

LEVEL 7 DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE (RQF)

Table of Contents

Qualification Objectives.....	3
Quality, Standards and Recognitions.....	3
Regulatory Information.....	3
Equivalence.....	3
Programme Structure.....	4
About the Units.....	4
Entry Requirements	4
Progression	4
Delivering the Qualifications.....	4
Assessment and Verification.....	5
Unit Specifications.....	6
Unit 01: Investment Analysis.....	7
Unit 02: Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance.....	11
Unit 03: Global Finance and Strategy	14
Unit 05: Strategic Audit	18
Unit 04: Strategic Financial Management.....	21
Unit 06: Corporate Reporting	24

QUALIFICATION OBJECTIVES

The Level 7 Diploma in Accounting and Finance qualification is designed for learners with relevant experience, and/or qualifications the knowledge and skills they need work in the fields of accounting and finance. For those learners that have prior experience in accounting and finance and who also possess a professional qualification, the pathway through this programme will develop their professional competence.

The qualification enables learners to develop knowledge and understanding of accounting and finance within wider organisational contexts in addition to applying technical and specialist skills to a range of contexts within which they operate.

QUALITY, STANDARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Qualifications are approved and regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation). Visit register of [Regulated Qualifications](#).

Qualifications Wales is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body but independent from the Welsh Government in relation to its qualifications functions for which is directly accountable to the National Assembly for Wales. It is responsible for the regulation of awarding bodies and the quality assurance of qualifications in Wales. It is charged with ensuring that qualifications in Wales are fit for purpose, that the qualification system in Wales is efficient and effective and that there is public confidence in qualifications in Wales. Visit [Qualifications Wales](#) for more information.

This qualification offers progression arrangements with several UK universities that acknowledge the ability of learners after studying Level 3-7 qualifications to be considered for advanced entry into corresponding degree year/top up and master's/top-up programmes.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

Qualification Title	Level 7 Diploma in Accounting and Finance (RQF)
Duration	1 Year
Total Credit Value	120 Credits
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	1200 Hrs
Overall Grading Type	Pass
Assessment Methods	Coursework
Language of Study	English

EQUIVALENCE

This Level 7 qualification according to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) which consists of 6 mandatory units worth total 120 credits and equivalent to Master's Degrees in the UK.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The qualification consists of 6 units all of which are mandatory totalling 120 credits in order to achieve the full Diploma qualification.

Unit Ref. No.	Mandatory Units	Credit	TQT
R/615/3236	Investment Analysis	20	200 hours
Y/615/3237	Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance	20	200 hours
D/615/3238	Global Finance and Strategy	20	200 hours
H/615/3242	Strategic Financial Management	20	200 hours
Y/615/3240	Strategic Audit	20	200 hours
D/615/3241	Corporate Reporting	20	200 hours

ABOUT THE UNITS

Credit value is defined as being the number of credits that may be awarded to a Learner for the successful achievement of the learning outcomes of a unit.

The RQF credit value of the unit will remain constant in all contexts, regardless of the assessment method used or the qualification(s) to which it contributes. Learners will only be awarded credits for the successful completion of whole units. (One credit is awarded for those learning outcomes achievable in 10 hours of learning time).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Learner must fulfil at least one of the following criteria to be allowed entry to the qualification:

- Possession of an honours degree in related subject or UK level 6 diploma or an equivalent overseas qualification
- Mature learners (over 21) with relevant work experience.
- If you are not from the United Kingdom or a majority English-speaking country, you must provide evidence that you are competent in English language.

PROGRESSION

Successful completion of the Level 7 Diploma Finance and Accounting (RQF) enables learners to progress into or within employment and/or continue their further study towards UK Masters top up qualifications. This qualification enables learners to top up their qualification with number of UK universities that acknowledges the ability of learners after studying Level 3-7 qualifications to be considered for advanced entry into corresponding degree year/top up and masters/top-up programmes.

DELIVERING THE QUALIFICATIONS

This qualification is delivered 100% online by London School of Planning and Management using its online learning platform.

ASSESSMENT AND VERIFICATION

All units within this qualification are internally assessed by the centre and verified by OTHM. The qualifications are criterion referenced, based on the achievement of all the specified learning outcomes.

To achieve a 'pass' for a unit, a learner must have successfully passed all the assessment criteria for that unit.

