



ACCA

Performance Management (PM)

Pocket Notes

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The exam

Section A of the examination comprises 15 objective test questions (OT) of 2 marks each. Section B comprises three objective test cases (OT cases), each of which includes 5 OT questions of 2 marks each. Section C comprises two 20 marks constructed response (i.e. long) questions.

There will be an even mixture of written requirements and computational requirements. The Section A and Section B questions can cover any area of the syllabus.

The two 20 mark questions in Section C will test decision-making techniques, budgeting and control and/or performance measurement and control areas of the syllabus.

The examiner's key concerns

- Students need to be able to interpret any numbers they calculate and see the limitations of their financial analysis.
- In particular financial performance indicators may give a limited perspective and NFPIs are often needed to see the full picture.
- Questions will be practical and realistic, so will not dwell on unnecessary academic complications.
- Many questions will be designed so discussion aspects can be attempted even if students have struggled with calculation aspects.

Exam technique

Time management

A common problem on this type of paper is that students spend too long on calculations and don't have enough time to do themselves justice on the discussion aspects. Allocate your time and stick to it!

Question requirements and answer content

Ensure you read each question requirement at least twice before you start, and again when you have finished answering it. Have you actually addressed the requirement? If the question says for example, 'discuss the issues to be considered when switching to ZBB' – don't then simply describe ZBB; discuss the issues when switching!

Reading time

The CBE exam duration is of 3 hours, plus 10 minutes to read pre-exam instructions.

The 10 minutes reading time should be spent on reading and planning to develop a structure to your answers.

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