

2023 Curriculum Statements

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1. Financial Accounting Programme

1.1. Bookkeeping to Trial Balance

An introduction to business, bookkeeping and accounting

- Discuss the history and origin of accounting and the double entry system;
- identify the users and uses of financial information;
- critically evaluate the various forms of business ownership (sole traders, partnerships, companies and close corporations);
- describe the developments which have taken place in the field of accounting, making specific reference to internal vs. external reporting;
- illustrate the bookkeeping and accounting cycle graphically;
- outline the types of transactions that can take place in a business;
- define common accounting terms including source document, journal, bank reconciliation, general ledger, trial balance, income statement and balance sheet;
- analyse transactions under the accounting equation;
- define assets, non-current assets and current assets;
- define liabilities, non-current liabilities and current liabilities;
- explain the business entity rule, and analyse transactions under the accounting equation taking this principle into account;
- explain what is meant by a 'proprietary account' and distinguish between capital and drawings accounts;
- define profit, income, expenses and cost of sales; and
- explain and apply the rules of double entry (including cross references).

Value Added Tax and source documents

- Explain what Value Added Tax (VAT) is;
- illustrate how the VAT system works in terms of input VAT and output VAT;
- identify the different VAT supply categories (including standard rated, zero-rated and exempt supplies, as well as non-allowable items);
- compare the payments vs. the invoice bases according to which vendors may be registered for VAT;
- explain what a valid tax invoice looks like;
- differentiate between the various source documents used by businesses to record various transactions;
- perform basic VAT calculations (VAT exclusive and VAT inclusive amounts as well as mark-ups and gross margins); and
- complete a VAT201 form accurately and correctly

Recording cash transactions

- Explain the difference between the cash flow and the profit of a business;
- identify the different subsidiary journals and the transactions unique to each of these journals;
- define cash transactions;
- explain the purpose of every column in each of the three cash journals;
- record cash transactions in the cashbook receipts;
- record cash transactions in the cashbook payments;
- record cash transactions in the petty cash journal;
- account for VAT in the journals by recording a variety of different cash transactions that involve standard rated, zero-rated, exempt and non-allowable items;
- post the cash journals to the general ledger and balance the general ledger accounts; and

- index the general ledger accounts with their respective balances in a trial balance;

Recording credit and sundry transactions

- Explain why offering credit can benefit a business, while also focusing on the risks associated with offering credit to customers;
- define credit transactions;
- record credit purchases in the creditors journal from original credit invoices;
- record original credit notes in the creditors allowances journal;
- record credit sales in the debtors journal from duplicate credit invoices;
- record duplicate credit notes in the debtors allowances journal;
- record sundry transactions in the general journal;
- complete a comprehensive exercise in which all subsidiary journals are combined;
- account for VAT in the journals by recording a variety of different transactions that involve standard rated, zero-rated, exempt and non-allowable items;
- post a completed set of subsidiary journals to the general ledger;
- balance the ledger accounts and draft a trial balance.

Inventory systems

- Explain why some businesses choose not to use a perpetual inventory system, but a periodic system instead;
- calculate cost of sales using a periodic inventory system;
- demonstrate the working of the purchases and purchases returns accounts under a periodic inventory system;
- demonstrate the working of the carriage on purchases and similar accounts that affect the calculation of cost of sales under a periodic inventory system;
- analyse inventory-related transactions under the accounting equation when using a periodic inventory system;
- record inventory-related transactions in the subsidiary journals when using a periodic inventory system; and
- explain which one of the two inventory systems is most desirable for a business to make use of.

Individual accounts for debtors and creditors, and supplier and general ledger reconciliations

- Explain why it is important to have separate debtors' accounts in a separate ledger;
- illustrate the structure of individual accounts in the debtors ledger;
- explain why it is important to have separate creditors' accounts in a separate ledger;
- illustrate the structure of individual accounts in the creditors ledger;
- explain the control account system;
- demonstrate how the debtors list is reconciled with the debtors control account in the general ledger;
- demonstrate how the creditors list is reconciled with the creditors control account in the general ledger;
- demonstrate how errors and omissions in the books of the business are corrected by means of corrective entries in the general journal and/or creditor's individual account;
- demonstrate how errors on the statement received from the creditor are outlined on the creditors reconciliation statement (remittance advice); and
- prepare a General ledger reconciliation statement.

The bank reconciliation process

- Discuss the daily banking process of a business;
- understand the information included in a bank statement;
- outline the steps in the bank reconciliation procedure;
- compare the credits on the bank statement with the bank column in the cashbook receipts to identify any differences which need to be updated in the cashbook;
- compare the debits on the bank statement with the bank column in the cashbook payments to identify any differences which need to be updated in the cashbook;
- total the cashbook receipts and cashbook payments, and post to the bank account in the general ledger;
- transcribe the closing bank statement balance onto the bank reconciliation statement;
- clear any remaining amounts from the previous month's reconciliation statement and carry forward any unresolved amounts to the current month's reconciliation statement;
- enter un-reconciled cashbook amounts in the bank reconciliation statement;
- interpret and investigate any outstanding items on the current month's bank reconciliation statement; and
- identify the alternative steps which may be followed when conducting a bank reconciliation.

Drafting financial statements

- apply lateral thinking with respect to double entries, journals, ledgers and the trial balance;
- interpret the balances/totals on a trial balance from a business perspective;
- demonstrate how to prepare the final accounts in the books of account at year-end;
- explain the difference between financial performance and financial position;
- prepare a simple income statement; and
- prepare a simple balance sheet.

1.2. Payroll and Monthly SARS Returns

Basic bookkeeping and VAT

- Differentiate between the various source documents used by businesses to record various transactions;
- identify the different subsidiary journals and the transactions unique to each of these journals;
- identify the accounts used in the general ledger;
- understand the accounting equation;
- define assets, non-current assets and current assets;
- define liabilities, non-current liabilities and current liabilities;
- define owner's equity and differentiate between drawings and capital;
- define income and expenses;
- explain the rules of double entry;
- explain the purpose of a trial balance;
- distinguish between the monthly and yearly financial cycle of a business;
- revise the recording of transactions in the subsidiary ledgers;
- explain what Value Added Tax (VAT) is and illustrate how the VAT system works in terms of input VAT and output VAT;
- identify the different VAT supply categories (including standard rated, zero-rated and exempt supplies, as well as non-allowable items);
- calculate VAT amounts as well as VAT inclusive and VAT exclusive amounts for various transactions;

- explain the information that has to be included on an invoice and debit and credit notes for VAT purposes;
- compare the payments vs. the invoice bases according to which vendors may be registered for VAT;
- outline the different categories according to which VAT vendors can be classified;
- explain when VAT payments are due and the penalties and interest that will be charged on late payments;
- distinguish between VAT avoidance and VAT evasion; and
- complete VAT returns accurately and completely.

Plan, organise, implement, monitor and work within the payroll environment

- Identify the role and typical duties of a payroll administrator;
- distinguish between a payroll and a payroll form;
- outline a typical payroll cycle;
- discuss the important issues a payroll administrator needs to deal with, including training and resource allocation, change management, statutory requirements and organisational procedures, prevention of payroll fraud, evaluation and review of payroll staff, reporting of deviations and implementing corrective action;
- describe how a payroll administrator should go about developing procedures to meet specified needs (i.e. developing it in conjunction with users and agreeing the costs and benefits with decision-makers); and
- explain how a payroll administrator could ensure that procedures are implemented.

Record and validate input variations on employee records

- Discuss why it is important for a payroll administrator to verify employees' contracts;
- outline the elements to be included in a contract of employment;
- explain the importance of capturing employee information correctly on the payroll system;
- recognise what a compensation package comprise of and distinguish between the different types of remuneration;
- explain the importance of employee induction and the role the payroll administrator plays in this process;
- describe how payroll is affected by the movement of employees and the processes that should be followed by the payroll administrator when new employees are appointed, existing employees are promoted or transferred or when the services of an employee are terminated;
- exhibit an understanding of the importance of payroll administrators implementing instructions from external agencies quickly and correctly;
- understand that the payroll administrator has to evaluate and record variation to payroll records in order to ensure that all data is accurate and reasonable, and that no unauthorised changes were made to payroll records.

Basic conditions of employment

- Outline and explain the main stipulations of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act No. 11 of 2002 (as amended);
- calculate and explain normal time and overtime as well as the opportunity cost of each;
- explain the various types of leave that an employee is entitled to during the course of his or her employment;
- outline the implications of leave payments and leave encashment to the individual, the employer, and the society as a whole; and
- record and validate employee records.

Statutory registrations

- Explain and complete the statutory registration forms for a new business;
- explain the purpose, working and logistical arrangements with respect to Skills Development Levies (SDL), Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE);
- explain the purpose, working and logistical arrangements with respect to the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act; and
- demonstrate the claiming procedures for benefits from each of the designated statutory funds.

Complete PAYE documents

- Calculate gross earnings for an employee, including allowances as well as company car and medical aid fringe benefits;
- calculate 'remuneration' and 'balance of remuneration' as defined by SARS;
- calculate 'PAYE remuneration', 'SDL remuneration' and 'UIF remuneration' as defined by SARS; and
- complete a monthly EMP201 return reflecting the correct calculation and payment of PAYE, SDL and UIF to SARS.

Accounting for payroll

- Calculate wages from either time records or a productivity scheme;
- make and record the correct deductions;
- record all payroll components in the appropriate wages or salaries register; and
- post the wages and salaries registers as well as the cashbook payments to the general ledger to affect the double entries for payroll.

Computerised payroll

- Install and register a recognised accounting software package;
- navigate through the different menu options;
- create a new company selecting the correct pay frequencies;
- setup the company parameters;
- edit and create transaction codes;
- edit profiles for different pay frequencies;
- create employee master files and link them to the relevant profile;
- bring in year to date totals on employees previously calculated on a manual system;
- set up the default (permanent) tab of employees pay slips;
- edit employees' periodic payslips according to information supplied for the pay period;
- process a payroll run for both weekly and monthly salaries;
- create a backup of the company data;
- run payroll and statutory reports; and
- process a pay period update moving the payroll form one pay period into the next.

Monthly SARS returns and eFiling

- Submit an EMP201 on eFiling; and
- submit a VAT201 form on eFiling.

Ethics and the registered Tax Practitioner

- Contrast morals and ethics;
- explain and describe a code of conduct;
- identify and explain the principles of a code of conduct;

- adhere to a code of conduct;
- identify and understand the ethical issues in an organisation;
- explain the basic principles of internal control;
- identify the need for Tax Practitioners in South Africa;
- explain when a person should register with SARS as a Tax Practitioner;
- explain the procedures to be followed for registration as a Tax Practitioner;
- explain the reasons for regulation of the tax profession; and
- list the benefits for professional membership of the South African Institute of Tax Professionals (SAIT).

1.3. Computerised Bookkeeping

Office Computing

Introduction to computing

- Discuss the history of computers briefly;
- learn what a PC is and how it basically works;
- identify the main components of PC hardware;
- understand why upgrading a PC is important;
- identify various PC software applications;
- differentiate between hardware and software;
- understand the interaction between hardware and software using the IPOS cycle;
- understand what networks are used for;
- identify the basic components of networks; and
- explain the advantages and disadvantages of using computers.

The Windows Operating System

- Understand where the Windows concept comes from;
- learn how to use basic tools in Windows;
- learn how to log on to your PC;
- identify the desktop and the taskbar;
- identify objects in Windows;
- use the recycle bin;
- identify tooltips;
- identify common Window components;
- learn how to control multiple opened Windows;
- learn how to start a programme;
- use the help, support and search tools;
- learn how to adjust PC hardware and PC software properties;
- learn how to change basic mouse properties;
- view the display properties;
- understand user accounts;
- add and remove programmes;
- learn what drivers are;
- use Windows Explorer to browse and create folders;
- open and navigate through the Windows Explorer structure;
- learn how to work with files and folders in Windows Explorer;
- create and save a document in Windows; and
- know how to launch a programme.

Working with Internet and Email

- Learn what e-mail is;
- distinguish between the Internet, e-mail and network e-mail;
- identify the various Outlook components;
- compose messages in Outlook;
- learn how to format messages;
- learn how to open a message;
- learn how to add an attachment to an e-mail;
- understand why and how to create e-mail folders;
- learn how to move messages to a folder;
- understand how contacts work in Outlook;
- learn how to add and delete contacts in the address book;
- use the help function in Outlook;
- work with electronic calendars;
- schedule appointments and meetings in an electronic diary;
- create and manage contacts in an electronic diary;
- understand Internet basics;
- distinguish between the intranet and the extranet;
- understand what viruses are;
- identify a web browser;
- understand what a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is;
- identify the Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 Interface;
- use web-based tools;
- download programs and files from the web;
- understand the workings of a search engine; and
- search the web and get usable information.