Unit Specifications

UNIT 01: INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

Unit Reference Number	R/615/3236
Unit Title	Investment Analysis
Unit Level	7
Number of Credits	20
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	175
Learner Self Study / Prep	25
Mandatory / Optional	Mandatory
Unit Grading Structure	Pass

Unit Aims

The aim of this unit is to allow learners to gain a working knowledge and understanding of investment theories and market equilibrium models. Study of this unit will allow learners to perform bond valuations and evaluate current performance. On completion of this unit, learners should have gained sufficient skills to critically assess the cause and effect of the impact of developments on the world's capital market. Learners will be able to make effective recommendations for further improvement.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand different types of securities	1.1 Identify types of securities and associated concepts 1.2 Evaluate key characteristics of each type of security
2. Understand the regulation of security trading and new issues in world markets	2.1 Identify regulations and procedures used in trading securities 2.2 Analyse the policies and procedures relating to the trading of securities and new issues in world markets 2.3 Review issues in global markets including the London Stock Exchange
3. Be able to apply principles of investment theory, securities and market analysis	3.1 Explain the principles of investment theory 3.2 Evaluate the use of securities 3.3 Critically review the underlying concepts of market analysis and efficiency
4. Understand the principles of taxation	4.1 Identify indirect and direct taxes 4.2 Analyse the characteristics of indirect and direct taxes 4.3 Assess the principles of taxation and their implications for relevant stakeholders.
5. Understand the laws and regulations controlling the financial services industry	5.1 Identify laws and regulations controlling the financial services industry 5.2 Evaluate a range of risk mitigation methods used in investments 5.3 Analyse practical risk mitigation methods
6. Be able to plan, manage and review client portfolios	6.1 Identify client portfolios in accordance with customer profiles 6.2 Make justified recommendations of appropriate types of savings and investments 6.3 Critically review issues relating to portfolio management

Indicative Contents

Learning Outcome 1

Bonds

- Types and characteristics
- Pricing bonds
- Bond yields
- Term Structure of Interest Rates
- Theories of term structure
- Bond risk - types and measurement.

Equities

- Types and characteristics
- Measures of equity performance
- Equity pricing
- Risk
- Equity evaluation

Securities

- Types and characteristics
- Synthetic securities - swaps, bundled and unbundled securities.

Learning Outcome 2

Derivatives

- Description
- Evaluation

Forward contracts

- Description
- Evaluation

Financial futures

- Characteristics
- Operation of futures markets
- Types of financial future
- Pricing financial futures

Financial options

- Characteristics
- Operation of options markets
- Types of option
- Option pricing
- Warrants
- Convertible

Learning Outcome 3

Motives for investment

- Risk & return
- Pricing securities
- Market efficiency

Money Market Investments

- Markets & investors
- Securities quoted on a yield basis
- Securities quoted on a discount basis

Learning Outcome 4

Taxation

Definitions and characteristics of:

- Income tax
- Capital gains tax
- Inheritance
- Corporation tax
- Sales tax
- Value Added Tax (VAT)
- Progressive v Regressive taxation

Principles of Taxation

- Principle of simplicity
- Principle of convenience
- Principle of certainty
- Principle of equality

Learning Outcome 5

Hedging

- Nature & objectives
- Hedging risk on individual equities
- Hedging market risk on equity portfolios
- Hedging interest rate risk

Speculation

- Nature & objectives
- Speculation using futures
- Speculation using options

Arbitrage

- Nature & objectives
- Arbitrage using futures
- Arbitrage using options

Learning Outcome 6

Portfolio Management

- Functions of portfolio management
- Active and passive portfolio management
- Portfolio performance measurement

Managing Client Portfolios

- The Efficient Markets Hypothesis
- The Capital Asset Pricing Model
- The Arbitrage Pricing Model
- Implications for investment strategy
- Portfolio management

Assessment

To achieve this unit, learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria for the unit.

Learning Outcomes to be met	Assessment criteria to be covered	Type of assessment	Word count (approx. length of coursework)
1 - 6	All under LO 1-6	15 minute presentation and accompanying Report	4500

Resources

Textbooks

- Reilly & Brown, Investment Analysis & Portfolio Management, 10th ED, 2009.
- Cheng,L, Advances in Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, 9th ED, 2002.
- Graham Mott. Kogan Page, Accounting for non-accountants: a manual for managers and students. 9th ed., 2013.
- Peter Howells and Keith Bain, Financial markets and institutions. 5th ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, 2007.
- Marc Bungeberd, et al., International investment law: a handbook. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2015.
- Edwin J Elton et al. New York: John Wiley, Modern portfolio theory and investment analysis: international student version. 8th ed., 2011.
- Frank Fabozzi. London, Wiley, The basics of finance: an introduction to financial markets, business finance, and portfolio management. 2010.

