

A-Level Accounting Summer Transition Booklet

Year 11 to Year 12

Welcome

Congratulations on choosing A-Level Accounting.

This booklet has been designed to introduce you to the accounting profession before you begin the course in September. The activities will help you understand what accountants do, explore different routes into the profession, investigate potential careers, and develop an awareness of regulation and ethics in accounting.

No prior knowledge of accounting is required.

You should spend approximately 3–5 hours completing this booklet.

Useful Websites

ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)

<https://www.icaew.com>

ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

<https://www.accaglobal.com>

CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)

<https://www.cimaglobal.com>

AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians)

<https://www.aat.org.uk>

Task 1 – The Role of an Accountant

Using information from the professional body websites, find out:

- What accountants do.
- Why accountants are important to organisations.
- The different areas of accounting that accountants may work in.
- The skills and qualities needed to become an accountant.

Produce a summary of approximately 300–500 words. Include:

1. An explanation of the role of an accountant.
2. Examples of different types of accounting work.
3. Why businesses need accountants.
4. Three skills or personal qualities required for success.

Task 2 – Routes Into the Profession

Research the qualifications and career pathways offered by ICAEW, ACCA, CIMA and AAT.

Complete the following table in your document:

| Professional body | Qualifications Offered | Entry Route | Length of study | Interesting Fact |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ICAEW | | | | |
| CIMA | | | | |
| AAT | | | | |
| ACCA | | | | |

After completing the table, write approximately 200 words answering:

"Which qualification pathway would you be most interested in following and why?"

Task 3 – Careers in Accounting and Finance

Using the professional body websites, identify at least five careers available to accountants. Examples may include Financial Accountant, Management Accountant, Auditor, Tax Adviser, Forensic Accountant, Business Consultant, Finance Director or Financial Analyst.

For each career, identify:

- Main responsibilities
- Typical employer
- Why the career interests you

Challenge: Which of the careers you researched do you think will be most affected by developments in artificial intelligence over the next ten years? Explain your answer in around 100 words.

Task 4 – Regulation and Ethics in Accounting

Research the following questions:

1. What is regulation in accounting?
2. Why is regulation important?
3. Why do accountants have codes of professional conduct?
4. Why is trust important in financial reporting?
5. What could happen if accounting was not properly regulated?

Find one real-world example of an accounting scandal, financial misreporting, fraud or a failure of regulation.

Write a report of approximately 300 words.

Final Reflection

Write approximately 150 words answering the following question:

"What have you learned about the accounting profession, and what are you most looking forward to studying in A-Level Accounting?"

Submission Checklist

Ensure your work includes:

- Task 1 – The Role of an Accountant
- Task 2 – Routes Into the Profession
- Task 3 – Careers in Accounting and Finance
- Task 4 – Regulation and Ethics
- Final Reflection

Stretch and Challenge (Optional)

Many accountants now work in areas beyond traditional finance, including sustainability reporting, data analytics, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and business strategy.

Choose one of these areas and write 200 words explaining how you think the role of accountants might change during the next 20 years.