

Syllabus and study guide

Taxation United Kingdom (E1 UK)

September 2027 to March 2028

Designed to help with planning study and to provide detailed information on what could be assessed in any examination session.

Contents

1. Overall aim of the syllabus.....	3
2. Introduction to the syllabus	3
3. Main capabilities	4
4. Intellectual levels	4
5. The syllabus	5
6. Detailed study guide	6
7. Approach to examining the syllabus	12
8. Guide to ACCA examination structure and delivery mode	12
9. Guide to ACCA examination assessment	12
10. Learning hours and education recognition	13

1. Overall aim of the syllabus

The overall aim of the syllabus is to develop and enable the application of technical knowledge and skills relating to the UK tax system as applicable to individuals, single companies, and groups of companies.

2. Introduction to the syllabus

The syllabus for E1 Taxation (E1 UK) starts by introducing candidates to the functions and systems applicable to UK tax, including sources of tax law and practice, the role of HM Revenue and Customs and the compliance and administrative obligations of taxpayers.

The syllabus then moves on to provide the core knowledge of the underlying principles and rules in respect of the major UK taxes as they affect the activities of individuals and businesses, beginning with income tax and national insurance contributions.

Candidates need to be able to distinguish between employment and self-employment and determine the amount of taxable income, for an employee, sole trader or partner. An important element of this is the computation of trading income and losses for an individual, including capital allowances. The syllabus then focuses on the taxation of property and investment income for individuals. Candidates also need to know the associated national insurance implications for employers, employees, and individuals with trading income.

The syllabus then addresses two capital taxes applicable to individuals; capital gains tax and inheritance tax. For capital gains tax, the syllabus covers the implications for an individual of disposing of a chargeable asset, including the computation of chargeable gains and any exemptions and reliefs which may be available. For inheritance tax, the syllabus explores how this is applied to chargeable transfers made by individuals both during their lifetime and on death.

The next technical area covered by the syllabus is corporation tax. This expands on the technical areas covered for individuals in respect of the computation of trading income or losses, of capital allowances, and investment income and chargeable gains. The contrasting treatment of these is covered and the syllabus then focuses on the calculation of a comprehensive computation of the corporation tax liability of individual companies and groups of companies.

Lastly, the syllabus covers the scope and calculation of value added tax for all businesses, incorporated and unincorporated.

3. Main capabilities

On successful completion of this course of study, candidates should be able to:

- Assess the operation and scope of the UK tax system, the obligations of taxpayers and/or their agents and the implications of non-compliance
- Analyse and calculate the income tax liabilities of individuals and the national insurance contributions payable by employees, employers and the self-employed
- Analyse and calculate chargeable gains arising on individuals and the inheritance tax liabilities of individuals
- Analyse and calculate the corporation tax liabilities of individual companies and groups of companies
- Analyse and calculate the effects of value added tax on incorporated and unincorporated businesses
- Assess the impact of relevant taxes which apply in a variety of business and personal contexts

4. Intellectual levels

The ACCA Qualification syllabus is designed to progressively broaden and deepen the technical knowledge, skills and professional values demonstrated by the candidate on their journey through the qualification.

The specific learning outcomes 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 levels of the ACCA Qualification: Knowledge, Expertise and Strategic Professional.

Each learning outcome included in the detailed study guide is given a 1, 2 or 3 superscript, denoting its intellectual level. This gives an indication of the intellectual depth at which a learning outcome could be assessed within the examination. However, while Level 1 broadly equates with the Knowledge level, Level 2 to the Expertise level and Level 3 to the Strategic Professional level of the ACCA Qualification, some lower-level skills can continue to be assessed as the candidate progresses through each level. This reflects that at each stage of study there will be the requirement to broaden, as well as deepen, capabilities.