Journals

- Journal of International Financial Markets
- The Hedge Fund Journal
- Journal of Asset Management

Websites

- Management Study Guide: <http://www.managementstudyguide.com/portfolio-management.htm>
- Reference for business: <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/encyclopedia/Int-Jun/Investment-Analysis.html>
- Slide Share: <http://www.slideshare.net/aakashkulkarni3/mgbpm-market-efficiency-and-portfolio-theory>
- Financial adviser. London: FT Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investment adviser. London: Financial Times Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investor's chronicle. London: Financial Times Business: www.investorschronicle.co.uk
- Investment week. London: Incisive Financial Publishing: www.investmentweek.co.uk
- Money management. London: www.ftadviser.com
- Money marketing. London: Centaur Communications: www.moneymarketing.co.uk

UNIT 02: CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GOVERNANCE

Unit Reference Number	Y/615/3237
Unit Title	Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance
Unit Level	7
Number of Credits	20
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	175
Learner Self Study / Prep	25
Mandatory / Optional	Mandatory
Unit Grading Structure	Pass

Unit Aims

The aim of this unit is to allow learners to gain an in depth understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance. Learners will consider the various ways that businesses and financial institutions need to operate to ensure that society accepts their processes and procedures. Learners will gain an understanding of the importance of acting in such a way that ethical codes and practices are followed and individual dignity is enhanced. Learners will understand the skills required to deal appropriately with governing authorities in the private, public and charitable sectors.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand laws and practices in a national and international context	1.1 Identify national and international laws and practices 1.2 Evaluate the practical application of the legal framework from both a national and international perspective
2. Understand the nature and importance of corporate governance and ethical behavior	2.1 Critically analyse the importance of corporate governance and ethical behavior 2.2 Evaluate ethical issues arising in relation to corporate activities 2.3 Critically review solutions identified to overcome corporate governance and ethical behavior issues
3. Be able to assess the impact of financial reporting on a business organisation's stakeholders	3.1 Identify stakeholders specific to a named business organization 3.2 Evaluate the impact of financial reporting on stakeholders of a named business organisation
4. Understand the principal approaches of governance and assessment of risk	4.1 Analyse principal approaches to governance 4.2 Review how risk can be managed to achieve effective corporate governance
5. Be able to communicate complex issues in CSR and governance	5.1 Identify CSR and governance issues in a specific business organization / setting 5.2 Critically review CSR and governance issues in an appropriate and professional format

Indicative Contents

Learning Outcome 1

- Definitions:
 - Profession
 - Governance law and practices
- Purpose of governance laws
- Key governance laws and other regulatory issues.

Learning Outcome 2

- Definitions:
 - Corporate governance is the framework of rules and practices by which a board of directors ensures:
 - Accountability
 - Fairness
 - Transparency
 - Ethical behaviour can be defined as the act which is in line with what society and individuals think are good and acceptable values.
 - Agency theory involves directors controlling the company whilst shareholders own the company.
- Accountability and Ethics:
 - Ethical issues, including:
 - Falsifying documents
 - Illegally evading taxes
 - Tax avoidance
 - Fraud
- Application of governance rules and principles in order to overcome those issues that arise from unethical behaviour.

Learning Outcome 3

- Definitions:
 - Stakeholders are the people who can affect or be affected by an organisation's actions.
Key stakeholders could include:
 - Employees
 - Directors
 - Government
 - Debtors (Trade receivables)
 - Creditors (Trade payables)
 - Financial Institutions
 - Shareholders
 - Financial reporting is the process of statement production that discloses a business organisation's financial status to a number of key stakeholders. The statements will include:
 - Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)
 - Income Statement (Profit and Loss Account)
 - Statement of cash flows
 - Statement of stock holders' equity
 - Notes to the financial statements.
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) – Theory and Practice

Learning Outcome 4

- Role of the board of directors and its governance responsibilities
- Remuneration of directors and senior executives
- Principles of good corporate governance, including:
 - Fairness
 - Accountability
 - Responsibility
 - Transparency

Learning Outcome 5

- Definitions, to include:
 - Corporate social responsibility can be defined as the responsibility for a company's effect on environmental and social well being.

