Hong Kong Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
香港會計師公會

HKICPA Aptitude Test – Hong Kong Taxation

HKICPA PROFICIENCY LEVELS AND TAXONOMY

The proficiency level indicated in the table below reflects the level at which the topics covered in each particular learning outcome are tested. There are three levels of proficiency:

- Level 1 is the foundational level, covering the skills of knowledge and comprehension.
- Level 2 is the intermediate level, covering the skills of application and analysis.
- Level 3 is the advanced level, covering the skills of integration and evaluation

You are expected to understand which skill is exercised based on the taxonomy verbs with which it is associated.
Please note that the list of taxonomy verbs below is for reference only and does not represent an exhaustive list.

Level 1: Foundation	Level 2: Intermediate	Level 3: Advanced
Knowledge The remembering of previously learned material (recall of facts)	**Application** Using new knowledge. Solve problems to new situations by applying acquired knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a different way	**Integration** Compile information together in a different way by combining elements in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions
Comprehension Demonstrative understanding of facts and ideas by organising, comparing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions and stating main ideas	**Analysis** Examine and break information into parts by identifying motives or causes. Make inferences and find evidence to support generalisation	**Evaluation** The ability to judge the value of material for a given purpose

The syllabus weighting table indicates the relative weightings of the syllabus areas encompassed in this Aptitude Test paper. It serves as a guide to the percentage of study time spent on each syllabus area. In the long run, the marks allocation in this Aptitude Test paper would conform to the weightings as shown above. The exact range of marks allocation in this Aptitude Test paper may deviate from the weightings for suitably robust questions to be set.

SYLLABUS AREA		
Principal Learning Outcomes	**Supporting Learning Outcomes**	**Proficiency Level**
Demonstrate an Understanding of the Tax System and Administration in Hong Kong	**State, describe and apply the following key aspects of the tax system in Hong Kong**	
	Principles of taxation	1
	Types of tax	1
	Sources of Hong Kong tax law – statute, case law, Board of Review decisions	1
	Interpretation of tax statutes	1
	The Basic Law	1
	Departmental Interpretation and Practice Notes	1
	Structure and administration of the Inland Revenue Department	1
	Duties and powers of officers of the Inland Revenue Department, and official secrecy	1
	Obligations and liabilities of a taxpayer, his agent or an executor	1
	Returns, offences and penalties	1
	Assessments, additional assessments and provisional assessments	1

SYLLABUS AREA		
Principal Learning Outcomes	**Supporting Learning Outcomes**	**Proficiency Level**
Demonstrate an Understanding of the Tax System and Administration in Hong Kong (Cont'd)	**State, describe and apply the following key aspects of the tax system in Hong Kong**	
	Payment, recovery, holding over and refund of tax	1
	Objections, appeals and claims	2
	Board of Review	1
	Board of Inland Revenue	2
Apply Tax Rules and Principles and Calculate Tax Liabilities for Property Tax, Salaries Tax, Profits Tax, Personal Assessment and Stamp Duty in Hong Kong	**Describe, explain and analyse the following tax issues as they impact and interact on transactions, individuals and entities:**	
	Property tax	
	Scope of property tax charge	2
	Chargeable property and owners of land and/or buildings	2
	Salaries tax	
	Scope of salaries tax charge	2
	Time basis assessment	2
	Incomes	2
	Benefits in kind, housing benefits, share-based benefits and holiday journey benefits	2
	Lump sum receipts	2
	Expenses and deductions	2
	Losses	1
	Personal allowances	2
	Separate taxation on spouses and joint assessment	2

SYLLABUS AREA		
Principal Learning Outcomes	**Supporting Learning Outcomes**	**Proficiency Level**
Apply Tax Rules and Principles and Calculate Tax Liabilities for Property Tax, Salaries Tax, Profits Tax, Personal Assessment and Stamp Duty in Hong Kong (Cont'd)	**Describe, explain and analyse the following tax issues as they impact and interact on transactions, individuals and entities:**	
	Profits tax	
	Scope of profits tax charge	1
	Badges of trade	2
	Source of profits	2
	Deemed trading receipts	2
	Distinction between capital and revenue items	2
	General deductions and specific deductions	2
	Cessation and post-cessation receipts and payments	1
	Partnerships, joint ventures and allocation of profit/loss	2
	Losses	2
	Depreciation allowances: plant and machinery	2
	Depreciation allowances: industrial buildings and commercial buildings	2
	Personal assessment	
	Election for personal assessment	2
	Stamp duty	
	Scope of stamp duty charge	1
	Conveyance on sale of immovable property	2
	Agreement for sale of immovable property	2
	Lease of immovable property	2
	Hong Kong stock	2

SYLLABUS AREA		
Principal Learning Outcomes	**Supporting Learning Outcomes**	**Proficiency Level**
Apply Tax Rules and Principles and Calculate Tax Liabilities for Property Tax, Salaries Tax, Profits Tax, Personal Assessment and Stamp Duty in Hong Kong (Cont'd)	**Describe, explain and analyse the following tax issues as they impact and interact on transactions, individuals and entities:**	
	Stamp duty	
	Hong Kong bearer instrument, duplicate and counterpart	2
	Voluntary disposition inter vivos	1
	Exemptions and reliefs	1
	Adjudication, assessment and administration	1
	Calculate the following tax liabilities for transactions, individuals and entities:	
	Property tax	
	Ascertainment of property tax liability	2
	Salaries tax	
	Ascertainment of salaries tax liability	2
	Profits tax	
	Ascertainment of profits tax liability	2
	Personal assessment	
	Ascertainment of tax liability under personal assessment	2
	Stamp duty	
	Ascertainment of stamp duty liability	2
Apply Profits Tax Rules and Principles and Calculate Profits Tax Liabilities for Cross-border Transactions	Explain and analyse the tax implications and calculate the tax liabilities for cross-border transactions	2

Last reviewed on 12 June 2026

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Hong Kong Taxation

Suggested Reading List

Essential Readings:

(1)	Tables of Personal Allowances and Deductions, Tax Rates, Stamp Duty Rates: to be provided in the examination paper.
(2)	Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Qualification Programme Associate Module 9 – Principles of Taxation: Learning pack, 4th Edition, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2023.
(3)	Patrick Kin-wai Ho, Kelvin Po-lung Mak. Hong Kong Taxation and Tax Planning, 23rd Edition, Pilot Publishing, 2025.
(4)	The Inland Revenue Department website: https://ird.gov.hk
(5)	E-legislation website - Inland Revenue Ordinance: https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap112
(6)	E-legislation website - Stamp Duty Ordinance: https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap117

Additional Readings:

(1)	Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Qualification Programme Professional Module 14 – Taxation: Learning pack, 2nd Edition, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2023.
(2)	BDO Tax Limited. Hong Kong Master Tax Guide 2025-26, 33rd Edition, Wolters Kluwer (HK), 2025.

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