

HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (“PC”) EXAMINATIONS Syllabus for the Paper PC-Business Assurance

Note:

1. The syllabus of this paper adopts that of Module C (Business Assurance) of the Institute’s Qualification Programme.
2. Updated version of the Learning Pack designed for Module C will be available for sale around 3 months prior to the Examinations.
3. Candidates should refer to the Learning Outcomes in the Module C Learning Pack for more details on the topics that are listed below.

Competency level

1. Professional standards and guidance

Identify and where appropriate apply ethical standards, legislation and professional guidance:

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| • The Institute’s Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants | 3 |
| • Professional Standards and guidance | 3 |
| • Legal and regulatory framework governing the profession | 3 |

2. Assurance engagements

Apply relevant Hong Kong Standards on Quality Control, Auditing, Assurance and Related Services, guidance and legislation to plan, perform and complete assurance engagements including the audits of financial statements with emphases on:

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| • Audit requirements for a complete set of general purpose financial statements | 3 |
| • Other assurance engagement requirements | 2 |
| • Client and engagement acceptance procedures | 3 |
| • Audit methodologies | 3 |
| • Planning and risk assessment | 3 |
| • Quality control considerations | 3 |
| • Documentation | 3 |
| • Materiality | 3 |
| • Audit procedures | 3 |
| • Audit evidence | 3 |
| • Internal audit | 2 |
| • Completion procedures | 3 |
| • Reporting | 3 |

3. Corporate governance

Describe current developments and issues in corporate governance and explain the impact that will have on management, assurance engagements and auditors' responsibilities:

- Background to corporate governance developments 2
- Key issues relating to corporate governance including directors' remunerations, board composition, audit committee and non-controlling interest 2
- Management's responsibilities to comply with corporate governance requirements and to implement related practices 3
- Auditors' responsibilities to consider and address corporate governance requirements 3
- Implications of overseas legislation such as Sarbanes-Oxley Act on HK companies and auditors 2

4. Computerized business systems

Discuss the features of computerized business systems and assess and advise on risk and control frameworks:

- Key features of a computerized business system 3
- Categories and types of controls 3
- Impact of increasing use and share of ownership by accountants in corporate information system 2
- Impact of e-commerce 3
- Opportunities and threats to corporate information system including capabilities in data treatment and analysis, data integrity, system security and issues in access restriction, and business contingency/continuity 2
- Risk and control framework 3
- Internal audit 3
- System change processes 2
- Risk assessment and evaluation of IT processes 2