Working with Microsoft Word 2010

- Work effectively and efficiently on MS Word.

Working with Microsoft Excel 2010

- Work with an Excel workbook;
- create and save a workbook;
- open and view a workbook;
- navigate within a worksheet;
- format and edit an existing worksheet;
- print preview and print data; and
- work and understand the tools within the following tabs:
 - Home tab
 - Insert tab
 - Page Layout tab
 - Formulas tab
 - Data tab
 - Review tab
 - View tab
 - Add-Ins tab

Working with Microsoft PowerPoint 2010

- Work with PowerPoint slides;
- create and save a presentation;
- open and view a presentation;
- navigate within a presentation;
- format and edit an existing presentation;
- print preview and print slides; and
- work and understand the tools within the following tabs:
 - Home tab
 - Insert tab
 - Design tab
 - Transition Tab
 - Animation tab
 - Slide Show tab
 - Review tab
 - View tab

Accounting software

Installation and registration of accounting software

- Explain what the minimum hardware requirements are for installing accounting software on your computer;
- choose the correct regional and date settings;
- install a printer driver;
- install the software;
- register the software as an educational version; and
- navigate in the software.

Accounting software language and navigation

- Relate standard bookkeeping terminology to the terminology used in the accounting software; and
- learn how to navigate in the software package using the different navigational options.

Creating and setting up a company in the software

- Create a new company in the accounting software package; and
- set up the company according to the company's requirements.

Create and maintain general ledger accounts

- Understand the difference between a main and a sub general ledger account;
- create new general ledger main accounts;
- create new general ledger sub-accounts; and
- complete the inventory setup by creating inventory groups and linking the groups to general ledger accounts.

Create and maintain supplier accounts

- Create and maintain supplier categories;
- create and maintain supplier accounts; and
- view and print supplier master listings.

Create and maintain customer accounts

- Create and maintain customer categories;
- create sales analyses codes;
- create and maintain customer accounts; and
- view and print customer master listings.

Create and maintain inventory items

- Create inventory categories; and
- create inventory items.

Take on balances and journals

- Process and understand general journal processing using the accounting software;
- take on balances in the middle of a financial year;
- make a system backup;
- update batches processed;
- print a trial balance, customer and supplier age analysis, bank reconciliation and an inventory valuation report; and
- restore a system backup.

Supplier processing

- Create a purchase order and link it to a supplier invoice;
- update supplier batches;
- create a purchase journal for non-inventory items;
- link a return and debit note to a supplier invoice; and
- compare the manual bookkeeping cycle with that of the computerised bookkeeping cycle.

Customer processing

- Process a customer's quotation;
- link a quotation to a customer sales order;
- process a customer's sales order;
- link a sales order to a customer invoice;
- create a cash customer account; and
- process a customer's credit note and link it to the relevant customer's tax invoice.

Cash book, petty cash and journal processing

- Process a cash book and reconcile the cash book with the bank statement i.e. bank reconciliation;
- transfer funds between bank accounts;
- process a petty cash book;
- process general journals with VAT implications;
- process customer journals and interest on overdue accounts;
- process supplier journals;
- process inventory journals with VAT implications;
- compare manual to computerised ledgers; and
- compare the manual to the computerised trial balance.

Month-end procedures

- Ensure that all necessary month-end procedures have been completed for Letsema Furnishers.

Year-end procedures

- Successfully complete a year-end procedure in the software programme.

1.4. Business Literacy

The key principles of effective business communication

- List reasons why effective communication is important in the workplace;
- explain the communication process;
- identify your audience in this process;
- distinguish between different communication situations/categories;
- recognise the importance of adapting your communication style to different communication situations;
- distinguish between formal and informal communication;
- differentiate between and recognise verbal and non-verbal communication in the workplace;
- identify explicit and implicit messages in verbal and non-verbal communication;
- understand the importance of listening to achieve effective communication; and
- list the barriers to effective communication and explain how they can be overcome.

Spoken communication

- Give a definition of oral/spoken communication;
- understand the importance of the voice and language in spoken communication;
- apply techniques to improve your voice and articulation;
- understand the importance of planning and preparation for spoken communication situations;
- distinguish between direct and indirect spoken communication;
- list and explain the different types of spoken communication;
- communicate using these different types of spoken communication;
- recognise the importance of choosing the appropriate form of spoken communication for your audience;
- recognise formal and informal spoken communication;
- identify explicit and implicit messages in spoken communication;
- recognise and respond to assertive use of spoken communication; and
- analyse your own responses to spoken communication.

Written communication

- List reasons why effective written communication in English is important in the workplace;
- give a definition of written communication;
- recognise the link between writing and reading;
- understand the importance of words and grammar in written communication;
- use simple, concise and correct English to express yourself in writing in the workplace;
- get your audience's attention using effective headings, layout and graphic material;
- extract key information from written texts and summarise it;
- understand the importance of checking and editing written information;
- differentiate between fact and opinion;
- recognise persuasive writing and be able to respond to it;
- list and explain the different types of written communication;

- use these different types of written communication;
- choose the appropriate type of written communication for your audience/reader; and
- analyse your own response to written communication.

Work readiness

- Recognise the skills needed to prepare for the workplace;
- understand the role of the individual in a business organisation;
- plan and organise yourself for improved personal effectiveness;
- maintain files and records;
- manage your time effectively;
- recognise the importance of establishing and maintaining working relationships;
- describe the characteristics of an effective team;
- define group dynamics and the phases of team task completion;
- appreciate the value of teamwork;
- recognise conflict and understand how it impacts on a team;
- manage conflict in a team situation;
- differentiate between morals, ethics and values;
- explain and describe a code of conduct;
- understand the need for organisational codes;
- describe the concept of professional conduct;
- relate professionalism to personal, team and organisational behaviour;
- link characteristics like honesty, confidentiality, accountability and service excellence to professionalism;
- discuss the role of ethics and professionalism in the accountancy field;
- list examples of unprofessional and unethical conduct; and
- suggest ways of dealing with unethical practices.

Working with numbers: an introduction

- Explain the Hindu-Arabic number system as used in the Western world;
- represent integers on a number line;
- perform calculations with integers using four basic operations;
- find missing figures for a given problem;
- perform calculations with negative numbers;
- perform complex calculations using the order of operations convention;
- calculate averages;
- do calculations involving powers and roots;
- explain how the binary number system works;
- convert a base-10 (decimal) integer to its binary equivalent; and
- convert a base-2 (binary) integer to its decimal equivalent.

Working with fractions and decimal numbers

- Explain what a fraction is;
- define proper and improper fractions;
- explain what a mixed fraction is;
- perform calculations with fractions using the four basic operations;
- explain what a decimal is;
- define and work with non-terminating, terminating and recurring decimals;
- convert decimals to fractions;

- perform calculations with decimals using four basic operations;
- work with numbers in different ways to express size and magnitude;
- use scientific notation for small and large numbers;
- correctly relate prefixes magnitude in measurement to the decimal system;
- correctly apply conversions between related units in different measuring systems; and
- demonstrate the effect of error on calculations.

Percentages, ratios, proportions and equations

- Explain what a percentage is;
- convert a decimal or a fraction into a percentage;
- convert a percentage into a decimal or a fraction;
- calculate a number as a percentage of another number;
- apply a percentage to a number;
- measure percentage change;
- explain what a ratio is;
- calculate and simplify ratios;
- explain the relationship between a ratio and a fraction;
- share amounts or values in accordance with a predetermined ratio;
- solve problems where numbers are in proportion to one another;
- determine the missing figure in equivalent ratios;
- explain what an equation is;
- solve equations;
- explain what a formula is;
- change the subject of a formula; and
- solve problems using formulas.

Using interest rates in business

- Explain the difference between simple interest and compound interest;
- calculate simple interest;
- use the simple interest formula to determine the principal, rate and time;
- calculate compound interest;
- explain what present value and future value mean; and
- perform present value and future value calculations.

Measure, analyse and communicate workplace data

- Define the concept of space;
- explain how physical quantities or spaces are measured;
- discuss the intricacies of angles and triangles;
- explain and apply the Pythagorean Theory to solve problems in the workplace as well as in everyday life; and
- use shapes to communicate workplace data.

Business communication – Putting it all together

- Gain improved perspective on the importance of communication in the workplace;
- understand how the theory learned in Modules 1 – 4 relates to ‘real life’ work situations;
- gain insight into interpreting a variety of texts; and
- form a better understanding of the communication process as a whole.

Business numeracy – Putting it all together

- Gain improved perspective on the importance of numeric proficiency in the workplace;
- understand how the theory learned in Learning Modules 5 – 9 relates to ‘real life’ work situations; and
- gain insight into interpreting a variety of mathematical problems.

1.5. Financial Statements

Recording business financial transactions

- define assets, non-current assets and current assets;
- define liabilities, non-current liabilities and current liabilities;
- explain what is meant by a ‘proprietary account’;
- define income and expenses;
- explain and apply the rules of double entry;
- process receipts and payments;
- enter records in an analysed cash book for both cash and bank entries;
- check invoices received against orders;
- record debtors and creditors;
- prepare a bank reconciliation statement;
- draw up and interpret a trial balance;
- record and interpret financial transactions with reference to the monthly bookkeeping function.

Depreciable assets

- Explain the purpose of depreciation;
- calculate depreciation on non-current assets using the straight-line method;
- calculate depreciation on non-current assets using the diminishing balance method;
- record adjustments and closing transfers pertaining to depreciation in the general journal;
- explain how the accumulated depreciation account works;
- complete and interpret an asset register;
- maintain records relating to capital acquisition and disposal; and
- disclose property, plant and equipment in the financial statements at year-end.

Finalisation and interpretation of accounts

- Demonstrate how a ‘year-end’ procedure is run in the books of a business;
- explain the purpose and working of a trading account;
- explain the purpose and working of a profit and loss account;
- demonstrate how various year-end adjustments are used to make financial statements more realistic;
- prepare the final accounts for a small business;
- prepare the income statement for a small business;
- prepare the statement of financial position for a small business;
- apply profitability and liquidity ratios to a set of financial statements and appraise the efficiency and profitability of a small business using these tools;
- explain the difference between gross profit, net profit and cash on hand; and
- discuss the limitations of ratio analyses.

Financial statements of the sole proprietorship

- Explain and demonstrate the accounting concepts of prudence, accrual and matching;
- demonstrate an understanding of the business and accounting environment;
- identify financial statement information for a sole trader; and
- draft the year-end financial statements of a sole trader after passing the required year-end adjustments.

Partnerships

- Explain and demonstrate the basic differences between a sole proprietorship and a partnership;
- define and explain accounting concepts and procedures for a partnership;
- prepare and interpret the final accounts and financial statements of a partnership; and
- analyse the peculiar transactions of a partnership under the accounting equation.

Internal reporting for corporate entities

For close corporations:

- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of trading as a CC;
- explain the difference between members' interest and members' net investment;
- illustrate the effect of changes in membership on members' funds and members' interest percentages; and
- prepare the final accounts and financial statements for a CC (with notes where applicable).

For companies:

- Define a company and explain its legal status;
- explain the advantages of trading as a company;
- explain the difference between a public and a private company;
- explain what is meant by shares and shareholders, stated capital and market value, as well as authorised and issued share capital;
- discuss how shares are issued, and how the amounts are recorded;
- prepare a statement of changes in equity for a limited company;
- prepare the financial statements of a company, as well as appropriate notes to such statements;
- discuss the general principles of consolidation; and
- discuss the impact of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) on the accounting profession.

An Introduction to IFRS for SMMEs

- Understand the key concepts and pervasive principles underlying the preparation of financial statements using IFRS for SMEs;
- understand the basic aspects of financial statement presentation using IFRS for SMEs; and
- apply the recognition and measurement principles of key financial statement elements covered by IFRS for SMEs.

Statement of cash flows

- Perform a series of asset disposal procedures in order to obtain key figures needed for the preparation of a statement of cash flows and the notes thereto;
- calculate the amount representing cash receipts from customers during a financial year;
- calculate the amount representing cash paid to suppliers and employees during a financial year;
- calculate the cash outlays incurred with respect to SARS and shareholders' dividends;

- reconcile net profit before tax with cash generated from operations; and
- prepare a statement of cash flows, sectorised into cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities.

1.6. Cost and Management Accounting

An introduction to managerial accounting

- Calculate the total production, administration, selling and distribution costs of a product;
- distinguish between fixed, semi-fixed, semi- variable and variable costs;
- carry out a simple break-even analysis;
- calculate a selling price by using the mark-up or the margin; and
- apply the concepts of chargeable hours and total hours worked.

