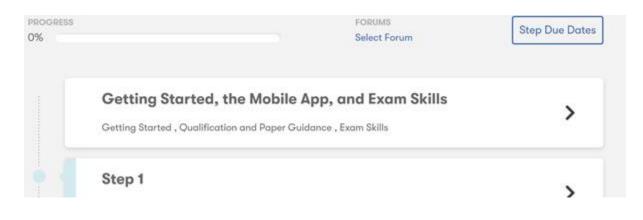
ACCA Audit and Assurance (AA) Online Classroom Study Guidance

Getting started

Welcome to your Online Classroom (OCR) taught phase course. If you are new to studying online, before you begin you may find it useful to access the 'Getting Started' guidance above step 1 in the Hub:

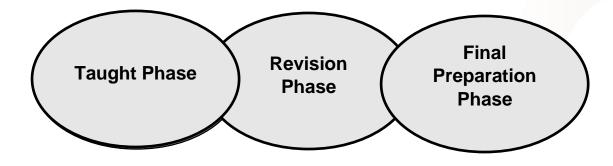


Forums

If you have a question at any point, you can post this to the online classroom forum for this paper, where a tutor will respond.

To access the forums, click the button just above the 'Getting Started' section, as shown in the screenshot above. Even if you don't have a question to ask, it is worth accessing the forum to review the questions asked by other students, as you may find the tutor responses helpful to you.





Taught Phase

The emphasis of this first stage is studying the syllabus and gaining the knowledge required to attempt exam questions. During this stage you will work through each chapter of the Audit and Assurance Workbook and Steps 1-6 of the Achievement Ladder.

Revision Phase

During this stage the emphasis is on practising exam-standard questions to learn how to apply your knowledge and develop your exam technique. During this phase you will attempt Step 7 of the Achievement Ladder.

Final Preparation Phase

The aim here is to bring all of your skills and knowledge together in a final mock exam: Step 8 of the Achievement Ladder.

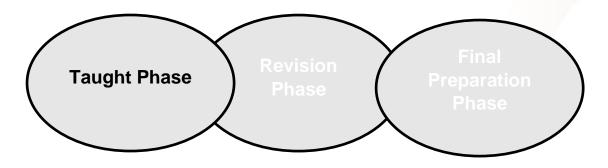
The Hub contains all the information, documents and videos for your course. The different phases of your course are clearly identified in different steps so you can easily find them.

Before you begin the Taught Phase, please take some time looking at the information provided in the **Introduction** section, in particular:

- Watch the Introduction to Audit and Assurance and Introduction to exam skills videos.
- Review the ACCA AA Support Resources and the ACCA AA Practice Experience Requirement (PER) Support.
- Refresh your understanding of the Assumed Knowledge topics from Financial Accounting.



Taught Phase



This guidance will take you through the Taught Phase of your course. The emphasis of the Taught Phase is on gaining the knowledge and beginning to develop the skills in order to attempt exam questions. During this Phase you will work through the Audit and Assurance Workbook, using the online lectures to guide you. You will also work through Steps 1-6 of the Achievement Ladder. The Taught Phase is divided into 6 Achievement Ladder Steps, when you have covered all the chapters in that step, you should attempt the relevant Achievement Ladder Step.

Step 1

This guidance gives a total of approximately **8.5 hours of study*** for Step 1 of the course.

Chapter 1 – The concept of audit and other assurance engagements	90 minutes
Key areas	
 The objective of an audit The format and contents of the auditor's report (initial understanding only as this is covered in chapter 20) Limitations of the audit Definition and elements of an assurance engagement 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the online lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	60 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
Section A: Q16, Q17	30
Section B: Audit and assurance engagements	minutes



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Chapter 2 – Statutory audit and regulation	60 minutes
Key areas	
Auditor rights and duties	
Appointment, removal and resignation	
The role of IFAC and the IAASB	
Online Lecture	
• Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Workbook.	30 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q18, Q19 Section B: Standards 	30 minutes

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Chapter 3 – Corporate Governance	120 minutes
Key areas	
The UK Corporate Governance CodeAudit committees	
Online Lecture	
• Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pausing the lecture to have a go at the activities.	60 minutes
• Activity 1 is a really practical example which enables you to see how corporate governance reporting should clearly explain the process by which a business is directed and controlled.	
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q1 to 5 Section B: Corporate governance 	60 minutes



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Chapter 4 – Internal audit	120 minutes
Key areas	
 Nature and purpose of internal audit assignments The difference between internal and external auditors Using the work of internal auditors 	
Online Lecture	
• Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pausing the activities to have a go at the lecture examples yourself if you are feeling confident with the content.	60 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
• Section A: Q1 to 5, Q20, Q25, Q27, Q30 and Q31	60
Section B: ZX	minutes

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Skills Checkpoint 1 – How to approach your AA exam	60 minutes
Watch the online lecture which takes you through the recommended approach before writing up your answer to the question. Make sure you work through the suggested solution as this will reinforce your understanding.	