- Reports:
 - p The Cadbury report (1992) is issued by "The committee on the financial aspects of corporate Governance" led by Adrian Cadbury that sets out recommendations to mitigate corporate governance risk.
 - The Greenbury report (1995) addresses the growing concern about the level of director remuneration.
 - The Hampel report (1998) is a UK corporate governance report which looks into the achievement of the code's original purpose.
 - The Turnbull report (1999) drawn up with the London Stock Exchange for listed companies.

Assessment

To achieve this unit, learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria for the unit.

Learning Outcomes to be met	Assessment criteria to be covered	Type of assessment	Word count (approx. length of coursework)
1 - 5	All under LO 1-5	Business Report	4500

Resources

Textbooks

- Peter Howells and Keith Bain, Financial markets and institutions. 5th ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, 2007.
- Marc Bungenberd, et al., International investment law: a handbook. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2015.
- Edwin J Elton et al. New York: John Wiley, Modern portfolio theory and investment analysis: international student version. 8th ed., 2011.
- Frank Fabozzi. London, Wiley, The basics of finance: an introduction to financial markets, business finance, and portfolio management. 2010.
- Fernando, A.C., Corporate Governance, 2009.
- Justin, S., John, T., Corporate Governance, Ethics and CSR, 2013.

Journals

- International Journal of Corporate Strategy and Social Responsibility

Websites

- Management Study Guide: <http://www.managementstudyguide.com/portfolio-management.htm>
- Financial Adviser. London: FT Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investment Adviser. London: Financial Times Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investor's Chronicle. London: Financial Times Business: www.investorschronicle.co.uk
- Investment Week. London: Incisive Financial Publishing: www.investmentweek.co.uk
- Money Management. London: www.ftadviser.com
- Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com>
- OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/corporate/principles-corporate-governance.htm>
- IOS Press: <http://www.iospress.nl/book/ethics-and-accountability-in-a-context-of-governance-and-new-public-management/>

UNIT 03: GLOBAL FINANCE AND STRATEGY

Unit Reference Number	D/615/3238
Unit Title	Global Finance and Strategy
Unit Level	7
Number of Credits	20
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	175
Learner Self Study / Prep (LSSP)	25
Mandatory / Optional	Mandatory
Unit Grading Structure	Pass

Unit Aims

On completion of this unit learners will have gained an appreciation and understanding of the types of decisions that need to be taken when entering global markets. Learners will gain an understanding of why independence in solving financial issues within a specific period of time is vital for business success.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the concept of globalisation	1.1 Analyse the concept of globalisation 1.2 Assess the link between the concept of globalisation and the investment process
2. Understand the impact of the global business environment on national and multinational business organisations	2.1 Identify factors affecting the global business environment 2.2 Assess the impact of identified factors on national and multinational business organisations
3. Be able to construct strategies that will result in the enhancement of organisational value	3.1 Identify the current value statement of a named business organisation 3.2 Explain how a named business organization achieved its values 3.3 Recommend strategies that would enhance the value of a named business organisation
4. Be able to evaluate the financial consequences of strategic decisions	4.1 Analyse the strategic decision of a named business organisation 4.2 Evaluate the financial consequences of a strategic decision made by a named business organisation
5. Understand appropriate sources of finance	5.1 Explain sources of finance available to business organisations 5.2 Assess the risk involved in a range of sources of finance 5.3 Critically review the costs involved in managing global risk
6. Be able to review techniques to manage global risk	6.1 Explain risk mitigation techniques 6.2 Analyse global risks 6.3 Review the suitability of techniques used by a named business organisation to manage their global risk
7. Be able to assess potential investment decisions and global strategies	7.1 Analyse the potential investment decisions and strategies available to a named business organisation 7.2 Assess the global environment decisions and strategies affecting a named business organization

Indicative Contents

Learning Outcome 1

- Definition of globalisation
- Types of globalisation
- Investment processes in globalisation
- Investments which have taken place between countries as a result of globalisation

Learning Outcome 2

- Definition of the Global Business Environment
- Factors exogenous to the home environment of a business organisation
- Influence of decision making on resource utilisation
- Global Business Environmental Factors:
 - Social
 - Legal
 - Economic
 - Political
 - Technological
 - Environmental (Green Issues)
- Entry and Exit barriers
- Effect of Globalisation and of the Global Business Environment on national and multinational business organisations
- Environmental factors that affect national and multinational business organisations

Learning Outcome 3

- Business Valuation – definition and purpose
- Strategic implication of mergers
- Post-merger values
- Management theories that enable the understanding of the current market position
- Strategies to enhance value

Learning Outcome 4

- Strategic decisions are usually long term, complex decisions developed by a management team. The decisions made will affect the future direction of the business organisation.
- Strategic decisions that consist of less complex, medium term and tactical decisions.
- Financial consequences of making strategic decisions.