Controlling inventory and overhead costs

- Identify appropriate cost centres and elements of costs;
- explain how inventory costs can be controlled in the most efficient way;
- demonstrate how inventory can be valued according to the FIFO or weighted average method of valuation;
- illustrate how the most economical ordering quantity for items of inventory can be ascertained;
- record and analyse information with respect to allocation, apportionment and absorption of overhead costs; and
- establish overhead costs in accordance with the organisation's procedures.

Accounting for a manufacturing enterprise

- Demonstrate knowledge of the business and accounting environment;
- identify and describe accounting methods in line with organisational requirements and GAAP/GRAP;
- make the necessary double entries in the general ledger of a manufacturing concern;
- prepare a production cost statement for a manufacturing concern;
- prepare a trading statement for a manufacturing concern; and
- set up the notes to the production cost and trading statements for a manufacturing concern.

Job costing

- Identify the differences between job costing and process costing;
- explain the steps involved in job costing;
- identify overhead application rates;
- calculate the cost of a job;
- calculate the profit or loss of a job;
- identify and calculate over- or under-absorbed overheads;
- calculate the cost of a job taking into account work-in-process and finished goods;
- identify and complete a job order cost sheet;
- account for normal and abnormal wastage;
- prepare relevant ledger accounts for a job costing system;
- prepare manufacturing accounts; and
- distinguish between work-in-progress and finished goods.

Budgeting and standard costing

- Describe the benefits of budgeting;

- outline the budgeting process;
- prepare selected components of a master budget from information provided;
- develop and monitor an office supply budget;
- implement a plan to control the distribution of office supplies;
- implement control measures with individuals;
- explain what standard costing is;
- correctly code, analyse and correct data;
- state the advantages of using a standard costing system;
- define a variance;
- calculate different variances and determine whether they are favourable or unfavourable; and
- discuss the reasons why variances occur.

Contract accounting

- Explain what contract accounting/costing is;
- understand the terminology used in contract accounting;
- know how to record transactions relevant to a contract;
- understand and apply the different methods of recognising revenue and profits accruing to a contract as a contract progresses in completion;
- record all relevant transactions, ascertain profits and complete a contract work in process account;
- post debits and credits for all categories of financial transactions;
- understand an income statement and balance sheet;
- explain the basics of cost and management accounting and process journal entries relevant to these transactions;
- understand the basics of job costing; and
- understand the role of work in progress in marshalling transactions relevant to production in cost and management accounting.

Process costing

- Explain what process costing is;
- explain the main components of process costing being:
 - transferring costs from one process to another;
 - accounting for wastages;
 - accounting for abnormal gains and losses in wastage;
 - accounting for scrap;
 - valuation of transfers from one process to the next;
- account for process costing in the general ledger

Financial management

- Explain why the time value of money is such a crucial element to consider when making financial decisions for an organisation;
- calculate the future value of a present consideration;
- calculate the present value of a future consideration;
- apply various capital budgeting techniques to judge the viability of a capital investment;
- understand the importance of financial reporting;
- define capital and explain the various components thereof;
- define cost of capital;
- determine the cost of capital components;
- explain the capital structure;

- calculate the weighted average cost of capital;
- explain complexities in the determination of cost of capital;
- explain the issues in financing decisions.

1.7. Income Tax Returns

Introduction to income tax

- Identify the different types and categories of taxes;
- differentiate the factors in deemed South African source;
- understand the process of the Income Tax Act;
- identify the different tax years of assessment;
- compute the basic taxable income of an individual and a business;
- calculate a tax liability as per the sliding scale tax table;
- calculate marginal and effective tax rates;
- calculate tax thresholds from the sliding scale tax table and given tax rebates;
- understand the pre-paid taxes system;
- demonstrate the tax process; and
- understand the scope and aim of the Tax Administration Act.

Gross income

- Identify amounts that would be included in the general definition of gross income; and
- identify amounts that are specifically included in gross income.

Exempt income

- Identify exempt income;
- calculate the exempt portion of gross income where the exemption is partial; and
- calculate income for tax purposes.

Allowable deductions

- Identify expenses which are deductible in terms of the general deduction formula;
- identify expenses which are deductible in terms of special deductions;
- calculate limited deductions in terms of S11;
- calculate capital allowances;
- calculate building allowances;
- calculate deductions in respect of trading stock in terms of S22;
- calculate allowable medical expenses in terms of S18 and allowable medical scheme tax credits in terms of S6A;
- calculate allowable donations in terms of S18A;
- identify prohibited deductions; and
- calculate taxable income (excluding capital gains).

Fringe benefits and allowances

- Calculate the taxable portion of a travel allowance;
- calculate the taxable portion of a subsistence allowance;
- determine the taxation of other allowances and identify deductions which may be claimed;
- identify fringe benefits; and
- determine the cash equivalent of fringe benefits for taxation purposes.

Employees' tax and provisional tax

- Calculate gross earnings for an employee, including allowances as well as company car and medical aid fringe benefits;
- calculate 'remuneration' and 'balance of remuneration' as defined by SARS;
- calculate 'PAYE remuneration', 'SDL remuneration' and 'UIF remuneration' as defined by SARS;
- complete a monthly EMP201 return reflecting the correct calculation of PAYE, SDL and UIF due to SARS;
- complete an annual IRP5 certificate or an IT3(a) certificate for each employee;
- complete the annual EMP501 reconciliation for SARS;
- explain the reasoning behind the provisional tax system;
- demonstrate the calculations pertaining to the first provisional payment;
- demonstrate the calculations pertaining to the second provisional payment; and
- demonstrate the calculations pertaining to the third provisional (top up) payment.

Taxation of non-residents

- Determine whether or not a person is a resident of South Africa for tax purposes;
- interpret legislation relating to non-residents;
- calculate withholding tax on specific income paid to non-residents in terms of S35, S35A and S47; and
- determine the tax liability of a non-resident.

Taxation of business entities

- Determine the taxable income of a sole proprietor;
- determine the taxable income of a partner in a partnership;
- interpret legislation related to companies, close corporations and trusts;
- apply the laws and procedures relating to these entities;
- classify a company as either private or public;
- identify a group of companies;
- determine the tax liability of a small business corporation;
- identify dividends and deemed dividends;
- identify exemptions from STC;
- establish the dividend cycle;
- calculate STC payable in a dividend cycle;
- calculate the effective rate of tax of a company;
- calculate dividends tax to be withheld;
- calculate the STC credit carried forward;
- identify the different types of trusts;
- identify who will be liable for the tax on a trust's income in terms of S25 and S7;
- determine the tax liability of a trust.

Turnover tax

- Identify which businesses will qualify as micro businesses;
- determine taxable turnover;
- calculate interim tax payments;
- calculate turnover tax payable; and
- determine output VAT payable on de-registration as a VAT vendor due to registration as a micro business.

Completing tax returns

- Complete ITR12 and IT14 tax returns.

Capital gains tax

- Interpret legislation related to capital gains;
- apply the laws and procedures relating to capital gains;
- identify disposals and deemed disposals;
- establish the time of disposal;
- calculate the proceeds and base cost of an asset disposed of;
- identify disallowed capital losses;
- identify deferred capital gains;
- identify exclusions; and
- calculate the taxable capital gain.

Donations tax

- Define donations tax;
- identify who is liable for donations tax;
- identify donations which are exempt from donations tax;
- identify deemed donations;
- understand limited interests in property;
- value property and limited interests in property for donations tax purposes; and
- calculate donations tax.

Estate duty

- Interpret legislation related to estate duty;
- apply the laws and procedures relating to estate duty;
- identify property and deemed property to be included in the gross estate;
- identify the deductions allowable from the gross estate;
- calculate the dutiable estate by deducting the S4A abatement;
- calculate estate duty payable;
- identify rebates allowable in terms of Schedule 1 and S16; and
- apportion estate duty liability.

SARS and the Tax Practitioner

- identify the need for Tax Practitioners in South Africa;
- explain when a person should register with SARS as a Tax Practitioner;
- outline the circumstances under which a person does not have to register with SARS as a tax practitioner;
- explain the procedures to be followed for registration as a Tax Practitioner;
- complete the Tax Practitioner Registration Form (TP1);
- explain the reasons for regulation of the tax profession;
- list the benefits for professional membership of the South African Institute of Tax Professionals (SAIT).

1.8. Business Law and Accounting Control

The unspoken laws of business

- Explain what is meant by an 'unspoken law';
- define economics;
- distinguish between microeconomics and macroeconomics;
- explain how major economic events such as a hike in interest rates, inflation and unemployment affects the 'man on the street';
- explain the role of households, businesses, government, the foreign sector and financial institutions in the economy;
- demonstrate the intricacies of demand and supply;
- illustrate and explain the laws of demand and supply as well as resultant equilibrium;
- explain how the theory of demand and supply can be used to determine what price to charge for a product;
- explain the determinants of demand and supply, and demonstrate how such determinants can affect the equilibrium point;
- explain what is meant by inflation, what causes inflation and what can be done to control it;
- explain why inflation is a problem.

The written laws of business

- Differentiate between Public and Private law;
- discuss the stare decisis rule and the jurisdictions of the various courts of law;
- differentiate between civil action and civil application proceedings;
- distinguish between appeal and review proceedings;
- define a contract;
- define the term 'obligation';
- discuss the essentials for a valid contract;
- differentiate between the concepts of a valid, void and voidable contract with reference to practical examples;
- define the terms 'unjust enrichment' and 'delict';

Managing your personal finances

- Prepare a personal/household budget;
- explain the factors that have a bearing on one's investment decisions;
- explain the difference between 'saving' and 'investing';
- outline the various asset classes in an investment portfolio;
- demonstrate how switches between asset classes at strategic intervals can enhance the value of an investment portfolio;
- outline and discuss the investment vehicles suitable for retirement planning;
- explain the working, construction and use of unit trusts and endowment policies in an investor's investment portfolio;
- explain why risk cover is an essential component of every prudent investor's investment portfolio;
- briefly discuss the need and working of short-term insurance products;
- explain why efficient debt management is so important, and how it can be applied effectively.

Accounting systems – Internal control concepts

- Outline, demonstrate and discuss the basic premises of internal control.

Managing accounting systems

- Outline, demonstrate and discuss the management of accounting systems, with specific reference to the various revenue and expenditure cycles.

Accounting systems – Inventory control

- Explain how inventory control can be applied and controlled most effectively in an organisation.

Accounting systems – Analytical review

- Demonstrate how analytical reviews are conducted to ascertain the validity and integrity of internal control and internal audit.

Liquidation and executors' accounts

- Explain what is meant by 'estate planning';
- explain the consequences of dying intestate;
- demonstrate the various permutations of intestate succession;
- outline the basic legislation relating to estate planning;
- calculate estate duty payable on the estate of a deceased;
- explain the basic premises of donations tax and how this tax has a bearing on estate planning;
- outline the main function of the Master with respect to deceased and insolvent estates;
- explain the roles of dependent, minors, tutors, trustees and curators with respect to deceased estates;
- discuss the appointment procedures of tutors and curators;
- outline ways by which estate duty can be reduced;
- demonstrate the working of executors', tutors' and curators' accounts;
- administer insolvent estates, with particular reference to liquidation and distribution accounts;
- explain the difference between voluntary surrender and compulsory sequestration;
- outline the various acts of insolvency;
- explain the role of the trustee and the effect of sequestration on the insolvent's property; and
- prepare the accounts used to administer the insolvent estate.

1.9. Corporate Strategy

Introduction to strategic management

- Define strategic management;
- outline the strategic management process;
- name the people involved in the strategic management process;
- identify the building blocks of strategic management;
- describe the various levels of strategic management;
- discuss other aspects that will impact on strategy formulation; and
- explain the advantages of strategic management.

Formulating a strategic direction

- Discuss the importance of strategic direction;
- formulate a strategic vision;
- formulate a strategic mission;
- explain the interrelationship between a vision and a mission;
- discuss the core values that support a vision and mission; and

- understand that strategic positioning happens in a competitive environment.

The context of strategic selection

- Analyse the external or macro environment in which a business operates;
- analyse the industry environment in which a business operates;
- conduct internal environmental analysis; and
- discuss the objective of internal and external scanning.

The formulation of corporate goals and objectives

- Understand the process of formulating long-term goals and objectives for a business;
- identify the focus areas of long-term goals;
- outline the cascading process of goals and objectives;
- describe the qualities of long-term objectives;
- demonstrate an understanding of the criteria used when formulating long-term goals;
- explain the link between goals/objectives and key performance areas; and
- identify strategies that will advance goals and objectives.

