

ACCA ATX UK Syllabus Changes

June 24 – March 25

Topics new to the paper

The full ATX syllabus can be found here:

<https://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/student/exam-support-resources/professional-exams-study-resources/p6/syllabus-study-guide/p6-syllabus-and-study-guide-united-kingdom-uk.html#>

Page 14 shows the summary of syllabus changes.

Topics leaving the paper

Syllabus area A1(d) 'Income from self-employment' learning outcome (d)(i) 'Advise on a change of accounting date' has been removed from the syllabus and added as an excluded topic.

The material has been amended to remove these topics.

Amendments to the syllabus

Syllabus area A4(b) The scope of corporation tax - excluded topics. The excluded topic 'The reduction of double tax relief where losses have been group relieved' has been deleted.

Syllabus changes

The main syllabus for ATX is set out below:

- A Apply further knowledge and understanding of the UK tax system through the study of more advanced topics within the taxes studied previously and the study of stamp taxes
- B Identify and evaluate the impact of relevant taxes on various situations and courses of action, including the interaction of taxes
- C Provide advice on minimising and/or deferring tax liabilities by the use of standard tax planning measures
- D Professional skills
- E Apply employability and technology skills

Please note, that the syllabus now follows Finance Act 2023 tax legislation.

Significant changes to the BPP Materials

The changes made by Finance Act 2023 (which relates to the tax year 2023/24) are relevant for exams in the period from 1 June 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Finance Act (No. 2) Act 2023 did not receive Royal Assent by the exam cut-off date of 31 May 2023, and is therefore not examinable as regards exams falling in the period 1 June 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The key changes to rates and thresholds are:

- Income tax higher rate threshold reduced from £150,000 to £125,140
- Dividend income nil rate band reduced from £2,000 to £1,000
- Company van benefit increased to £3,960
- Company car fuel benefit base figure increased to £27,800
- Company van fuel benefit increased to £757
- Official rate of interest increased to 2.25%
- Class 1, 1A and 4 NIC rates are all reduced by 1.25%
- Class 2 NIC is increased to £3.45 per week
- Capital gains tax annual exempt amount reduced to £6,000
- Changes to corporation tax rates (see below)
- The 130% enhanced capital allowances are not available from 1 April 2023, so an acquisition will not be examined, but a disposal of an asset on which the enhanced capital allowances were claimed could be examined
- Changes to rates of R&D relief for companies: the rate of the additional deduction for SMEs reduced to 86%, and the rate of payment from HMRC for a surrender of a trading loss reduced to 10%
- Assumed rate of late payment interest increased to 6.5%
- Assumed rate of repayment interest increased to 3%
- New penalties for late payment and late filing of VAT returns have been introduced which replace the default surcharge

The current year basis of assessment for unincorporated businesses is being replaced by a new tax year basis from 2024/25. The 2023/24 tax year is a transitional year, and there are special rules which are not examinable. For exams in the period 1 June 2024 to 31 March 2025, where the basis of assessment is in point, the business will either have a 5 April (or 31 March) year end, or the taxable trading profit for the relevant tax year(s) will be provided. The old current year basis rules are not examinable.

For Financial year 2023, there are two rates of corporation tax dependent upon the level of the company's augmented profits, the small profits rate of 19% where augmented profits do not exceed the lower limit of £50,000, and the main rate of 25% where augmented profits are £250,000 or more. Limits are proportionately reduced for short accounting periods and associated companies. Marginal relief applies where augmented profits fall between £50,000 and £250,000.

External resources

Past papers for ATX which you may like to take a look at can be accessed via your MyACCA account.

These exams are available free of charge you just need to assign them to your account for the exams that you are sitting.

Exam format changes

The Practice Platform allows you to use the live exam format, layout and functionality and also contains a specimen exam and two practice exams in the current format.