Achievement Ladder Step 1	60 minutes
Now you have covered chapters 1 to 4 of the Workbook, you are ready to take your first step towards exam success!	
Achievement Ladder Step 1 is an opportunity to consolidate your knowledge and see how far you have come. You are then able to concentrate on any weaknesses before moving onto the next part of your studies.	
This Step is an online test, based on topics covered so far, and is auto-marked. Make sure you work through the feedback very carefully, covering the questions you answered correctly as well as those you didn't. You will both reinforce and extend your understanding of the syllabus content if you do this.	
Estimated timings:	
 Attempting Step 1: 40 minutes Reviewing feedback carefully: 20 minutes. 	



This guidance gives a total of approximately 8 hours of study* for Step 2 of the course.

Chapter 5 – Professional ethics and quality management procedures	180 minutes
Key areas	
 The fundamental principles and threats to the fundamental principles The difference between internal and external auditors Engagement letters Quality management 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. Section 2 is a key area and highly examinable and so you should spend time going through the detailed guidance. You are not expected to memorise this in detail – knowledge of the principles will take you a long way in most questions, but if you are familiar with the detail it will help you identify these factors in questions and enhance your answers and gain extra marks. 	120 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q22 and Q23 Section B: Independence, Confidentiality and independence 	60 minutes

Chapter 6 – Risk assessment	180 minutes
Key areas	
 Audit risk and its component parts Materiality Fraud, laws and regulations 	
Online Lecture	
• Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections o the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself.	90 minutes
• This chapter gives you a very practical insight to risk assessment. Activity 1 aims to show you how risk could be tested through a scenario question in the exam. You need some background knowledge to be able to attempt questions like these but the knowledge is actually only a tiny portion of the question. What is important is that you can identify issues from the scenario	



and then develop these to show how these issues can alert the auditor to a potential audit risk.	
• In the exam describing an audit risk will score 1 mark as here you need to apply your knowledge and explain why you are concerned in terms of which balances could be over or understated in the financial statements or which disclosures could be omitted/misleading. Similarly audit risk could describe areas that could cause a problem during the audit (for example, lack of explanation due to loss of personnel, new accounting systems, going concern worries).	
• Explaining the auditor's response to the risk will also score 1 mark. Note that you do not need to write out specific audit procedures (tests), rather you simply need to describe the type of audit work the auditor would do, for example "obtain and review an analysis of the costs to determine whether revenue costs have been capitalised".	
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
• Section A: Q25, Q27, Q30 and Q31	90 minutes
Section B: Stone Holidays, Parker, Heels and Turbo	

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Skills Checkpoint 2 – How to approach audit risk questions	60 minutes
Watch the online lecture which takes you through the recommended approach before writing up your answer to the question. Make sure you work through the suggested solution as this will reinforce your understanding.	

Achievement Ladder Step 2	60 minutes
Now you have covered chapters 5 and 6 in the Workbook, you are ready to take your next step towards exam success!	
Achievement Ladder Step 2 consists of two objective test (OT) case questions, based on topics you have studied so far. Each OT case is worth 10 marks and comprises five individual OT questions worth two marks each.	
Estimated timing:	
 Attempting Step 2: 40 minutes Reviewing feedback carefully: 20 minutes. 	



This guidance gives a total of approximately **10 hours of study*** for Step 3 of the course.

Chapter 7 – Audit planning and documentation	60 minutes
Key areas	
The objectives of audit planningAudit strategyAudit plan	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook. 	30 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
Section A: Q28 and Q32	30
Section B: Audit planning and documentation	minutes

Chapter 8 – Introduction to audit evidence	90 minutes
Key areas	
 Financial statement assertions Procedures for obtaining audit evidence Tests of controls vs. substantive procedures 	
Online Lecture	
• Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself.	60 minutes
• There are two main types of audit procedures: tests of controls and substantive procedures. The examining team often state that students do not seem confident as to the difference between the two so you focus some time looking at Section 5.	



Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q40 Section B: Audit evidence considerations 	30 minutes

Chapter 9 - Internal controls	90 minutes
Key areas	
 Systems of internal control Limitations of systems of internal control Recording accounting and control systems General controls and information processing controls 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	60 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
Section A: Q33 and Q34	30
Section B: Internal control systems	minutes

Chapter 10 – Tests of control	180 minutes
Key areas	
 Sales system Purchases system Payroll system Cash system Non-current assets Communication with those charged with governance 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	120 minutes



Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
Section A: Q35 to Q39	60 minutes
Section B: Fenton distributors, Cheque payments and petty cash	

Skills Checkpoint 3 – How to approach internal control questions	60 minutes
Watch the online lecture which takes you through the recommended approach before writing up your answer to the question. Make sure you work through the suggested solution as this will reinforce your understanding.	

Achievement Ladder Step 3	120 minutes
Achievement Ladder Step 3 consists of 20 objective test (OT) questions, based on topics you have studied so far. Each OTQ is worth two marks. This step is auto-marked. Make sure you work through the feedback very carefully, covering the questions you answered correctly as well as those you didn't. You will both reinforce and extend your understanding of the syllabus content if you do this.	
Estimated timing:	
 Attempting Step 3: 80 minutes Reviewing feedback carefully: 40 minutes 	

This guidance gives a total of approximately **8 hours of study*** for Step 4 of the course.

Chapter 11 – Audit sampling and automated tools and techniques	120 minutes
Key areas	
 Types of sampling Audit software and test data Audit data analytics 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	60 minutes



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Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
Section A: Q42	60 minutes
Section B: Elsams	minutes

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Chapter 12 – Non-current assets	100 minutes
Key areas	
 Tangible non-current assets Using the work of a management's expert Auditing accounting estimates Intangible non-current assets (IAS 38 criteria) 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	40 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	60
• Section A: Q6, Q7, Q45 and Q52	minutes
Section B: Heels, Boston Manufacturing	

Chapter 13 – Inventory	120 minutes
Key areas	
 The physical inventory count Inventory valuation Using the work of an auditor's expert Using the work of internal audit 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	50 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q44, Q46 Section B: ZPM, Wandsworth Wholesalers, Snu, Sitting Pretty 	70 minutes



Achievement Ladder Step 4	130 minutes
Achievement Ladder Step 4 consists of two constructed response questions which test the topics you have studied in chapters 1 to 10 .	
Step 4 is marked. When you receive your feedback you should review it carefully and note what you did well (do more of this!) and which areas you need to improve on in your on-going studies.	
Estimated timing:	
 Attempting Step 2: 90 minutes Reviewing feedback carefully: 40 minutes. 	

This guidance gives a total of approximately **9 hours of study*** for Step 5 of the course.

Chapter 14 – Receivables	90 minutes
Key areas	
 Receivables confirmation Other receivables procedures Revenue Prepayments 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	50 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
• Section A: Q9, Q10, Q40, Q43	40
Section B: Bright Sparks	minutes



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Chapter 15 – Bank and cash	60 minutes
Key areas	
Bank confirmation letter	
Bank reconciliation	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	30 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	30
Section B: Audit of cash and bank	minutes

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Chapter 16 – Payables and accruals	80 minutes
 Key areas Supplier statement reconciliations Other payables procedures Purchases Payroll 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbooks, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	50 minutes
 Further reading, technical articles and question practice The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter: Section A: Q46 Section B: Understatement 	30 minutes



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40 minutes

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Skills Checkpoint 4 – How to approach audit evidence questions	60 minutes
Watch the online lecture which takes you through the recommended approach before writing up your answer to the question. Make sure you work through the suggested solution as this will reinforce your understanding.	

Achievement Ladder Step 5	180 minutes
Achievement Ladder Step 5 is a 60 mark online test, covering all chapters of the workbook. This Step is auto-marked. Make sure you work through the feedback very carefully, covering the questions you answered correctly as well as those you didn't, in order to both reinforce and extend your understanding of the syllabus.	
Estimated timings:	
Attempting Step 5: 120 minutesReviewing feedback carefully: 60 minutes	



This guidance gives a total of approximately **12.5 hours of study*** for Step 6 of the course.

Chapter 18 – Not-for-profit organisations	90 minutes
Key areas	
Planning the auditAudit evidence	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	30 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	60 minutes
Section B: Tap, Ajio	

Chapter 19 – Audit review and finalisation	150 minutes
Key areas	
 Subsequent events Going concern Written representations Overall review of financial statements 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	60 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q11 to Q13, Q26, Q47 to Q50 Section B: Going concern, audit review and finalisation 	90 minutes