Strategy identification and formulation

- Distinguish between the five generic competitive strategies;
- discuss more focused corporate strategies;
- illustrate an understanding of external and internal growth strategies;
- outline the different decline strategies a business can make use of;
- examine corporate combination strategies; and
- demonstrate an understanding of strategy analysis and evaluation.

Strategy evaluation and selection

- Discuss the importance of strategy evaluation;
- identify the criteria for effective strategies;
- understand the decision-making process;
- distinguish between the different models that can be used to evaluate and analyse strategies; and
- plan for change in an organisation.

Strategy implementation

- Identify the barriers to the successful implementation of a strategy;
- outline the drivers and instruments that facilitate strategy implementation; and
- translate long-term strategic objectives into short-term strategies.

Continuous improvement through strategic control and evaluation

- Discuss strategic control as an element of the strategic management process;
- demonstrate an understanding of the balanced scorecard;
- identify the relationship between strategic control and corporate governance; and
- outline the approaches which can be used to build competitive advantage.

Strategic management and non-profit organisations

- Discuss the benefits for non-profit organisations of making use of the strategic management process;
- identify the sources of income for non-profit organisations;
- demonstrate an understanding of strategic planning for non-profit organisations;

- identify useful strategies which can be implemented by non-profit organisations; and
- explain the purpose of strategic alliances.

1.10. Management Accounting Control Systems

Activity-based costing

- Distinguish between traditional costing systems and ABC;
- calculate product overhead costs using ABC;
- make use of unit-based drivers to assign overheads; and
- discuss the advantages and limitations of ABC.

Cost classification, estimation and behaviour

- Differentiate between fixed, variable and mixed costs;
- estimate the fixed and variable elements of a mixed cost making use of the high-low method;
- apply the least squares regression method to study trends in financial data; and
- demonstrate how the learning curve theory can be used to calculate the amount of time necessary to complete a task.

Cost-volume-profit analysis

- List the underlying assumptions of CVP analysis;
- discuss the difference between the economist's view and the accountant's view of the CVP graph;
- demonstrate how mathematics can be used in CVP analysis;
- demonstrate how break-even analysis should be applied in an environment characterised by multiple products; and
- illustrate how a change in inputs in the CVP equation will give rise to a change in profits and break-even points.

Linear programming

- Define and list the underlying assumptions of linear programming;
- formulate a linear programming equation;
- demonstrate the effects of shadow pricing; and
- outline the limitations of linear programming.

Standard costing

- Discuss the need for making use of standard costing;
- differentiate between the different types of standards used in standard costing;
- conduct variance calculations;
- reconcile budgeted to actual profit; and
- conduct variance calculations using the additional variances included under a standard absorption costing system.

Relevant costs

- Explain the significance of relevant costs to the decision-making process;
- explain the importance of qualitative factors in financial decision-making processes; and
- apply relevant costing in financial decision-making.

Expected value theory and decision trees

- Define the nature and use of expected value theory;
- describe the advantages and limitations of expected value theory;
- demonstrate how decision trees are used as a decision-making tool; and
- describe the advantages and limitations of decision trees.

Pricing policy and transfer pricing

- Discuss the role and purpose of a pricing policy;
- explain what is meant by an optimum price and output level;
- explain the purpose of a market penetration pricing strategy;
- outline the steps to be followed during target costing;
- outline the advantages and disadvantages of target costing; and
- explain and apply transfer pricing.

Budgeting

- Explain the definition of a budget and the budgeting process;
- distinguish between fixed and flexible budgets;
- draft the different components of a master budget; and
- outline the advantages and disadvantages of zero-based budgeting.

Divisional performance evaluation

- Explain what is meant by responsibility accounting;
- outline potential problems that may arise with inter-divisional performance measurement;
- describe the significance of organisational structures in managerial decision-making; and
- demonstrate how key performance measurement indicators for divisions are applied in a corporate environment.

1.11. Financial Reporting and Regulatory Frameworks

Introduction to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the Conceptual Framework

- Discuss the need for a regulatory framework in accounting;
- discuss the process of harmonisation of accounting standards;
- demonstrate an understanding of the process followed when international accounting standards are set or amended; and
- outline the basic premises of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) Framework.

IAS 1 – Presentation of financial statements

- Demonstrate an understanding of the requirements for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards;
- prepare a set of financial statements which is compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards;
- explain the general considerations that need to be adhered to when preparing a set of financial statements for a company.

IAS 16 – Property, plant and equipment

- Explain how property, plant and equipment (and its different components) must be recognised in financial statements;
- explain how land and buildings is recognised in financial statements;
- demonstrate an understanding of how property, plant and equipment is measured at recognition;
- demonstrate an understanding of how property, plant and equipment is measured after recognition;
- discuss when property, plant and equipment should be derecognised; and
- outline the disclosures that should be made in the financial statements with regards to property, plant and equipment.

IAS 40 – Investment property

- Explain how investment property is recognised in financial statements;
- demonstrate an understanding of how investment property is measured at recognition;
- demonstrate an understanding of how investment property is measured after recognition;
- explain when transfers to/from investment property may be made;
- discuss when investment property should be derecognised; and
- outline the disclosures that should be made in the financial statements with regards to investment property.

IAS 36 – Impairment of assets

- Explain how to identify an impaired asset;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to measure the recoverable amount;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to recognise an impairment loss;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to reverse an impairment loss; and
- outline the disclosures that should be made in the financial statements with regards to the impairment of assets.

IAS 38 – Intangible assets

- Explain how to identify an intangible asset;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to measure intangible assets at recognition;
- explain when internally generated intangible assets should be recognised;
- explain the expenditure on intangible assets that should be expensed when incurred;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to measure intangible assets after recognition;
- discuss the useful life of an intangible asset;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to amortise intangible assets with finite useful lives;

IAS 2 – Inventories

- Demonstrate an understanding of how to measure inventories;
- discuss the recognition of expenses when inventories are sold; and
- outline the disclosures that should be made in the financial statements with regards to inventory.

IFRS 16 – Leases

- explain the objective of IFRS16;
- determine the scope of IFRS16;
- classify leases in accordance with IFRS16;
- present leases in the financial statements of the lessee;
- present leases in the financial statements of the lessor;

- distinguish between a finance lease and an operating lease; and
- prepare the note disclosure for leases in accordance with IFRS16.

IFRS 15 – Revenue from contracts with customers

- identify a contract with a customer;
- identify performance obligations;
- calculate the transaction price;
- allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contracts;
- recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation;
- present contract costs in the financial statements;
- account for and disclose incremental costs of obtaining a contract;
- account for and disclose costs to fulfil the contract; and
- prepare the disclosure that should be made in the financial statements with regard to revenue from contracts with customers.

IAS12 – Income taxes

- demonstrate an understanding of how to recognise, measure and present current tax;
- demonstrate an understanding of how to recognise, measure and present deferred tax; and
- demonstrate an understanding of how to recognise, measure and present deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets.

IAS 7 – Statement of cash flows

- Demonstrate an understanding of how the statement of cash flows is presented;
- demonstrate an understanding of how cash flow from interest and dividends received and paid must be disclosed;
- explain how cash flows from taxes on income must be disclosed;
- discuss how cash and cash equivalents must be disclosed; and
- identify other disclosures that must be made in the statement of cash flows.

2. Office Administration Programme

Refer to the curriculum statements under the Accounting Programme for the following subjects:

- Bookkeeping to Trial Balance
- Business Literacy
- Financial Statements
- Cost and Management Accounting

2.1. Business and Office Administration 1

The role of the receptionist

- Outline the duties and tasks of a receptionist;
- create and maintain a clean, safe and presentable reception area according to organisational standards;
- greet customers and identify their needs;
- handle customers' telephone, facsimile and electronic requests appropriately;
- give appropriate responses to customers in a face-to-face situation and on the telephone;
- receive and direct visitors in accordance with organisational policies and requirements; and
- describe and apply security procedures in accordance with organisational policies and requirements.

Handling mail

- Receive mail according to established procedures;
- sort mail according to established procedures;
- stamp mail correctly according to established requirements;
- provide reasons for stamping incoming mail;
- attach enclosures securely and report missing items in accordance with set procedures;
- describe the importance of maintaining confidentiality and security of documentation in terms of receiving and sorting mail;
- observe confidentiality in terms of a mailroom code of conduct;
- distribute mail internally to relevant persons within an agreed time;
- explain possible reasons for unavoidable or necessary delays in distribution, and describe the consequences of such delays;
- address mail legibly and correctly for internal and external distribution;
- describe procedures for dispatching mail externally in accordance with established procedures and post office requirements;
- dispatch mail externally via the post office or a courier service within agreed deadlines; and
- explain the legal implications of neglecting to comply with mailroom procedures in terms of own work performance and possible cost to company.

Record management systems

- Provide reasons why companies record and keep information;
- identify the structure, components, equipment and supplies required for electronic and paper filing systems;
- use procedures appropriate to the workplace for opening, closing and retaining files;
- select and use appropriate storage and retrieval methods for electronic and paper records;
- handle records in a manner which complies with statutes and regulations governing the privacy of information and the retention of records;

- develop a schedule for retention and disposal of records;
- provide reasons for internal control; and
- identify problems with inadequate internal controls and make suggestions for improvement.

The role and function of the secretary

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role and the function of a secretary in an organisation;
- indicate the traditional technical skills required by secretaries;
- identify additional skills which are likely required;
- advise a junior employee on performance;
- appreciate the importance of good telephone etiquette;
- demonstrate competence as a secretary in an organisation;
- demonstrate competence in handling routine business correspondence;
- draft memoranda, minutes and reports; and
- demonstrate skills and ability to organise.

Introduction to Computing

- Discuss the history of computers briefly;
- learn what a PC is and how it basically works;
- identify the main components of PC Hardware;
- understand why upgrading a PC is important;
- identify various PC Software applications;
- differentiate between hardware and software;
- understand the interaction between Hardware and Software using the IPOS cycle;
- understand what networks are used for;
- identify the basic components of networks; and
- explain the advantages and disadvantages of using computers.

The Windows Operating System

- Understand where the windows concept comes from;
- learn how to use basic tools in Windows;
- learn how to Log On to your PC;
- identify the desktop and the taskbar;
- identify objects in Windows;
- use the recycle bin;
- identify tooltips;
- identify common Window components;
- learn how to control multiple opened Windows;
- learn how to start a programme;
- use the help, support and search tools;
- learn how to adjust PC hardware and PC software properties;
- learn how to change basic mouse properties;
- view the display properties;
- understand user accounts;
- add and remove programmes;
- learn what drivers are;
- use Windows Explorer to browse and create folders;
- open and navigate through the Windows Explorer structure;
- learn how to work with files and folders in Windows Explorer;

- create and save a document in Windows; and
- know how to launch a programme.

Working with Internet and Email

- Learn what e-mail is;
- distinguish the difference between Internet e-mail and network e-mail;
- identify the various Outlook components;
- compose messages in Outlook;
- learn how to format messages;
- learn how to open a message;
- learn how to add an attachment to e-mail;
- understand why and how to create e-mail folders;
- learn how to move messages to a folder;
- understand how contacts work in Outlook;
- learn how to add and delete contacts in the address book;
- use the help function in Outlook;
- working with electronic calendars;
- schedule appointments and meetings in an electronic diary;
- create and manage contact in an electronic diary;
- understand Internet Basics;
- distinguish between the Intranet and the extranet;
- understand what viruses are;
- identify a web browser;
- understand what the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is;
- identify the Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 Interface;
- use web-base tools;
- download programs and files from the web;
- understand the workings of a search engine;
- search the web and getting usable information.

The rules of typing

- Understand the correct postures and techniques to use your computer safely and effectively;
- learn the basic typing rules and manuscript signs;
- understand where to place your fingers on the keyboard;
- understand the basic techniques of touch typing;
- work out how fast you can type; and
- be aware that typing software can increase your typing speed.

Creating business documents

- Produce an advanced business letter;
- produce an advanced official letter/formal report;
- produce display documents and documents used at meetings, suitable for publishing on A4 and A5 paper;
- prepare a notice, agenda and minutes of a meeting;
- prepare a table on A4 portrait and A4 landscape paper;
- preparing a legal document and a company document;
- producing a financial statement; and
- preparing a curriculum vitae and a memorandum.

Creating business reports

- Distinguish between formal and informal reports.

2.2. Marketing Management and Public Relations

Basic concepts in marketing management

- Describe the concept of 'marketing';
- explain the differences between consumer needs and consumer wants;
- use a model of needs to identify marketing applications;
- differentiate between 'goods' and 'services';
- explain how marketing efforts relate to the success of a business;
- identify the different types of utilities;
- explain how marketing has developed and changed over the years;
- describe the marketing concept in detail;
- understand the relevance of micro and macro marketing with respect to the marketing effort;
- differentiate between three types of economies;
- understand the different functions that support the marketing function; and
- provide examples of competitive advantages.