5. The syllabus

A The UK tax system and its administration

1. UK taxes
2. Principal sources of revenue law and practice
3. The systems for self-assessment, the making of returns, submission of information, claims and the procedures relating to compliance checks, appeals and disputes

B Income tax and national insurance contributions (NIC) liabilities

1. The scope of income tax
2. Income from employment
3. Income from self-employment
4. Property and investment income
5. The comprehensive computation of taxable income and income tax liability
6. NIC for employed and self-employed persons
7. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising income tax liabilities
8. The time limits including payments on account and penalties for non-compliance

C Chargeable gains for individuals

1. The scope of the taxation of capital gains
2. The basic principles of computing gains and losses
3. Gains and losses on the disposal of movable and immovable property

4. Gains and losses on the disposal of shares and securities
5. The computation of capital gains tax and the use of exemptions and reliefs
6. The time limits including payments on account and penalties for non-compliance

D Inheritance tax

1. The basic principles of computing transfers of value
2. The liabilities arising on chargeable lifetime transfers and on the death of an individual
3. The use of exemptions in deferring and minimising inheritance tax liabilities
4. Payment of inheritance tax

E Corporation tax liabilities

1. The scope of corporation tax
2. Taxable total profits
3. Chargeable gains for companies
4. The comprehensive computation of corporation tax liability
5. The effect of a group corporate structure for corporation tax purposes
6. The time limits including payments on account and penalties for non-compliance

F Value added tax (VAT)

1. The VAT registration requirements
2. The computation of VAT liabilities
3. The effect of special schemes
4. Administration of VAT and penalties for non-compliance

6. Detailed study guide

A The UK tax system and its administration

1. UK taxes

- a) Explain the difference between direct and indirect taxation.^[1]
- b) Summarise the different types of capital and revenue tax.^[1]
- c) Recommend an appropriate ethical action or response to a given tax situation.^[2]

2. Principal sources of revenue law and practice

- a) Explain the overall structure of the UK tax system.^[1]
- b) Summarise the different sources of revenue law.^[1]
- c) Explain the role of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and its terms of reference.^[1]
- d) Compare and contrast tax avoidance and tax evasion and summarise the aim of the General Anti-Abuse Rule (GAAR).^[2]
- e) Assess the purpose of double taxation agreements.^[2]

3. The systems for self-assessment, the making of returns, submission of information, claims and the procedures relating to compliance checks, appeals and disputes

- a) Analyse the features of the self-assessment system and apply to individuals.^[2]
- b) Analyse the features of the self-assessment system and apply to companies, including the use of iXBRL.^[2]

- c) Apply the time limits to the filing of returns and the making of claims.^[2]
- d) Summarise the information and records that taxpayers need to retain for tax purposes.^[1]
- e) Analyse the circumstances in which HMRC can make a compliance check into a self-assessment tax return.^[2]
- f) Analyse the procedures for dealing with appeals and First and Upper Tier Tribunals.^[2]

B Income tax and national insurance contributions (NIC) liabilities

1. The scope of income tax

- a) Explain how the residence of an individual is determined.^[1]

2. Income from employment

- a) Assess the factors which determine whether an engagement is treated as employment or self-employment.^[2]
- b) Analyse the basis of assessment for employment income.^[2]
- c) Calculate the income assessable.^[2]
- d) Analyse the allowable deductions, including travelling expenses.^[2]
- e) Apply and calculate statutory approved mileage allowances.^[2]
- f) Explain the PAYE system, how benefits can be payrolled, and the purpose of form P11D.^[1]
- g) Calculate the amount of benefits assessable.^[2]
- h) Assess the circumstances in which real time reporting late filing penalties will be

imposed on an employer and calculate the amount of penalty.^[2]

3. Income from self-employment

- a) Contrast the basis of assessment for self-employment income under both cash and accruals bases.^[2]
- b) Apply the badges of trade.^[2]
- c) Analyse the expenditure that is allowable in calculating the tax-adjusted trading profit.^[2]
- d) Analyse the relief which can be obtained for pre-trading expenditure.^[2]
- e) Capital allowances:
 - (i) Explain what constitutes plant and machinery for capital allowances purposes.^[1]
 - (ii) Calculate writing down allowances, first-year allowances and the annual investment allowance.^[2]
 - (iii) Calculate capital allowances for cars.^[2]
 - (iv) Calculate balancing allowances and balancing charges.^[2]
 - (v) Calculate structures and buildings allowances.^[2]
 - (vi) Assess and apply the treatment of short life assets.^[2]
 - (vii) Assess and apply the treatment of assets included in the special rate pool.^[2]
- f) Relief for trading losses:
 - (i) Analyse how trading losses can be carried forward.^[2]
 - (ii) Analyse how trading losses can be claimed against total income and chargeable gains, and the restrictions that can apply.^[2]
 - (iii) Analyse and calculate the relief for trading losses in the early years of a trade.^[2]
 - (iv) Analyse and calculate terminal loss relief.^[2]