Learning Outcome 5

- Sources of finance – definition
- Internal and external sources of finance, for example:
 - Loans
 - Debentures
 - Mortgages
 - Retained earnings
 - Government sources
 - Shares
- Then financial risks associated with using different sources of finance

Learning Outcome 6

- Use of the Capital Asset Pricing Model
- Cost of Capital
- WACC
- Use of Exchange Rates
- Interest Rates

- Foreign Exchange Rate Risk
- Risk mitigation techniques:
 - Risk Avoidance
 - Risk Mitigation
 - Transfer of Risk
 - Risk Acceptance

Learning Outcome 7

- Investment appraisal
 - Impact of investment appraisal on global financing
 - Financial strategies used in the global environment
- Capital investment relating to funds invested in a business organisation for the purpose of furthering its strategic objectives
 - Aspects of strategy (often international), which include:
 - Scope of operations
 - Resource allocation
 - Competitive advantage
 - Synergy

Assessment

To achieve this unit, learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria for the unit.

Learning Outcomes to be met	Assessment criteria to be covered	Type of assessment	Word count (approx. length of coursework)
1 - 12	All under LO 1-12	Business Report	4500

Resources

Textbooks

- Margaret, W., International Risk Management, 2008.
- Larry, J.K., Business Valuations, 1997.
- Reilly & Brown, Investment Analysis & Portfolio Management, 10th ED, 2009.
- Cheng, L., Advances in Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, 9th ED, 2002.
- Graham Mott. Kogan Page, Accounting for Non-Accountants: A Manual for Managers and Students. 9th ed., 2013.
- Peter Howells and Keith Bain, Financial Markets and Institutions. 5th ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, 2007.
- Marc Bungenberd, et al., International Investment Law: a handbook. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2015.
- Edwin J Elton et al. New York: John Wiley, Modern Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis: International Student Version. 8th ed., 2011.
- Frank Fabozzi. London, Wiley, The Basics of Finance: an introduction to financial markets, business finance, and portfolio management. 2010.

Journals

- Journal of International Financial Markets
- The Hedge Fund Journal
- Journal of Asset Management
- Journal of Business Strategy
- Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis

Websites

- Management Study Guide: <http://www.managementstudyguide.com/portfolio-management.htm>
- Reference for Business: <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/encyclopedia/Int-Jun/Investment-Analysis.html>
- Slide Share: <http://www.slideshare.net/aakashkulkarni3/mgbpm-market-efficiency-and-portfolio-theory>
- Financial Adviser. London: FT Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investment Adviser. London: Financial Times Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investor's chronicle. London: Financial Times Business: www.investorschronicle.co.uk
- Investment Week. London: Incisive Financial Publishing: www.investmentweek.co.uk
- Money Management. London: www.ftadviser.com
- Money Marketing. London: Centaur Communications: www.moneymarketing.co.uk
- Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com>
- Financial Managers Society: <http://www.fmsinc.org/>
- Accounting Coach: <http://www.accountingcoach.com/>
- IDEAS: <https://ideas.repec.org/a/scm/ausvfe/v10y2010ispecialp180-188.html>

UNIT 04: STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Unit Reference Number	H/615/3242
Unit Title	Strategic Financial Management
Unit Level	7
Number of Credits	20
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	175
Learner Self Study / Prep (LSSP)	25
Mandatory / Optional	Mandatory
Unit Grading Structure	Pass