The internal marketing environment

- Distinguish between the components of a marketing environment;
- describe the organisation as the micro environment;
- describe the main purposes of three types of organisations;
- explain the concept of a marketing function;
- differentiate between four types of organisational structures;
- describe the impact of these structures on customer service;
- identify the relationships between marketing and the other functions in the business;
- discuss the interdependence of the different functions;
- explain the role of employees in a marketing-oriented organisation;
- apply a systems model to a practical example;
- differentiate between the levels of planning and management;
- explain how sales and marketing fit into the organisation; and
- explain why different functions need to be interdependent.

The external marketing environment

- Explain the impact of the external environment on the organisation;
- describe the categorisation of the three business environments and the impact they have on an organisation;
- assess the level of rivalry in an industry using a competitor analysis model;
- understand the market environment and its components;
- understand the macro environment and its components;
- identify the components and functions of social responsibility;
- understand the dynamics of ethical behaviour in marketing; and
- describe key ethical issues relating to marketing in South Africa.

Formulating a marketing strategy

- Explain the process of establishing strategic objectives;

- understand the eight functions of marketing;
- explain the key terms used in the process of strategic marketing planning;
- describe the influences of the macro environment on an organisation;
- conduct a competitor analysis following a prescribed process;
- use a model to assess the level of competitiveness of an industry;
- determine what gives an organisation its competitive advantage;
- identify and describe the criteria for segmenting consumer markets;
- apply the different market segmentation approaches to specific South African companies;
- meet the prerequisites for setting effective marketing objectives;
- identify internal and external stakeholders of an organisation;
- explain the purpose of the marketing mix and its elements; and
- understand the role of public relations in the marketing mix.

Understanding 'Product' in the marketing mix

- Explain the role of product in the marketing mix;
- describe why marketers have to differentiate between services and products;
- provide practical examples of the core, actual and augmented components of a product;
- understand the different product classes and understand the reasons why each class is marketed differently;
- use strategic tools to categorise the viability of products and identify the most appropriate strategy to adopt;
- describe how a marketing strategy will have to be adjusted during the product life-cycle;
- identify criteria for making product decisions regarding the design and development of a container or wrapper for a product;
- identify key criteria for making product labelling decisions;
- understand the market conditions that would necessitate a change in packaging strategy; and
- explain the steps involved in new product development.

Understanding 'Place' in the marketing mix

- Understand the role of place in the marketing mix;
- describe the four distribution channels;
- explain the key of intermediaries in distribution and marketing;
- identify the key players in the marketing channel;
- describe the nature of channel conflict;
- define the factors which need to be considered in the selection of an appropriate channel;
- categorise the different forms of businesses that fall under each middleman category;
- identify strategic distribution channel alternatives;
- describe the changes in distribution strategy required to suit the changing stages of the product in the product life cycle;
- appreciate the importance of physical distribution in marketing; and
- identify the most appropriate method of transport for specific products.

Understanding 'Price' in the marketing mix

- Understand the concept of price in the context of the marketing mix;
- discuss the importance of pricing decisions to the organisation;
- identify a variety of marketing objectives and select appropriate pricing strategies;
- differentiate between the four key pricing strategies and their applications;
- understand the basic economic principles involved in the relationship between price and supply and demand;

- identify and describe the most effective tactics needed to increase sales;
- calculate final prices using four common pricing methods;
- explain the concept of a break-even point in pricing;
- describe how pricing decisions change as a product moves through different stages of the product life-cycle; and
- consider the impact of pricing strategies and their impact on the public relations arena.

Understanding 'Promotion' in the marketing mix

- Explain how promotion fits in with the other components of the marketing mix;
- apply a communications model to a practical marketing communications situation;
- distinguish between the marketing mix and the promotional mix;
- identify the key components of promotion;
- identify the key media used in advertising;
- identify the key activities involved in sales promotion;
- explain the nature of personal selling;
- contrast the functions of public relations and marketing;
- explain the relationship between integrated marketing communications and promotions;
- describe how promotional strategies change as the product moves through the product life-cycle;
- categorise a variety of marketing activities under the relevant component of the marketing mix; and
- explain five methods of designing a promotional budget.

The role of public relations and mass communication in business

- outline the background and history of the development of public relations as a profession;
- create a link between public relations and communication;
- define public relations;
- explain the purpose of public relations;
- illustrate diagrammatically the systematic nature of public relations;
- illustrate the reasons for practising public relations;
- link public relations to the concepts of responsibility and ethics;
- describe how the public relations profession self-regulates;
- outline the different techniques used by public relations professionals to achieve organisational objectives;
- explain the role the public relations professional fulfils in an organisation;
- describe the technical tasks a public relations professional performs;
- list the skills, qualifications and personal characteristics required for success in the profession;
- identify and detail the different communication media/channels used in public relations;
- understand the importance of mass communication to public relations and communication in general;
- recognise the functional differences between the various public relations media; and
- discuss the key issues facing the public relations professional in the future.

Integration – Formulating a strategic marketing plan

- Understand what is meant by the term strategic marketing planning;
- describe the purposes of marketing planning;
- explain the key terms used in the process of strategic marketing planning;
- construct a model representing the strategic marketing process;
- analyse the components of a mission statement;
- formulate effective marketing objectives;
- conduct a situational analysis (SWOT);
- conduct a competitor analysis following a prescribed format;

- explain the importance of competitive advantage for an organisation;
- describe the relevance and process of target market selection;
- describe the positioning process;
- explain the four components of the marketing mix;
- describe the components of an implementation plan; and
- compile a strategic marketing plan.

2.3. **Business Law and Administrative Practice**

An introduction to South African commercial law

- illustrate an understanding of common legal concepts in South African law;
- categorise the authority and functions of the different South African courts;
- describe the different sources of South African law; and
- appraise the alternative dispute resolution processes that can be followed in South Africa.

The formation of a valid contract

- name the requirements for a valid contract;
- differentiate between the three categories of contractual capacity in detail;
- discuss how consensus is reached;
- discuss the factors that have an influence on consensus;
- determine when and where a contract enters into force;
- differentiate between common law and statutory illegality in contracts;
- differentiate between the four types of impossibility of performance;
- determine the effect on a contract if one or more of the requirements of a valid contract are not (fully) satisfied; and
- explain when contracts must comply with formalities, including which type of formality.

Contractual interpretation, performance and breach

- evaluate the contents of a typical business contract;
- distinguish between express terms and implied terms included in a contract;
- identify suspensive conditions, resolutive conditions and time clauses in a typical business contract;
- contrast voidable contracts with contracts that are void;
- explain the factors that could lead to a contract being regarded as voidable;
- exhibit an understanding of the law of agency, and how this applies to a business enterprise;
- analyse the different elements included under the nature of performance of a contract;
- interpret the excuses that can be raised for non-performance of a contract;
- identify the different types of breach of contract;
- compare the remedies available for contractual breach; and
- discuss when and how contracts are terminated.

Contract of lease

- define contract of lease;
- briefly discuss the general requirements for a contract of lease;
- discuss the essentialia of a contract of lease;
- discuss, and apply to a set of facts, the naturalia (rights and duties of the seller and the purchaser) of a contract of lease;

- briefly discuss the protection afforded to lessees by the Rental Housing Act 50 of 1999; and
- apply all the salient principles referred to above to a set of facts, and advise appropriately.

Contract of sale

- define contract of sale;
- differentiate contracts of sale from other contracts;
- briefly discuss the general requirements for a contract of sale;
- discuss the essentialia of a contract of sale;
- discuss the naturalia of a contract of sale;
- discuss the rights and duties of the seller and the purchaser respectively;
- discuss the remedies available to the parties;
- explain the meaning of the terms:
 - alienate;
 - land;
 - deed of alienation; and
 - blank spaces;
- explain the meaning of 'in writing', with reference to the Alienation of Land Act 68 of 1981;
- explain whether or not a contract of sale for the sale of immovable property may be concluded by means of an electronic signature;
- briefly discuss the salient terms of a contract of sale of immovable property;
- explain the impact of the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008 (CPA) on the contract of sale of land;
- explain the consequences of noncompliance with formalities in respect of the sale of land; and
- apply all the salient principles referred to above to a set of facts, and advise appropriately.

Credit agreements

- explain the meaning of the terms:
 - consumer;
 - credit provider;
 - credit agreement;
 - credit transaction;
 - credit guarantee; and
 - credit bureau;
- briefly differentiate between the various types of credit transactions;
- explain when juristic persons are protected by the provisions of the National Credit Act 34 of 2005 (NCA);
- list the credit agreements that are not regulated by the NCA;
- differentiate between small, intermediate and large credit agreements;
- identify unlawful credit agreements and unlawful provisions in credit agreements;
- name the rights of the credit provider;
- briefly discuss the credit provider's duties;
- discuss 'reckless credit' and the effects thereof;
- discuss the consumers' rights;
- comprehensively discuss the consumers' right to apply for debt review and the rearrangement of the consumer's obligations;
- discuss the right to cooling off;
- explain the consumer's right to:
 - early settlement; and

- surrender of goods;
- briefly explain the consumer's duties;
- name the various consumer credit institutions created by the NCA;
- briefly explain the roles and functions of the various credit institutions;
- explain which items are recoverable by a credit provider;
- briefly discuss the settlement of consumer credit disputes as provided for in the NCA;
- discuss how a credit provider may enforce its rights against the consumer in the event of breach of contract; and
- apply all the salient principles referred to above to a set of facts, and advise appropriately.

Introduction to the law of employment

- outline the elements of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997;
- explain the impact of the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 (LRA);
- discuss the impact of the Unemployment Insurance Act 63 of 2001 on employers;
- evaluate the importance of adhering to the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993;
- explain the importance of the Skills Development Act 97 of 1998 in providing trained resources to industry;
- recognise the impact of the Compensation for Occupational Injury and Diseases Act 130 of 1993 on industry; and
- recognise the impact of the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 on industry.

Law of agency

- define agency;
- briefly explain the role of the parties to a contract of agency;
- discuss how authority is established;
- explain the meaning of 'power of attorney';
- explain how agency may be terminated;
- discuss the rights and duties of the principal;
- comprehensively discuss the rights and duties of the agent;
- discuss the liability of the principal and the third party against each other; and
- discuss when the agent will be personally liable.

Business entities

- compare the sole trader with partnerships;
- outline the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of operating as a sole trader;
- evaluate the characteristics and elements of a partnership;
- explain the future of close corporations;
- outline the characteristics of a trust;
- distinguish between the different types of trusts; and
- evaluate the nature of a franchise agreement, the advantages and disadvantages of franchising and the duties of the parties to a franchise agreement.

Laws that regulate commercial activity

- recognise the impact that the Consumer Protection Act has had on industry;
- outline the rights that consumers have in terms of the Consumer Protection Act;
- recognise the impact that the Competition Act has had on the industry;

- distinguish between restrictive horizontal practices, restrictive vertical practices, abuse of dominance and price discrimination; and
- conclude whether certain restraint of trade provisions are fair.

2.4. **Business and Office Administration 2**

Office equipment and ergonomics

- Outline the features of the different kinds of office equipment;
- work with office equipment;
- choose the correct office equipment to suit your needs;
- gauge whether renting or buying is a better bet;
- control the movement of different items of inventory;
- implement preventative maintenance strategies;
- implement predictive maintenance strategies; and
- implement safety measures with respect to office equipment and machinery.

Filing systems and records management

- Classify paper-based documentation according to established procedures;
- store information in the correct location and sequence and explain the effect of misfiled documentation on an organisation;
- store documents in a manner that ensures safety, security and accessibility;
- classify and cross-reference information accurately;
- describe methods of classification and cross-referencing;
- archive and locate documents in accordance with organisational procedures;
- discuss the implications for productivity when an item cannot be located;
- create, label and file electronic documents in accordance with organisational requirements;
- sort, classify and store materials in a safe and secure manner;
- retrieve information from an existing storage system and distribute to the correct person or location; and
- retrieve, transfer and dispose of files.

Reception duties

- acknowledged and greet visitors according to organisational requirements;
- established rapport with visitors;
- maintain a professional appearance and behaviour at all times;
- consult visitors in a professional manner and establish the reason for their visit;
- attend to requests for information promptly;
- estimate the time or waiting period and convey this information to the client;
- record the receipt and dispatch of documents and deliveries in accordance with organisational requirements;
- notify relevant parties of visitors' arrival;
- give clear directions to visitors to relevant areas in the workplace;
- explain and apply security procedures;
- list and explain housekeeping according to organisational requirements;
- implement housekeeping standards within agreed timeframes;
- ensure that reception services are not disrupted while housekeeping activities are performed;
- coordinate corporate image displays to create a presentable reception area;
- keep the display area neat, tidy and clean at all times;
- constantly maintain stocks of company brochures and magazines for distribution;
- maintain a well-organised diary with appointments;
- outline the most important rules of office etiquette; and
- outline the steps to be taken during an armed robbery or another emergency situation.

