

Accounting Higher

Why take this course?

The main purpose of the course is to enable you to understand, and make use of, financial information so that you can prepare accounting statements and analyse, interpret and report on an organisation's financial performance.

The course aims to enable you to:

- understand the importance of accounting in business and society
- develop accuracy in the preparation, presentation, interpretation and analysis of complex accounting information, and apply a systematic approach to solving financial problems
- develop an understanding of a range of sources of finance available to organisations, and of the circumstances in which these sources might be used
- use information technology in relatively complex accounting tasks

To succeed in this course, you need...

The knowledge and skills evidenced by a good pass at National 5 are a good foundation for Higher study in this subject, but they are not essential. It is possible for a motivated and hard-working student (normally in S6) to take this course without previous background in this subject area.

To be able to cope with and perform well in this course, you need to be prepared to work hard in your own time – there are minimum requirements for work completed each week – it is not possible to complete these in class time. If you are considering this course you should discuss the workload implications with Business Studies staff before choosing it.

Course structure and content (subject to change by SQA)

The course is comprised of 2 units:

Financial Accounting

- preparation of period-end financial statements for partnerships and public limited companies
- understanding of key financial accounting terms
- calculation and interpretation of investment ratios

Management Accounting

- preparation of sales, production and complex cash budgets and a range of cost statements
- stock valuation calculation
- decision making, for example, in terms of product mix and appraisal of investments

Spreadsheets are accessed across both financial and management accounting.

Course Assessment

Exam (2 hours and 30 minutes) - 120 marks

Assignment (2 hours and 30 minutes in exam conditions, externally assessed) - 60 marks

Where might this course take me?

Accounting relates to many aspects of everyday life, and will therefore give you experiences which are topical and which develop skills for learning, life and work. The course will encourage you to think logically and to apply accounting principles in your everyday life, thereby supporting your personal financial awareness.

H Accounting is particularly relevant if you intend to take any business-related course at college or university. It is also useful for those who may be employed in or who aim to start up a small business.