Unit Aims

On completion of this unit, learners will have gained knowledge and understanding relating to planning the usage and management of a business organisation's financial resources. Learners will understand the importance of attaining business objectives and maximizing shareholder return. Learners will gain a working knowledge of business strategy design and the production of comprehensive business plans.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the significance of strategic management and decision making to the performance of a business organisation	1.1 Apply relevant academic theories to demonstrate an understanding of various internal and external organisational factors 1.2 Evaluate business resources used to meet organisational objectives
2. Understand key financial theories	2.1 Evaluate key financial theories 2.2 Assess strategic implementation techniques using balanced scorecard and portfolio management tools
3. Be able to apply stakeholder analysis and corporate valuation techniques	3.1 Analyse the significance of stakeholder analysis 3.2 Analyse business expansion methods and their impact on stakeholders 3.3 Apply stakeholder analysis to a named business organisation 3.4 Prepare return and risk computations 3.5 Explain the concepts of corporate and business valuation techniques
4. Understand the role of culture in strategic decision making	4.1 Explain the role of culture in creating a strategy 4.2 Analyse the role of change management 4.3 Analyse the role and effect of culture on change management
5. Understand performance measurement systems	5.1 Evaluate performance measurement systems 5.2 Explain financial analysis techniques 5.3 Apply financial analysis systems and techniques to practical business problems

Indicative Contents

Learning Outcome 1

- Strategic analysis of the external environment, internal strategic capability and stakeholder expectations including:
 - PESTEL
 - Five Forces Framework
 - RBV
 - Core Competences
 - Value Chain

Learning Outcome 2

- Finance theories and their application to financial decision making.
- Strategic implementation techniques
- Portfolio management tools.
- Models of Strategic Management
- Objective setting
- Definition of the balanced scorecard – a strategic planning and management system that is used extensively in business to align business activities to the vision and strategy of the organisation, to improve internal and external communications and to monitor organisation performance against strategic goals.
- Portfolio theory and risk

Learning Outcome 3

- Organizational culture, including
 - Shared beliefs
 - Norms and Values
 - Roles of culture
- Change management process
- Managing strategic change.
- Concept of value, including:
 - EVA
 - MVA
 - SVA
- Dividend policy, including:
 - relevance and irrelevance
 - signalling
 - clientele effects
- Corporate valuations, including:
 - asset values
 - stock market
 - cashflow
 - dividend valuation.

Learning Outcome 4

- Stakeholder analysis – key project management skill for classifying people who have influence over the business
- Shareholder and stakeholder perspectives
- Impacts and management of stakeholder analysis
- Mergers and Acquisitions, including:
 - Motivations
 - Wealth effects
 - Regulation
- The impact on shareholders and stakeholders due to the mergers and acquisition

Learning Outcome 5

- Investment appraisal techniques, including:

- Payback
- Discounted Payback
- Accounting Rate of Return
- Net Present Value
- Internal Rate of Return
- Risk Appraisal
- Project Risk
- Sources of long term finance, including
 - Shares
 - Borrowing
 - Leases
 - Collateral / Security
 - Hire Purchase
 - Grants
- Ratio Analysis, including:
 - Liquidity ratios
 - Profitability ratios
 - Investor ratios
 - Efficiency ratios
 - Performance ratios

Assessment

To achieve this unit, learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria for the unit.

Learning Outcomes to be met	Assessment criteria to be covered	Type of assessment	Word count (approx. length of coursework)
1 - 5	All under LO 1-5	Business Report	4500

Resources

Textbooks

- Margaret, W., International Risk Management, 2008.
- Larry, J.K., Business Valuations, 1997.
- Reilly & Brown, Investment Analysis & Portfolio Management, 10th ED, 2009.
- Cheng, L., Advances in Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, 9th ED, 2002.
- Graham Mott. Kogan Page, Accounting for non-accountants: a manual for managers and students. 9th ed., 2013.
- Charles, W.L.H., Gareth, R.J., Strategic Management Theory, 9th Ed, 2009.
- Ross, G., Valuation and Investment Appraisal, 2002.

Journals

- Journal of Risk and Financial Management
- Strategic Management Journal

Websites

Financial Adviser. London: FT Business: www.ftadviser.com
 Investment Adviser. London: Financial Times Business: www.ftadviser.com
 Investor's chronicle. London: Financial Times Business: www.investorschronicle.co.uk
 Investment Week. London: Incisive Financial Publishing: www.investmentweek.co.uk
 Money Management. London: www.ftadviser.com
 Money Marketing. London: Centaur Communications: www.moneymarketing.co.uk
 Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com>
 Financial Managers Society: <http://www.fmsinc.org/>
 Finance: <http://finance.mapsofworld.com/strategic-management/model.html>
 ACCA: <http://www.accaglobal.com/lk/en/student/exam-support-resources/professional-exams-study-resources/p4/technical-articles/economic-value-added.html>