Dealing with customer queries

- Answer queries in a defined range of established contexts clearly, accurately, objectively and confidently;
- supply requested information promptly or refuse requests politely with reasons given for declining requests;
- request and record details of customers by following established and familiar procedures (limited to logbooks and/or computerised spreadsheets);
- note the details of the enquiry and reflect back to the caller to check for accuracy;
- conclude calls according to established and familiar procedures;
- follow established procedures to explain delays or non-availability of assistance;
- identify and describe enquiries of unpredictable nature that should be referred to experienced staff;

- describe and apply procedures for dealing with unusual or unfamiliar problems, complaints and queries;
- give an explanation of how to reach agreement with the customer on follow-up actions; and
- obtain information and documentation required for customer contacts and forward them to the correct department or person concerned.

Travel and events management

- identify the principal features of making effective travel arrangements;
- prepare an itinerary for a trip;
- give advice on booking travel and hotel accommodation;
- suggest a selection of useful travel reference sources which a secretary might consult;
- list the sort of arrangements entailed in organising formal and informal meetings;
- appreciate the factors which need to be taken into account in arranging a business lunch or event;
- suggest the factors which would contribute to a successful social event;
- identify the principal features in organising a business event;
- explain the kind of checks which would be built into arrangements to ensure effectiveness; and
- identify and source available external support.

How to manage yourself in the workplace

- Communicate effectively in the workplace;
- show appropriate interpersonal skills;
- show appropriate life management skills;
- show appropriate decision-making skills;
- show customer service skills;
- explain the importance of time management;
- identify and apply techniques for effective time management;
- prioritise tasks;
- design and implement a work plan;
- plan team tasks and responsibilities;
- negotiate and meet deadlines;
- use manual and electronic calendar and reminder systems; and
- coordinate appointments effectively and efficiently.

Banking, cash control and the business information manual

- discuss the necessity of banking and banking accounts with examples of consequences of not having them;
- explain the skills necessary to interpret bank statements and operate banking accounts with examples;
- relate financial concepts and principles to the business environment; and
- prepare a business information manual (business plan).

2.5. Human Resources Management and Labour Relations

An introduction to human resource management

- Understand the term or concept of human resource management; and
- provide an overview of the human resources function within the organisation.

Strategising, structuring and planning

- Demonstrate a sound appreciation of organisational and functional relationships in an organisation;
- describe various organisational structures;
- discuss their respective merits and demerits;
- explain the human resource planning process; and
- describe job analysis and job design processes and techniques.

Recruiting potential employees

- Demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of recruitment;
- differentiate between factors that influence recruitment;
- explain the disadvantages and advantages of staffing job vacancies with employees from within the organisation;
- weigh up external and internal sources of recruitment against each other;
- identify the principal external recruitment sources and explain when these sources are likely to be utilised;
- formulate a recruitment policy in practical terms;
- explain in a practical manner how you would evaluate a recruitment programme;
- explain why affirmative action and employment equity need to be integrated into HR practices;
- demonstrate an understanding of succession planning and how it ensures organisational success; and
- explain how a company values human capital through a retention strategy.

Selection and appointment of an employee

- Explain the internal and external factors that influence the selection decisions;
- sequentially describe the various steps in the selection process;
- conduct a structured employment interview;
- make decisions as to which types of employment tests should be used in specific selection situations;
- discuss the responsibility for making the final selection decision; and
- practically evaluate the selection process.

Placement and the induction or orientation process

- Distinguish between the concepts of induction, socialisation and orientation;
- explain what is meant by the 'psychological contract';
- list some of the characteristics of an effective orientation program;
- explain the objectives and benefits of induction;
- demonstrate the various components of an induction program;
- describe the stages of induction;
- plan, design and evaluate an induction program; and
- briefly describe the influence of quality assurance in induction and staffing decisions.

Managing performance of employees

- Define performance management;
- list the objectives of performance management;
- motivate the usefulness of performance evaluation;
- make decisions as to who should perform evaluation;
- compare and apply relative and absolute performance evaluation techniques;
- explain common rater errors;
- conduct an effective feedback interview;

- explain the importance of the feedback process in performance evaluation; and
- consider the influence of legislation on performance management systems.

Compensation management

- Discuss the objectives of a compensation system;
- assess the factors that influence the provision of a compensation system;
- discuss compensation policy;
- outline the components of a compensation system;
- differentiate between the various methods of job evaluation; and
- distinguish between direct and indirect rewards.

Health and safety in an organisation

- Describe what is meant by employee wellness;
- give a brief overview of the statutory regulations governing occupational health and safety in South Africa;
- explain the factors to incorporate in strategies, policies and action plans;
- differentiate between the various forms of health;
- discuss the issue of work-related stress;
- explain ways to prevent accidents;
- explain the challenges facing South African organisations as a result of the HIV/Aids threat; and
- explain the functioning of the National Occupational Safety Association of South Africa (NOSA).

Career management

- Explain the protean career concept;
- explain the theories of Super, Holland and Jung;
- discuss self- and work-related factors of the early, mid- and late life career;
- define career anchors and describe the various types;
- describe the different career patterns;
- explain issues concerning working couples and suggest how they can find a balance between work and family life;
- describe career plateauing and ways to assist the plateaued worker;
- explain career support by an organisation;
- describe ethical principles regarding organisational career management support;
- explain the changes in organisations with regard to structure and workforce;
- explain the implications of the changing organisations for careers; and
- explain the changing nature of careers and work arrangements.

Human resource development

- Define and distinguish between the concepts of training, education, development and outcomes-based education and training;
- list the reasons for human resource development management in organisations;
- illustrate a training function using a diagram;
- define human resource development;
- explain the characteristics of an adult learner;
- explain the rationale of the Skills Development Act and the Skills Development Levies Act;
- indicate the implications of the provisions of the Skill Development Act and the Skills Development Levies Act for an organisation's strategic human resource planning;
- define the aim and scope of the National Qualifications Framework;

- describe the National Training Strategy of South Africa;
- understand outcomes-based training and assessment;
- describe the assessment of training needs through organisational task and person analysis;
- indicate the importance of job analysis when determining training needs; and
- explain the evaluation of training and development programmes.

Organisational behaviour (OB)

- Define organisational behaviour (OB);
- describe why managers require a knowledge of OB;
- identify and explain the effect of key biographical characteristics on work behaviour;
- explain the factors that determine an individual's personality;
- identify the key traits in the Big Five Personality Model;
- explain how perceptions affects the decision-making process;
- explain how two people can see the same thing and interpret it differently;
- differentiate between formal and informal groups;
- explain how role requirements change in different situations;
- describe how norms exert influence on an individual's behaviour;
- list the strengths and weaknesses of group decision-making;
- identify common barriers to effective communication;
- describe the forces that act as stimulants for change;
- contrast first-order and second-order change;
- summarise sources of individual and organisational resistance to change; and
- contrast the three ethical decision criteria.

Employment relations

- Write an essay that outlines the essentials of labour relations;
- describe the nature, functioning and role of trade unions in South Africa;
- discuss the meaning and fundamental role that freedom of association and protection against victimisation play in our system of industrial relations;
- list and explain the organisational rights granted to trade unions in terms of the LRA;
- develop an understanding of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act;
- explain who is covered by the Basic Conditions of Employment Act;
- explain what issues the BCOEA covers;
- determine amounts due in terms of the BCOEA;
- demonstrate an understanding of the purpose and primary objects, application and interpretation of the Labour Relations Act;
- demonstrate and apply an understanding of the provisions of strikes and lock-outs;
- describe the definitions of strikes, lock-outs and picketing; and
- identify and solve problems related to the interpretation of related labour legislation and its impact on all stakeholders.

Structures created by the LRA for collective bargaining and dispute resolution

- Demonstrate an understanding of the LRA;
- describe the institutional framework of the LRA;
- explain the purpose, powers and roles of these institutions with examples;
- facilitate an understanding of the different structures which constitute the system and how these structures can be used in practice;
- use the present legislation regulating the employment relationship in practice; and

- identify the appropriate structures to be used for a particular business's needs.

2.6. Economics

An introduction to economics

- Define economics;
- distinguish between microeconomics and macroeconomics;
- explain how major economic events such as a hike in interest rates, inflation and unemployment affects the 'man on the street';
- explain the role of households, businesses, government, the foreign sector and financial institutions in the economy;
- demonstrate the intricacies of demand and supply;
- illustrate and explain the laws of demand and supply as well as resultant equilibrium;
- explain how the theory of demand and supply can be used to determine what price to charge for a product;
- explain the determinants of demand and supply, and demonstrate how such determinants can affect the equilibrium point;
- explain the concept 'price elasticity';
- discuss the premises of marginal utility;
- explain what is meant by inflation, what causes inflation and what can be done to control it; and
- explain why inflation is a problem.

Economic systems in perspective

- Explain the importance of economic efficiency;
- explain the significance of a production possibilities frontier;
- explain the economic system and its components;
- discuss efficiency and value with regard to the allocation of resources and the resulting goods and services produced from those resources;
- explain the main economic systems: traditional, command, market and mixed; and
- discuss the meaning of a free market economy and a mixed and socialistic economy.

Formulating an economic framework

- Describe in a simple form the overall concept of measuring the economic activities;
- describe the objectives of macroeconomics;
- identify the instruments used to measure economic activities;
- identify the limitations and inaccuracies in measuring GDP;
- explain what CPI is and how it is measured; and
- explain the role that gold plays in the South African economy as well as in the global economic system.

The money market and monetary economics

- Explain the functions of money;
- explain how banks came about;
- calculate different levels of money supply in the economy;
- explain the functions of the Central Bank;
- outline the instruments used for monetary control;
- describe how interest rates are determined in the money market;
- list the factors that increase or decrease money supply;

- explain the relationship between demand and supply in the money market;
- define inflation and explain how it is measured;
- differentiate between cost-push and demand-pull inflation; and
- discuss the factors that influence exchange rates and the value of a local currency.

International trade and finance

- Provide an overview of international economics;
- explain the difference between comparative and absolute advantage;
- outline the basic premises of exchange rates and explain how they are calculated;
- explain arbitrage;
- demonstrate demand and supply of currencies;
- discuss the exchange rate policy implemented in South Africa;
- demonstrate how free trade policy is exercised in South Africa and the rest of the world;
- discuss the prevalence of trade finance in international trade; and
- explain how letters of credit work and are used in international finance.

Labour economics

- identify the macro-economic objectives of the South African economy;
- give the available definitions of labour;
- describe the South African labour market;
- identify the characteristics of a labour market;
- define the supply of labour;
- define the demand for labour;
- discuss the factors that could influence the demand for labour;
- define labour mobility;
- define migrant labour;
- describe the 'brain drain' from South Africa;
- discuss the factors that influence wages;
- discuss theoretical equilibrium in the labour market;
- define active labour market policy;
- distinguish between unemployment and underemployment;
- define and describe human capital and human capital investment;
- define the informal sector;
- explain employment in the informal sector; and
- discuss the importance of the informal sector.

2.7. Business and Office Administration 3

Office supplies

- Monitor office supplies levels by:
 - Identifying and recording office supply levels
 - Ascertaining and comparing office supply levels to required levels
 - Checking records for compliance with organisational requirements
 - Taking remedial action to rectify office supply levels
- Maintain office supplies processed and procedures by:
 - Monitoring and evaluating office supply processes and procedures
 - Identifying and highlighting out-of-line situations

- Taking remedial action to bring office supply processes and procedures back in line
- Identifying areas for improvement
- Monitor and control the distribution of office supplies by:
 - Identifying, setting and communicating distribution procedures
 - Receiving and recording office supply requests
 - Distributing office supplies within agreed timeframes
 - Identifying and highlighting areas of non-conformance
 - Taking remedial action to rectify office supply distribution processes and procedures

Handling petty cash and the principles of insurance

- Explain the purpose of and need for a proper petty cash system;
- disburse money for petty cash transactions;
- record petty cash transactions;
- restore the imprest amount;
- explain and implement petty cash control procedures; and
- understand the basic principles of insurance.

Internal control concepts

- Outline, demonstrate and discuss the basic premises of internal control.

