both the assessments.

What are the aims of the course?

Courses based on this specification are designed to encourage students to:

- develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the subject
- appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment
- develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts
- use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist
- understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives
- develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes which will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

Skills required at A Level

In order to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in Accounting, students need to have acquired competence in the quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content including:

- calculate, use and understand ratios and fractions
- calculate, use and understand percentages and percentage changes
- understand and use the terms mean, median
- construct and interpret a range of standard graphical forms
- calculate and interpret index numbers
- calculate cost, revenue and profit (average, totals)
- interpret, apply and analyse information in written, graphical and numerical forms