UNIT 05: STRATEGIC AUDIT

Unit Reference Number	Y/615/3240
Unit Title	Strategic Audit
Unit Level	7
Number of Credits	20
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	175
Learner Self Study / Prep (LSSP)	25
Mandatory / Optional	Mandatory
Unit Grading Structure	Pass

Unit Aims

On completion of this unit, learners will have gained knowledge and understanding of how managers can position and execute business strategy appropriately. This will involve an in-depth study of the strategic auditing process and related procedures. Learners will be able to understand and apply suitable investigative techniques to both positive and negative environments.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand historic and current auditing processes and procedures	1.1 Review the historic and current auditing regulatory environment 1.2 Identify the rules of professional conduct for auditors 1.3 Critically assess the rules of professional conduct for auditors
2. Understand the importance of legal and professional requirements when completing an audit	2.1 Explain the legal and professional requirements when completing an audit 2.2 Evaluate the importance of the legal and professional requirements on the performance of an audit
3. Understand audit strategy	3.1 Analyse audit strategy used in business organizations 3.2 Assess the effectiveness of the audit monitoring process
4. Understand the risk involved in the audit process	4.1 Discuss the risk involved in the audit process 4.2 Analyse appropriate measures to minimise identified risk 4.3 Explain the link between account preparation and the audit completed
5. Understand current developments in auditing	5.1 Review current development in auditing 5.2 Assess the importance of the current developments in audit processes

Indicative Contents

Learning Outcome 1

- The regulatory environment, including:
 - Laws
 - Rules and regulations which are put in place by the state, or other government entities, to control the behaviour and actions of business activities
- Professional conduct – the field of regulation of members of professional bodies acting under statutory or contractual powers.
- Rules of professional conduct to ensure proper standards of professional conduct are observed. Rules to include:
 - Integrity
 - Objectivity
 - Confidentiality
 - Competency

Learning Outcome 2

- The standards and responsibilities for internal auditors and internal audit activity.
- Impact of the global financial crisis – increase in legal and professional requirements when performing audit processes.

Learning Outcome 3

- The auditing process may include:
 - Requesting documents
 - Preparing an audit plan
 - Holding an open meeting
 - Drafting a report
 - End meeting – to discuss the report.
- Audit Strategy
- Audit Plan

Learning Outcome 4

- Definition of audit risk
- Types of audit risk:
 - Inherent risk
 - Control risk
 - Detection risk
- The audit risk model – used by auditors to manage the overall risk
- Link between account preparation and the audit conducted
- Definition of a financial audit
- Auditor reports

Learning Outcome 5

- Current and future audit services
- Internationalisation of accounting and auditing standards – for example, IAS
- Role of information technology in the audit process

Assessment

To achieve this unit, learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria for the unit.

Learning Outcomes to be met	Assessment criteria to be covered	Type of assessment	Word count (approx. length of coursework)
1 - 5	All under LO 1-5	Business Report	4500

Resources

Textbooks

- Margaret, W., International Risk Management, 2008.
- Larry, J.K., Business Valuations, 1997.
- Graham Mott. Kogan Page, Accounting for non-accountants: a manual for managers and students. 9th ed., 2013.
- Frank Fabozzi. London, Wiley, The basics of finance: an introduction to financial markets, business finance, and portfolio management. 2010.
- Millichamp, A.H., Auditing, 8th Ed, 2002.
- Frank, C., The essentials of auditing, 2015.

Journals

- Journal of Auditing
- Journal of Accounting, Auditing & Finance
- Managerial Auditing Journal

Websites

- Money Management. London: www.ftadviser.com
- Money Marketing. London: Centaur Communications: www.moneymarketing.co.uk
- Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com>
- Financial Managers Society: <http://www.fmsinc.org/>
- Accounting Coach: <http://www.accountingcoach.com/>
- Slide Share: <http://www.slideshare.net/vishwacr/auditing-notes-27123132>
- Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com>
- What are auditing and accounting: <http://smallbusiness.chron.com/auditing-accounting-11772.html>

UNIT 06: CORPORATE REPORTING

Unit Reference Number	D/615/3241
Unit Title	Corporate Reporting
Unit Level	7
Number of Credits	20
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	175
Learner Self Study / Prep	25
Mandatory / Optional	Mandatory
Unit Grading Structure	Pass