The key principles of customer service

- Understand the concepts of customer service in an historical context;
- define customer service;
- recognise the differences between poor, mediocre and excellent service;
- describe examples of poor service;
- recognise and explain the possible consequences of offering poor service;
- identify and describe different types of customers;
- explain the importance of customers to a business;
- explain the value of customers to the economy as a whole;
- differentiate between internal customers and external customers;
- recognise that customers have their own unique characteristics and needs;
- discuss the different products and services organisations can offer; and
- understand the types of organisations that exist and their different structures and processes.

Factors affecting customer service

- Recognise the wide range of factors that influence the quality of customer service offered by organisations;
- identify the need for organisations to take these factors into consideration when planning their products, services and customer service;
- understand how customer service can provide a competitive advantage for organisations;
- explain the role that external customers, competitors, government legislation, regulations and codes of practice play in offering quality service;
- understand how organisations plan their customer service approach through the development of internal policies and procedures;
- explain how organisations monitor and evaluate the quality of their customer service;
- demonstrate that you understand the need for organisations to monitor and evaluate customer service; and
- recommend how individuals and organisations can improve the quality of customer service they offer.

Human resource development and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act

- Understand the importance of human resource development within an organisation;
- demonstrate an understanding of a skills audit;
- demonstrate an understanding of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act;
- explain who is protected and covered by the Basic Conditions of Employment Act;
- discuss the regulation of working time;
- differentiate between the different types of leave; and
- explain the process that should be followed on termination of employment.

Business organisations

- Identify and describe the types of organisations that exist in South Africa.

Preparing yourself for the workplace

- Prepare yourself for the world of work;
- fill out a job application;
- prepare a CV; and
- prepare for an interview.

2.8. Management

What is management?

- Explain the nature and definition of management;
- distinguish between the different levels of management;
- demonstrate an understanding of the generic tasks of managers; and
- outline the development of management theory through the years.

Management and the environment

- Identify the scope of management in different types of organisations;
- discuss the management of businesses according to their size;
- explain the role of managers in modern organisations;
- distinguish between the different management disciplines;
- demonstrate an understanding of the influence of the business environment on management practices;
- describe the common misconceptions about management; and
- recognise the role of the CEO in an organisation.

Planning

- List the reasons for planning in an organisation;
- identify different planning timeframes;
- name the barriers to planning formulation;
- outline the planning process;
- analyse the different tools available for planning purposes;
- set well-formulated goals for an organisation; and
- distinguish between the different types of plans an organisation could implement.

Decision-making

- Discuss the importance of decision-making in an organisation;
- explain the difference between problem-defining and problem-solving;
- outline the steps in the decision-making process;
- identify the different types of managerial decisions;
- distinguish between the different conditions under which decisions can be taken;
- describe how decisions are taken in groups;
- compare the formal decision techniques; and
- contrast the decision-making tools at the disposal of a manager.

Information management

- Define information management;
- explain the need for information management;
- name the characteristics of a useful information management system;
- outline the steps in developing an information management system;
- distinguish between the types of information systems;
- identify the link between management levels and information systems;
- analyse a basic information system model;
- demonstrate an understanding of data integration;
- name the key issues regarding information management and data integration; and
- list the implications of information management and data integration.

Organisational development

- Define organisation development;
- discuss the reasons for change in an organisation;
- analyse a basic change model;
- identify the key challenges relating to change in an organisation;
- demonstrate an understanding of corporate culture;
- explain how to handle resistance to change;
- understand the role of employee empowerment when managing change;
- describe the development of teams;
- recognise how to build efficient organisations; and
- identify the future challenges organisations face.

Communication

- Outline the communication process;
- name the barriers to communication;
- demonstrate an understanding of communication in an organisation;
- examine the process of negotiation;
- understand how to manage conflict in an organisation; and
- identify the impact that technology has had on communication.

Organising

- Compare the different organisational structures;
- list the principles of organisation;
- outline the delegation process;
- distinguish between job design, job enrichment and job characteristics; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the principle of 'authority' in an organisation.

Leadership

- Define the term 'leadership';
- contrast the different leadership theories;
- identify contemporary leadership perspectives;
- explain the link between leadership and organisation-political behaviour;
- demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the individual in an organisation; and
- describe how to handle groups and teams.

Motivation

- Analyse the motivation process;
- define the term 'motivation';
- compare the different motivation theories;
- recognise the relationship between money and motivation; and
- discuss where motivation originates from.

Control

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and importance of control in an organisation;
- outline the control process;
- describe which areas in a business controls should focus;
- distinguish between the different levels of control; and
- list the characteristics of an effective control system.

Contemporary business management issues

- Identify and discuss issues of significance which affect the majority of organisations in South Africa in the present and foreseeable future, including:
 - Ethics and corruption
 - Governance
 - Corporate social responsibility
 - Globalisation
 - Changes in the workforce
 - Changing customer demands
 - Technology
 - Cultural diversity
 - Supply chain impacts

3. Business Management Programme

Refer to the curriculum statements under the Accounting Programme for the following subjects:

- Business Literacy
- Bookkeeping to trial balance
- Financial statements
- Financial reporting and regulatory frameworks

Refer to the curriculum statements under the Office Administration Programme for the following subjects:

- Marketing management and public relations
- Human resources management and labour relations

3.1. Business management 1

What is management?

- Explain the nature and definition of management;
- distinguish between the different levels of management;
- demonstrate an understanding of the generic tasks of managers; and
- outline the development of management theory through the years.

Management and the environment

- Identify the scope of management in different types of organisations;
- discuss the management of businesses according to their size;
- explain the role of managers in modern organisations;
- distinguish between the different management disciplines;
- demonstrate an understanding of the influence of the business environment on management practices;
- describe the common misconceptions about management; and
- recognise the role of the CEO in an organisation.

Financial planning and control

- Prepare a business plan suitable for submission to a financial institution;
- monitor actual performance of an organisation against a budget;
- decide on the purchase of fixed assets based on the highest financial return;
- understand the importance of financial reporting.

Costing and pricing

- Calculate the total production, administration, selling and distribution costs of a product;
- distinguish between fixed, semi-fixed, semi-variable and variable costs;
- carry out a simple break-even analysis;
- calculate a selling price by using the mark-up or the margin;
- apply the concepts of chargeable hours and total hours worked.

Managing working capital

- Calculate the level of working capital in a business;
- identify and explain the dangers of overtrading;
- understand the effects on cash flow of external and internal events and actions;
- prepare a debtors collection schedule as well as a creditors settlement schedule;
- calculate an effective interest rate; and
- calculate an approximate APR.

Working with SARS

- Explain what Value Added Tax (VAT) is, and how the system works;
- explain the VAT registration requirements and VAT periods;
- compare the two bases according to which vendors may be registered for VAT;
- perform basic VAT calculations;
- calculate gross earnings for an employee, including allowances as well as company car and medical aid fringe benefits;
- calculate 'remuneration' and 'balance of remuneration' as defined by SARS;

- calculate 'PAYE remuneration', 'SDL remuneration' and 'UIF remuneration' as defined by SARS;
- complete a monthly EMP201 return reflecting the correct calculation and payment of PAYE, SDL and UIF to SARS;
- complete the annual EMP501 reconciliation for SARS.

Introduction to computing

- Discuss the history of computers briefly;
- learn what a PC is and how it basically works;
- identify the main components of PC Hardware;
- understand why upgrading a PC is important;
- identify various PC Software applications;
- differentiate between hardware and software;
- understand the interaction between Hardware and Software using the IPOS cycle;
- understand what networks are used for;
- identify the basic components of networks; and
- explain the advantages and disadvantages of using computers.

The windows operating system

- Understand where the windows concept comes from;
- learn how to use basic tools in Windows;
- learn how to Log On to your PC;
- identify the desktop and the taskbar;
- identify objects in Windows;
- use the recycle bin;
- identify tooltips;
- identify common Window components;
- learn how to control multiple opened Windows;
- learn how to start a programme;
- use the help, support and search tools;
- learn how to adjust PC hardware and PC software properties;
- learn how to change basic mouse properties;
- view the display properties;
- understand user accounts;
- add and remove programmes;
- learn what drivers are;
- use Windows Explorer to browse and create folders;
- open and navigate through the Windows Explorer structure;
- learn how to work with files and folders in Windows Explorer;
- create and save a document in Windows; and
- know how to launch a programme.

Working with internet and email

- Learn what e-mail is;
- distinguish the difference between Internet e-mail and network e-mail;
- identify the various Outlook components;
- compose messages in Outlook;
- learn how to format messages;
- learn how to open a message;

- learn how to add an attachment to e-mail;
- understand why and how to create e-mail folders;
- learn how to move messages to a folder;
- understand how contacts work in Outlook;
- learn how to add and delete contacts in the address book;
- use the help function in Outlook;
- working with electronic calendars;
- schedule appointments and meetings in an electronic diary;
- create and manage contact in an electronic diary;
- understand Internet Basics;
- distinguish between the Intranet and the extranet;
- understand what viruses are;
- identify a web browser;
- understand what the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is;
- identify the Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 Interface;
- use web-based tools;
- download programs and files from the web;
- understand the workings of a search engine; and
- search the web and getting usable information.

3.2. Office and Legal Practice

The role and function of the administrative assistant

- demonstrate an understanding of the role and the function of a secretary in an organisation;
- indicate the traditional technical skills required by secretaries;
- identify additional skills which are likely required;
- advise a junior employee on performance;
- appreciate the importance of good telephone etiquette;
- demonstrate competence as a secretary in an organisation;
- demonstrate competence in handling routine business correspondence;
- draft memoranda, minutes and reports; and
- demonstrate skills and ability to organise.

Reception and diary management

- Acknowledge and greet visitors according to organisational requirements;
- establish rapport with visitors;
- maintain a professional appearance and behaviour at all times;
- consult visitors in a professional manner and establish the reason for their visit;
- attend to requests for information promptly;
- estimate the time or waiting period and convey this information to the client;
- record the receipt and dispatch of documents and deliveries in accordance with organisational requirements;
- notify relevant parties of visitors' arrival;
- give clear directions to visitors to relevant areas in the workplace;
- explain and apply security procedures;
- list and explain housekeeping according to organisational requirements;
- implement housekeeping standards within agreed time frames;
- ensure that reception services are not disrupted while housekeeping activities are performed;

- coordinate corporate image displays to create a presentable reception area;
- keep the display area neat, tidy and clean at all times;
- constantly maintain stocks of company brochures and magazines for distribution;
- maintain a well-organised diary with appointments;
- outline the most important rules of office etiquette; and
- outline the steps to be taken during an armed robbery or another emergency situation.

Office equipment and ergonomics

- Outline the features of the different kinds of office equipment;
- work with office equipment;
- choose the correct office equipment to suit your needs;
- gauge whether renting or buying is a better bet;
- control the movement of different items of inventory;
- implement preventative maintenance strategies;
- implement predictive maintenance strategies; and
- implement safety measures with respect to office equipment and machinery.

Office supplies

- Monitor office supplies levels by
 - Identifying and recording office supplies levels
 - Ascertaining and comparing office supply levels to required levels
 - Checking records for compliance with organisational requirements.
 - Taking remedial action to rectify office supply levels.
- Maintain office supplies processes and procedures
 - Monitoring and evaluating office supply processes and procedures
 - Identifying and highlighting out-of-line situations
 - Taking remedial action to bring office supply processes and procedures back in line.
 - Identifying areas for improvement
- Monitor and control the distribution of office supplies by
 - Identifying, setting and communicating distribution procedures
 - Receiving and recording office supply requests
 - Distributing office supplies within agreed timeframes.
 - Identifying and highlighting areas of non-conformance
 - Taking remedial action to rectify office supply distribution processes and procedures

Creating evidence and maintaining confidentiality

- Explain the purpose of record-keeping;
- identify types of information and records;
- describe various methods of record keeping;
- explain procedures for maintaining confidentiality;
- identify the legal requirements for record keeping;
- follow organisational procedures; and
- understand the concept of whistle-blowing.

Record management systems

- Provide reasons why companies record and keep information;
- identify the structure, components, equipment and supplies required for electronic and paper filing systems;

- use procedures appropriate to the workplace for opening, closing and retaining files;
- select and use appropriate storage and retrieval methods for electronic and paper records;
- handle records in a manner which complies with statutes and regulations governing the privacy of information and the retention of records;
- develop a schedule for retention and disposal of records;
- provide reasons for internal control; and
- identify problems with inadequate internal controls and make suggestions for improvement.