(v) Analyse the factors which will influence the choice of loss relief claim.^[2]

- g) Partnerships and limited liability partnerships:

- (i) Analyse and calculate how a partnership is assessed to tax.^[2]
- (ii) Calculate the assessable profits for each partner following a change in the profit-sharing ratio or a change in the membership of the partnership.^[2]
- (iii) Explain the alternative loss relief claims which are available to partners.^[1]

4. Property and investment income

- a) Calculate property business profits.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply rent-a-room relief.^[2]
- c) Calculate the amount assessable when a premium is received for the grant of a short lease.^[2]
- d) Analyse and apply the restriction on property income finance costs.^[2]
- e) Analyse how relief for a property business loss is given.^[2]
- f) Calculate the tax payable on savings and dividend income.^[2]
- g) Assess and apply the treatment of individual savings accounts (ISAs) and other tax-exempt investments.^[2]
- h) Assess and apply how the accrued income scheme applies to UK Government securities (gilts).^[2]

5. The comprehensive computation of taxable income and income tax liability

- a) Prepare a basic income tax computation involving different types of income.^[2]
- b) Calculate the amount of personal allowance available.^[2]

- c) Analyse the impact of the transferable amount of personal allowance for spouses and civil partners.^[2]
- d) Calculate the amount of income tax payable.^[2]
- e) Assess and apply the treatment of interest paid for a qualifying purpose.^[2]
- f) Assess and apply the treatment of gift aid donations and charitable giving.^[2]
- g) Assess and calculate the child benefit tax charge.^[2]
- h) Explain the treatment of property owned jointly by a married couple, or by a couple in a civil partnership.^[1]

6. NIC for employed and self-employed persons

- a) Assess and calculate NIC in respect of Class 1 and Class 1A, and Class 4.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply the annual employment allowance.^[2]

7. The use of exemptions and reliefs in deferring and minimising income tax liabilities

- a) Assess and calculate the relief given for contributions to personal pension schemes and to occupational pension schemes.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply how a married couple or a couple in a civil partnership can minimise their tax liabilities.^[2]

8. The time limits including payments on account and penalties for non-compliance

- a) Apply the due dates for the payment of taxes under the self-assessment system and calculate payments on account and balancing payments/repayments for individuals.^[2]

- b) Calculate late payment interest and the penalties which can be applied.^[2]

C Chargeable gains for individuals

1. The scope of the taxation of capital gains

- a) Analyse the scope of, and application of, capital gains tax.^[2]
- b) Explain which assets are exempt.^[1]

2. The basic principles of computing gains and losses

- a) Calculate and analyse the treatment of capital gains and losses.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply the treatment of transfers between a married couple or between a couple in a civil partnership.^[2]
- c) Calculate the amount of allowable expenditure for a part disposal.^[2]
- d) Analyse the treatment where an asset is damaged, lost or destroyed, and the implications of receiving insurance proceeds and reinvesting such proceeds.^[2]

3. Gains and losses on the disposal of movable and immovable property

- a) Assess when chattels and wasting assets are exempt and calculate the chargeable gain or allowable loss when disposed of.^[2]
- b) Calculate the chargeable gain when a private residence is disposed of.^[2]

4. Gains and losses on the disposal of shares and securities

- a) Assess the value of quoted shares where they are disposed of by way of a gift.^[2]

- b) Assess the identification rules and apply to individuals including the same day and 30 day matching rules.^[2]
- c) Apply the pooling provisions.^[2]
- d) Apply the treatment of bonus issues, rights issues, takeovers and reorganisations.^[2]
- e) Explain the exemption available for gilt-edged securities and qualifying corporate bonds.^[1]

