

CPA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM

SYLLABUS

Assurance Module

Purpose

The purpose of this syllabus is to provide information about the Assurance module. This document has been produced for current and potential candidates and those who advise them; and others in the professional, academic, and general community.

Module Overview

Module objective

The objective of the Assurance module is to equip candidates with the competencies necessary to perform both internal audit projects and external assurance engagements, from assessing the need for an engagement or project, to developing and performing the procedures, through to documenting and reporting results. While this module is primarily designed for candidates who want to practise public accounting or work in internal audit, it would be beneficial to a wide range of candidates because it focuses on the key concepts of auditing, such as risk, materiality, and internal control, which have broad application. Candidates also have the opportunity to delve into some of the more complex financial accounting topics and understand how governance plays a key role in assurance.

Resources

See the Candidate Guide for a comprehensive list of module resources.

Grading

See the Candidate Guide for the module grading structure.

Unit Outline

The following steps are covered in each unit:

Units 1-8

- **Learn with the eBook**
 - Each unit covers several eBook chapters. Each chapter includes a snapshot, written instruction, examples, e-lessons on select technical topics, summary problems, and practice multiple-choice questions.
- **Test yourself with a quiz**
 - The quiz consists of 15 multiple-choice questions that have been selected to test your understanding of the technical topics in each unit.
- **Apply what you have learned to an integrated problem**
 - Integrated problems draw from the technical topics covered in each unit and provide an opportunity to practise applying technical knowledge in an integrated manner.
- **Write a practice case**
 - Practice cases provide an opportunity to hone your case-writing skills and apply technical knowledge in a 120-minute scenario. The practice case is designed to be written in exam-like conditions within the suggested time noted in the case. For strategies on how to write a practice case, refer to the case-writing tutorial.
- **Write a retired exam case (optional)**
 - Retired exam cases are cases that were included on a past module exam. Writing this retired exam case is optional; however, you are strongly encouraged to write the case for practice under time-constrained exam conditions.
- **Debrief facilitator feedback (Unit 2 onward)**
 - After your facilitator has returned feedback on your integrated problem and practice case submissions from the previous unit, you will perform a debrief using the feedback received.
- **Participate in workshop**
 - You will participate in a two-day workshop during which you will work through several activities led by a session leader. The module workshop provides an opportunity to practise your enabling and technical competencies.

Topics Covered

The following chapters from the eBook volumes are the recommended readings for the module. Chapters that are tagged with an asterisk (*) contain topics that are commonly tested in this module.

Unit 1

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 1 — Assurance and Audit Defined
- Chapter 2 — The Regulatory Framework for Assurance
- Chapter 7 — Planning — Risk Assessment*
- Chapter 8 — Planning — Going Concern Considerations*

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 3 — Accounting Principles, Assumptions and Concepts
- Chapter 6 — CPA Canada Handbook
- Chapter 20 — Cash and Cash Equivalents*
- Chapter 22 — Trade Receivables*
- Chapter 23 — Notes Receivables
- Chapter 28 — Passive Investments in Financial Assets

Unit 2

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 3 — Codes of Professional Conduct*
- Chapter 4 — Ethics and Legal Considerations
- Chapter 5 — Client Acceptance and Continuance*
- Chapter 10 — Planning — Approach and Strategy Considerations*
- Chapter 11 — Planning — Materiality*

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 32 — Non-Monetary Transactions*
- Chapter 65 — Related Party Transactions*

Enabling Competencies eBook

- Chapter 8 — Audit Issues
- Chapter 10 — Critiques (WIR)

Unit 3

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 12 — Planning — Assertions and Procedures*
- Chapter 13 — Planning — Evidence and Documentation
- Chapter 16 — Execution — Substantive Procedures*
- Chapter 18 — Execution — Audit of Cash Balances and Investments*
- Chapter 19 — Execution — Audit of the Revenues, Receivables, Receipts Cycle*
- Chapter 20 — Execution — Audit of the Purchases, Payables, Payments Cycle*
- Chapter 21 — Execution — Audit of the Inventory and Distribution Cycle*
- Chapter 22 — Execution — Audit of Property, Plant, and Equipment*
- Chapter 23 — Execution — Audit of the Payroll Cycle*
- Chapter 24 — Execution — Documentation

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 17 — Revenue — ASPE*
- Chapter 18 — Revenue — IFRS*
- Chapter 19 — Revenue — Specific Applications*
- Chapter 26 — Inventory*
- Chapter 40 — Complex Financial Instruments — Overview*
- Chapter 41 — Complex Financial Instruments — In-Depth*

Finance eBook

- Chapter 29 — Valuations — Big Picture*

Unit 4

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 14 — Internal Controls*
- Chapter 15 — Execution — Tests of Controls*
- Chapter 17 — Execution — Sampling

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 33 — Government Grants*
- Chapter 67 — Accounting for Not-for-Profit Organizations*
- Chapter 68 — Public Sector Accounting

Enabling Competencies eBook

- Chapter 11 — Financial Statement Analysis

Unit 5

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 9 — Planning — Fraud and Other Risk Considerations

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 29 — Property, Plant, and Equipment*
- Chapter 30 — Intangible Assets*
- Chapter 31 — Impairment of Assets*
- Chapter 35 — Uncommon Capital Assets
- Chapter 46 — Current Income Taxes
- Chapter 47 — Deferred Income Taxes*
- Chapter 49 — Leases — Lessee Accounting*
- Chapter 50 — Leases — Lessor Accounting*
- Chapter 61 — Discontinued Operations
- Chapter 62 — Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

Strategy and Governance eBook

- Chapter 2 — Governance — Structure*

Unit 6

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 25 — Concluding and Reporting — Concluding and Completion Procedures

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 15 — Other Statements and Reports
- Chapter 34 — Decommissioning Provisions and Costs*
- Chapter 37 — Contingencies
- Chapter 51 — Accounting for Changes
- Chapter 52 — Accounting for Errors
- Chapter 54 — Investments in Associates — Overview*
- Chapter 55 — Investments in Associates — In-depth*

Unit 7

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 26 — Concluding and Reporting — Reporting Considerations*
- Chapter 27 — Reviews and Compilations*

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 42 — Hedging
- Chapter 57 — Investments in Subsidiaries — Date of Acquisition
- Chapter 58 — Investments in Subsidiaries — After Acquisition
- Chapter 59 — Joint Arrangements
- Chapter 60 — Partnerships
- Chapter 63 — Foreign Currency Transactions*
- Chapter 64 — Foreign Currency Translation

Unit 8

Assurance eBook

- Chapter 28 — Other Engagements*

Financial Reporting eBook

- Chapter 43 — Share-Based Compensation Plans
- Chapter 44 — Basic Earnings Per Share*
- Chapter 45 — Diluted Earnings Per Share*
- Chapter 48 — Pension Plans and Other Employee Future Benefits
- Chapter 66 — Segment Reporting