Unit Aims

On completion of this unit, learners will be able to prepare and interpret the financial statements for a range of business organizations. The learners will be able to apply relevant accounting concepts and principles. The unit provides an opportunity for learners to enhance their quantitative and qualitative analytical skills, through the interpretation of financial data.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the accounting and finance regulatory framework	1.1 Identify the main sources for regulatory framework 1.2 Evaluate the impact of the accounting and finance regulatory framework on business organisations 1.3 Assess areas of abuse and exploitation in accounting and financial reporting
2. Understanding accounting concepts, principles and theories	2.1 Identify key accounting concepts, principles and theories 2.2 Analyse the importance of accounting concepts, principles and theories
3. Be able to prepare and interpret accounting information	3.1 Prepare accounting information 3.2 Interpret published accounting information 3.3 Assess published accounting information
4. Be able to demonstrate specific policies, practices and regulations within corporate accounting	4.1 Identify specific policies, practices and regulations within corporate accounting 4.2 Review accounting regulations for a named business sector 4.3 Critically assess the key accounting practices and policies identified for a named business sector

Indicative Contents

Learning Outcome 1

- History of accounting and financial information
 - Document development
 - Early auditing systems and their development over time
 - Useful information provided to business organisations, to include:
 - Growth / expansion strategies
 - Performance management
 - Budget creation
 - Business decisions
 - Investment decisions.
- The regulatory framework and financial reporting
- Reporting Standards
- Frameworks – Principle vs Rule Based Systems
- The importance and the impact of the regulatory framework on business organisations

- International Financial Reporting Standards – accounting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

Learning Outcome 2

- Concepts, principles and theories – rules and guidelines of the financial accounting profession.
- Concepts, principles and theories to include:
 - Accruals concept
 - Prudence
 - Materiality
 - Consistency
 - Going concern
 - Business entity concept
 - Money measurement
 - Duality
 - Stability
 - Objectivity

Learning Outcome 3

- Definitions:
 - Cash flow statements show how the changes in the balance sheet and income have an effect on cash and cash equivalents. They consider operating, investing and financing activities
 - Accounting for non-current assets, including:
 - Intangibles
 - Government grants
 - Research and development
- Accounting for taxation including deferred taxation
- Accounting for long term contracts
- Group accounting - acquisition basis, including:
 - Goodwill
 - Non-controlling interest
 - Inter-company transactions
 - Statements of comprehensive income
 - Statements of financial position
- Issue and redemption of shares and debt
- Accounting for company failure – liquidations
- Interpretation and critical evaluation of accounting and financial information

Learning Outcome 4

- Accounting rules and regulations
- UK accounting standards
- Generally accepted accounting principles
- Corporate accounting, including:
 - Preparation of companies' final accounts and cash flow statements
 - Analysis and interpretation of financial results
 - Key events such as amalgamation
- Accounting practices
- Accounting policies

Assessment

To achieve this unit, learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria for the unit.

Learning Outcomes to be met	Assessment criteria to be covered	Type of assessment	Word count (approx. length of coursework)
1 - 5	All under LO 1-5	Business Report	4500

Resources

Textbooks

- Peter Howells and Keith Bain, Financial Markets and Institutions. 5th ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, 2007.
- Marc Bungenberd, et al., International Investment Law: a handbook. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2015.
- Edwin J Elton et al. New York: John Wiley, Modern Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis: international student version. 8th ed., 2011.
- Frank Fabozzi. London, Wiley, The Basics of Finance: an introduction to financial markets, business finance, and portfolio management. 2010.
- Fernando, A.C., Corporate Governance, 2009.
- Justin,S., John,T., Corporate Governance, Ethics and CSR, 2013.
- Geoff,E., Corporate Reporting, 7th Ed, 2004.
- Andrew, H., Corporate Financial Reporting Theory & Practice, 2003.

Journals

- Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting
- Journal of Critical Perspectives On Accounting

Websites

- Management Study Guide: <http://www.managementstudyguide.com/portfolio-management.htm>
- Financial Adviser. London: FT Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investment Adviser. London: Financial Times Business: www.ftadviser.com
- Investor's Chronicle. London: Financial Times Business: www.investorschronicle.co.uk
- Investment week. London: Incisive Financial Publishing: www.investmentweek.co.uk
- Money Management. London: www.ftadviser.com
- Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com>
- Integrated Reporting: <http://integratedreporting.org/corporate-reporting-dialogue/>
- ACCA: <http://www.accaglobal.com/lk/en/student/exam-support-resources/fundamentals-exams-study-resources/f7/technical-articles/conceptual-framework-need.html>