5. The computation of capital gains tax and the use of exemptions and reliefs

- a) Calculate the amount of capital gains tax payable.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply capital gains tax reliefs:^[2]
 - (i) rollover relief
 - (ii) gift holdover relief for the gift of business assets
 - (iii) business asset disposal relief
 - (iv) investors' relief

6. The time limits including payments on account and penalties for non-compliance

- a) Apply the due dates for the payment of taxes under the self-assessment system and calculate payments on account and balancing payments/repayments for individuals.^[2]
- b) Calculate late payment interest and the penalties which can be applied.^[2]

D Inheritance tax

1. The basic principles of computing transfers of value

- a) Explain which persons are chargeable.^[1]
- b) Assess and apply the meaning of transfer of value, chargeable transfer and potentially exempt transfer.^[2]

- c) Assess and apply the diminution in value principle.^[2]
- d) Analyse and apply the seven-year accumulation principle taking into account changes in the level of the nil rate band.^[2]

2. The liabilities arising on chargeable lifetime transfers and on the death of an individual

- a) Analyse and apply the tax implications of lifetime transfers and compute the relevant liabilities.^[2]
- b) Analyse and calculate the tax liability on a death estate.^[2]
- c) Assess and apply the transfer of any unused nil rate band between spouses and civil partners.^[2]
- d) Assess and apply the residence nil rate band available when a residential property is inherited by direct descendants.^[2]

3. The use of exemptions in deferring and minimising inheritance tax liabilities

- a) Assess and apply the following exemptions:^[2]
 - (i) small gifts exemption
 - (ii) annual exemption
 - (iii) normal expenditure out of income
 - (iv) gifts in consideration of marriage
 - (v) gifts between spouses and civil partners

4. Payment of inheritance tax

- a) Assess who is responsible for the payment of inheritance tax and the due date for payment of inheritance tax.^[2]

E Corporation tax liabilities

1. The scope of corporation tax

- a) Explain the terms ‘period of account’, ‘accounting period’, and ‘financial year’.^[1]
- b) Apply the rules to determine when an accounting period starts and then an accounting period finishes.^[2]
- c) Assess the residence of a company.^[2]

2. Taxable total profits

- a) Analyse the expenditure that is allowable in calculating the tax-adjusted trading profit.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply the relief which can be obtained for pre-trading expenditure.^[2]
- c) Calculate capital allowances:
 - (i) as for income tax.^[2]
 - (ii) on purchases and disposals of assets on which the 100% and 50% first year allowances have been claimed.^[2]
 - (iii) for disposal of assets on which the main pool super deduction of 130% and special rate pool first year allowance of 50% for expenditure incurred from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023 were claimed.^[2]
- d) Calculate property business profits and explain how relief for a property business loss is given.^[2]
- e) Analyse how trading losses can be carried forward.^[2]
- f) Analyse how trading losses can be claimed against income of the current or previous accounting periods.^[2]
- g) Assess and apply the factors which will influence the choice of loss relief claim.^[2]
- h) Assess and apply the treatment of interest paid and received under the loan relationship rules.^[2]
- i) Assess and apply the treatment of qualifying charitable donations.^[2]

- j) Calculate taxable total profits.^[2]

3. Chargeable gains for companies

- a) Calculate chargeable gains.^[2]
- b) Explain and calculate the indexation allowance available using a given indexation factor.^[1]
- c) Explain and calculate the treatment of capital losses.^[1]
- d) Analyse the treatment of disposals of shares by companies and apply the identification rules including the same day and nine day matching rules.^[2]
- e) Apply the pooling provisions.^[2]
- f) Apply the treatment of bonus issues, rights issues, takeovers and reorganisations.^[2]
- g) Assess and apply rollover relief.^[2]

4. The comprehensive computation of corporation tax liability

- a) Calculate the corporate tax liability and apply marginal relief.^[2]

5. The effect of a group corporate structure for corporation tax purposes

- a) Assess if a 75% group exists and apply the reliefs that are available to members of such a group.^[2]
- b) Assess if a 75% chargeable gains group exists and apply the reliefs that are available to members of such a group.^[2]