Chapter 20 – Reports	180 minutes
Key areasThe auditor's report	
 Unmodified opinions Key audit matters Modifications to the auditor's opinion Emphasis of matter/other matter paragraphs The impact of going concern on the auditor's report 	
 Online Lecture Work through the online lectures in conjunction with the relevant sections of the workbook, paying specific attention to the activities. Pause the lecture to have a go at the activities yourself. 	90 minutes
Further reading, technical articles and question practice	
The following questions from the Further Question Practice Bank (available in the digital edition of the workbook) are relevant to this chapter:	
 Section A: Q14, Q15, Q51 to Q55 Section B: Homes R Us, Builders merchants 	90 minutes

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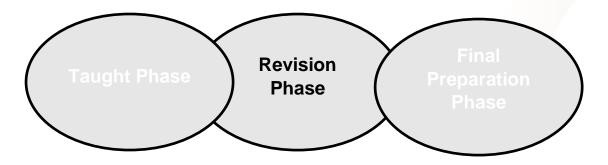
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Skills Checkpoint 5 – How to approach objective test (OT) questions	60 minutes
Watch the online lecture which takes you through the recommended approach before writing up your answer to the question. Make sure you work through the suggested solution as this will reinforce your understanding.	

Achievement Ladder Step 6	210 minutes
You have now reached the end of the Taught Phase of your learning and you are ready to take Step 6 of the Achievement Ladder .	
This Step is submitted for marking by BPP. You should tackle the questions to time. Once you have attempted them, you should work through the suggested solutions. You will both reinforce and extend your understanding of the syllabus content if you do this. When you receive your feedback you should review it carefully and note what you did well (do more of this!) and which areas you need to improve on in your ongoing studies.	
Estimated timings:	
 Attempting Step 6: 144 minutes Reviewing feedback carefully: 66 minutes 	



Revision Phase



This phase is all about taking the knowledge you gained in the taught phase and applying it to examstandard questions. The emphasis here is very much on exam technique.

Exam technique

Each Skills Checkpoint in the Workbook covers the Specific Audit and Assurance Skills and Exam Success Skills you need to pass. Working through the Skills Checkpoints using the online lectures for each Checkpoint will help you to develop your exam technique.

Question practice

The most effective way of improving exam technique is through question practice. Before moving on to the Revision Phase, we recommend you start by ensuring you have attempted Steps 1 to 6 of the Achievement Ladder as well as the Practice & Apply questions recommended in each step. Once you have done that, you should attempt **Achievement Ladder Step 7**. There are also revision summaries which contain a short knowledge summary of each chapter in the Workbook if you want a quick reminder of the key points.

Achievement Ladder Step 7	270 minutes
Step 7 is a 100 mark exam, covering all topics.	
You should ensure that you set aside 3 hours, in a quiet space, where you will not be interrupted. Aim to complete the exam without using any of your notes, so that it is a real test of how prepared you are.	
One you have finished the exam you should carry out a self-review of your answers. There is a full online debrief, prepared to assist you with both the approach and the technical content.	
Self-review questions:	
• Did you finish the exam? If not, why not?	
Did you allocate your time appropriately?	
• Did the order you approached the questions work for you?	
• Did you tailor a specific answer to the question asked?	
• Think about what you'd do differently if you sat the exam again.	
Estimated timings: Attempting Step 7: 180 mins Reviewing feedback carefully: 90 mins 	

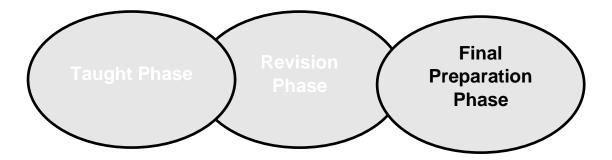


Revision Question Guidance (FQP)

The revision question guidance questions are selected from our examiner reviewed Practice & Revision Kit and have been carefully selected by our Subject Matter Experts to ensure you get the best out of your revision time. Some questions have an online debrief to allow you to get the most out of the question.

It is essential that you take time to properly debrief the questions you attempt – for some questions you will be able to make use of the online recorded debriefs.

Final Preparation Phase



The aim of the Final Preparation Phase is to bring all of your skills and knowledge together in a final dress rehearsal before the real exam. This will be done by attempting a mock exam, **Step 8 of the Achievement Ladder**, covering the entire syllabus in three hours.

Achievement Ladder Step 8	270 minutes
Achievement Ladder Step 8 is a 100-mark exam-standard mock exam, covering all topics.	
You should ensure that you set aside 3 hours, in a quiet space, where you will not be interrupted. Aim to complete the exam in the ACCA software, without using any of your notes, so that it is a real test of how prepared you are.	
On completion you should self-mark your paper and carry out a self-review of your answers and your exam approach.	
Estimated timings: Attempting Step 8: 180 minutes Reviewing feedback carefully: 90 minutes 	