6. The time limits including payments on account and penalties for non-compliance

- a) Apply the due dates for payment of tax for companies, including how large companies are required to account for corporation tax on a quarterly basis and

calculate the quarterly instalment payments.^[2]

- b) Calculate late payment interest and the penalties which can be applied.^[2]

F Value added tax (VAT)

1. The VAT registration requirements

- a) Assess the circumstances in which a person must register or deregister for VAT (compulsory) and when a person may register or deregister for VAT (voluntary).^[2]
- b) Assess the circumstances in which pre-registration input VAT can be recovered.^[2]
- c) Explain the conditions which must be met for two or more companies to be treated as a group for VAT purposes and the consequences of being so treated.^[1]

2. The computation of VAT liabilities

- a) Calculate the amount of VAT payable/recoverable.^[2]
- b) Assess and apply the tax point when goods or services are supplied.^[2]
- c) Assess and apply the principles regarding the valuation of supplies.^[2]
- d) Summarise the treatment of zero rated and exempt supplies.^[1]
- e) Analyse and apply the circumstances in which input VAT is non-deductible.^[2]
- f) Analyse and apply the relief that is available for impairment losses on trade debts.^[2]
- g) Assess and apply the treatment of the sale of a business as a going concern.^[2]
- h) Analyse and apply the VAT treatment of imports, exports and trade outside the UK.^[2]

- i) Assess and apply postponed accounting for VAT on imports.^[2]

3. The effect of special schemes

- a) Analyse the operation of, and when it will be advantageous to use, the VAT special schemes, the cash accounting scheme, the annual accounting scheme and the flat rate scheme.^[2]

4. Administration of VAT and penalties for non-compliance

- a) Analyse how VAT is accounted for and administered.^[2]
- b) Calculate late payment interest and the penalties which can be applied.^[2]

7. Approach to examining the syllabus

The syllabus for E1 Taxation (E1 UK) is assessed by a three-hour computer-based examination.

The examination will consist of three sections:

Section A will contain 15 two-mark objective test questions (OTs).

Section B will contain three 10-mark case questions, each comprising of five two-mark OTs which are based around a common scenario.

Section C will contain two 20-mark constructed response questions. These questions will be scenario based and will have a number of requirements.

Section A will test across the whole syllabus. The case questions in Section B will each focus specifically on any one of the five sections (B to F) of the E1 UK syllabus. The two constructed response questions in Section C will be based on an individual scenario and on a business scenario and may include, in addition to syllabus sections B and E, elements from any section of the syllabus.

Tax rates, allowances and information on certain reliefs will be given in the examination.

8. Guide to ACCA examination structure and delivery mode

The structure of examinations varies, depending on the level of the qualification.

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

All Expertise examinations are assessed by three-hour computer-based examinations.

The pass mark for all Expertise examinations is 50%.

9. Guide to ACCA 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 specified financial accounting, audit and tax examinations, except if 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. Regulation issued, or legislation passed on or before 31 August annually, will be assessed from 1 September of the following year to 31 August of the year after. Please refer to the examinable documents for the examination (where relevant) for further information.

Regulations issued or legislation passed in accordance with the above dates may be examinable if the effective date is in the future, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the syllabus and study guide or examinable documents. The terms ‘issued’ or ‘passed’ relate to when regulation or legislation has been formally approved.

The term ‘effective’ relates to when regulation or legislation must be applied to entity 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, where applicable.

For UK tax, examinations falling within the period 1 June to 31 March will generally examine the Finance Act which was passed in the previous year. Examinations falling in the period 1 September 2027 to 31 March 2028 will examine the Finance Act 2026 and any examinable legislation which is passed outside of the Finance Act before 31 May 2026. Note: the examination in June 2027 will examine Finance Act 2025 and any examinable legislation which is passed before 31 May 2025.

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.

10. 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 candidates 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 qualifications are recognised and valued by governments and regulatory authorities and employers across all sectors. To this end, ACCA qualifications are currently recognised on the educational frameworks in several countries. Please refer to your national education framework regulator for further information about recognition.