Handling mail

- Receive mail according to established procedures;
- sort mail according to established procedures;
- stamp mail correctly according to established requirements;
- provide reasons for stamping incoming mail;
- attach enclosures securely and report missing items in accordance to set procedures;
- describe the importance of maintaining confidentiality and security of documentation in terms of receiving and sorting mail;
- observe confidentiality in terms of a mailroom code of conduct;
- distribute mail internally to relevant persons within an agreed time;
- explain possible reasons for unavoidable or necessary delays in distribution, and describe the consequences of such delays;
- address mail legibly and correctly for internal and external distribution;
- describe procedures for dispatching mail externally in accordance with established procedures and Post Office requirements;
- dispatch mail externally via the Post Office or a courier service within agreed deadlines; and
- explain the legal implications of neglecting to comply with mailroom procedures in terms of own work performance and possible cost to company.

Travel and events management

- Identify the principal features of making effective travel arrangements;
- prepare an itinerary for a trip;
- give advice on booking travel and hotel accommodation;
- suggest a selection of useful travel reference sources which a secretary might consult;
- list the sort of arrangements entailed in organising formal and informal meetings;
- appreciate the factors which need to be taken into account in arranging a business lunch or event;
- suggest the factors which would contribute to a successful social event;
- identify the principal features in organising a business event;
- explain the kind of checks which would be built into arrangements to ensure effectiveness; and
- identify and source available external support.

Creating business documents

- Produce an advanced business letter;
- produce an advanced official letter/formal report;
- produce display documents and documents used at meetings, suitable for publishing on A4 and A5 paper;
- prepare a notice, agenda and minutes of a meeting;
- prepare a table on A4 portrait and A4 landscape paper;
- preparing a legal document and a company document;
- producing a financial statement; and
- preparing a curriculum vitae and a memorandum.

Banking, cash control and the business information manual

- Discuss the necessity of banking and banking accounts with examples of consequences of not having them;
- explain the skills necessary to interpret bank statements and operate banking accounts with examples;
- relate financial concepts and principles to the business environment; and
- prepare a business information manual (business plan).

An introduction to business law

- Describe the South African legal system;
- identify the different courts of law;
- discuss the requirements that have to be met in order for a contract to be valid; and
- distinguish between the different types of contracts a person can enter into.

Acts and laws for business

- Discuss aspects of intellectual property law;
- discuss aspects of competition law;
- discuss legislation applicable to business and banks; and
- discuss legislation applicable to the accounting and tax environments.

3.3. Business Management 2

Planning

- List the reasons for planning in an organisation;
- identify different planning timeframes;
- name the barriers to planning formulation;
- outline the planning process;
- analyse the different tools available for planning purposes;
- set well-formulated goals for an organisation; and
- distinguish between the different types of plans an organisation could implement.

Decision making

- Discuss the importance of decision-making in an organisation;
- explain the difference between problem-defining and problem-solving;
- outline the steps in the decision-making process;
- identify the different types of managerial decisions;
- distinguish between the different conditions under which decisions can be taken;
- describe how decisions are taken in groups;
- compare the formal decision techniques; and
- contrast the decision-making tools at the disposal of a manager.

Organising

- Compare the different organisational structures;
- list the principles of organisation;
- outline the delegation process;
- distinguish between job design, job enrichment and job characteristics; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the principle of 'authority' in an organisation.

Leadership and motivation

- Define the term 'leadership';
- contrast the different leadership theories;
- identify contemporary leadership perspectives;
- explain the link between leadership and organisation-political behaviour;
- demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the individual in an organisation;
- describe how to handle groups and teams;
- analyse the motivation process;
- define the term 'motivation';
- compare the different motivation theories;
- recognise the relationship between money and motivation; and
- discuss where motivation originates from.

Control

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and importance of control in an organisation;
- outline the control process;
- describe which areas in a business controls should focus;
- distinguish between the different levels of control; and
- list the characteristics of an effective control system.

Introduction to economics

- Define economics;
- describe the economic environment in which an organisation functions;
- classify and explain economics as a science;
- explain the basic economic problem;
- differentiate between microeconomics and macroeconomics;
- explain the micro and macroeconomic and operational environments applicable to an organisation;
- distinguish between needs, wants and demand;
- discuss and classify the hierarchy of human needs;
- define and calculate opportunity cost;
- illustrate and interpret a production possibility curve;
- demonstrate the relationship between production and cost;
- identify and discuss the problems flowing from the basic economic problem;
- indicate why you should study economics; and
- describe the main theories and approaches used to examine the economy.

Economic systems and how the economy works

- Discuss how the different economic systems attempt to solve the basic economic problem and questions arising from it;
- discuss the various economic systems meaningfully;
- know the advantages and disadvantages of each system;
- know the similarities and differences between the systems;
- identify South Africa's current economic system;
- give an opinion on the 'ideal' economic system;
- distinguish between households and businesses and show how their activities interrelate;
- describe the role of government and show how it interacts with households and businesses;
- describe the role of the foreign sector and show how it interacts with the domestic economy; and
- describe where and how the financial sector fits into the entire economic cycle.

The monetary sector, public sector and foreign sector

- Explain the origin and functions of money;
- discuss the requirements of money;
- discuss the instruments of monetary policy;
- discuss the transmission mechanism;
- fully explain equilibrium in the money market;
- discuss various financial intermediaries;
- discuss the reasons for and the nature of government intervention;
- describe regulation in the media economy;
- explain the role of tax as a fiscal policy instrument;
- discuss loans and expenditure as fiscal instruments;
- explain why there has to be co-ordination between fiscal policy and monetary policy;
- explain what international trade is and what it includes;
- place the present world economy in historical perspective;
- give reasons why international trade takes place;
- explain the difference between comparative and absolute advantage; and
- explain the advantages of international trade.

The economic cycle, growth, development and forecasts

- Graphically depict the consumption function and interpret the income expenditure diagram;
- explain the relationship between expenditure and savings;
- show the relationship between the interest rate and the level of investment;
- discuss finance, valuation and investment in the economy;
- explain the working of the multiplier effect;
- evaluate the effect of government expenditure and taxes on the economy;
- identify the effect of the foreign sector on the economy;
- calculate the multiplier; and
- understand the effect of the exchange rate and interest rates on the economy.

3.4. Business Management 3

Introduction to strategic management

- Define and evaluate strategic management;
- describe and explain the advantages of systematic corporate strategic planning;
- appraise the strategic management process;
- describe and explain the key elements /steps in the corporate strategic planning process;
- examine the different levels of strategy and the characteristics of strategic as compared to tactical decisions and management;
- analyse and assess the corporate planning process in different organisational contexts;
- describe the role of the key individuals involved in the strategic management process;
- provide a critical overview of the building blocks of the strategic management process;
- describe the various levels of strategic management;
- appraise the relationship between strategy and competence; and
- analyse the importance of stakeholders on the strategies employed by companies.

The significance and progression of international business

- Examine the changing nature of the international business environment by critically analysing the dynamic nature of this environment as an important source of major business opportunities;
- identify the reasons for 'going global';
- discuss various similarities between domestic and international business;
- identify and discuss various differences between international and domestic business;
- examine 'degree of involvement' by analysing two main approaches – classification structure of Howard Perlmutter (four types of attitudes that influence internationalisation) and the stages approach; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the new age transnational approach.

Understanding international trade

- Examine the various classification of share in world trade;
- analyse and discuss the Big Four global economies;
- discuss the methods available to classify the world in international trade;
- examine the reasons for global trade and critique the measurement thereof;
- compare and contrast the various types of barriers to international trade, including tariffs, nontariffs, dumping and anti-dumping, and other hurdles to world trade;
- compare and contrast the role and function of various global institutions such as the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank;
- comment on the purpose of trade blocs and compare and contrast various trade blocs currently in place, including the European Union (EU), BRICS countries, SADC countries and the South African Customs Union (SACU); and
- critically analyse the benefits and obstacles posed by global trading blocs.

Analysing the macro-environmental matrix

- Examine the importance of environmental scanning;
- contrast the methods used in environmental scanning;
- analyse the various sources of information;
- compare and contrast the major macro-environmental dynamics; and
- analyse and examine the concept of a competitive analysis.

Global business strategy

- Analyse and discuss the planning framework, approaches to planning, benefits of planning, and the difficulties of planning in international markets;
- explain and examine the Ansoff growth matrix;
- discuss the key strategic decision areas;
- compare and discuss all elements of international strategy and organisational dynamics;
- elaborate on the components of international strategy and competition;
- explain the significance of international strategy and level of economic development; and
- examine and analyse the capital requirements associated with global business strategy.

International organisational culture and structures

- Analyse Hofstede's (1997) definition of culture;
- discuss and comment on the five cultural dimensions as presented by Hofstede;
- summarise the characteristics of culture;
- explain the differences and similarities between national culture and organisational culture;
- discuss the concept of cultural diversity and indicate reasons for intercultural failures;

- examine international organisational structure in the form of international teams and elaborate further on how culture impacts on this type of international organisational structure;
- draw a comparison between the various leadership styles across the world whilst considering the impact of domestic culture;
- discuss the concept of international communication and its associated elements;
- develop a strategic cultural diversity plan;
- become culturally intelligent and develop intercultural skills;
- analyse the importance of expatriates and diversity management; and
- comment on the convergence of cultures theory.

International strategy: joint ventures

- Discuss the concept of cooperation as a strategy for international business;
- examine the opportunities presented by the strategy of international joint ventures;
- contrast and compare the various forms of joint ventures;
- critically discuss the complexity associated with joint ventures;
- analyse the various factors that are deemed critical in order for a joint venture to succeed;
- discuss the impact of culture on the formation of a joint venture;
- compare and contrast leadership vs. motivation in respect of joint ventures;
- define and discuss policy development and joint ventures;
- analyse how planning is affected when forming a joint venture; and
- discuss the role of trust and how to develop trust in joint ventures.

Entry strategies and decisions

- Discuss the concept of choice of entry;
- examine and differentiate between the different categories of exporting, overseas manufacturing and ownership;
- critically discuss the nature of franchising;
- contrast and compare the various factors that impact on the selection of an entry route;
- critically discuss the independent approach to entry decision-making; and
- critically discuss the idiosyncratic approach to entry decision-making.

3.5. Financial Management and Control

An introduction to information systems

- The ability to recognise the value of information and information systems in organisations;
- discuss the reasons why organisations are increasingly becoming dependent on information systems;
- outline the characteristics of an efficient information system;
- identify different types of information systems in an organisation and explain the integration of these systems;
- identify the information system requirements for the different levels within an organisation; and
- discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various information systems.

Management information systems

- Define and state the purpose of management information;
- describe the features of useful management information;
- describe the role of information in executing the four functions of management; and
- highlight emerging trends in information systems;

- describe information technology as an enabler of change;
- explain the need for effective internal control over transactions;
- describe the purpose and nature of a computerised information system;
- explain how computerised accounting systems can assist management accountants with planning and decision-making; and
- identify the key features, functions and benefits of computerised information systems.

An introduction to auditing

- Explain the nature of an audit;
- explain the purpose of an audit, including the advantages and disadvantages of an audit;
- explain the nature of accounting records, including proper records;
- explain the concepts of true and fair presentation, and reasonable assurance;
- explain the regulations governing the appointment, removal and resignation of auditors;
- describe the duties of auditors;
- describe the rights of auditors;
- explain the liability of auditors under contract and negligence to clients;
- explain the liability of auditors to third parties;
- describe the objectives of an internal control system;
- explain the importance of internal control to auditors;
- discuss the fundamental principles an auditor should adhere to including integrity, objectivity, professional confidence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour;
- describe the detailed requirements – and application of professional ethics – in the context of integrity, objectivity and independence;
- explain the structure of the auditing profession; and
- explain the scope of ISAs.

The role and function of the financial manager

- Explain the primary roles of the financial manager, namely performing financial analysis and planning, making investment decisions and making financing decisions;
- demonstrate how a financial manager balances the timing of returns and cash distributions to equity participants in lieu of prevalent and pending risks;
- critically evaluate the ethical considerations that underlie a financial manager's conduct; and
- describe the agency problem and the associated risk posed by a financial manager to the corporate entity that it purports to serve.

Material and inventory control

- Identify appropriate cost centres and elements of costs;
- explain what is meant by 'stockpiling';
- explain how inventory costs can be controlled in the most efficient way;
- illustrate how the most economical ordering quantity for items of inventory can be ascertained;
- determine the reorder point and safety stock values for items of inventory;
- describe the just-in-time (JIT) system of inventory control.
- describe the real costs of inventory (e.g. purchasing costs, ordering costs, stock-out costs and quality costs);
- explain the concept of 'shrinkage' and demonstrate how shrinkage can be minimised;
- demonstrate how inventory can be valued according to the FIFO or weighted average method of valuation; and
- calculate gross margins when using different valuation methods for closing inventory.

Labour cost control

- Describe recruitment practices and payroll administration as elements of personnel management;
- explain the importance of proper administration of payroll records; and
- discuss the importance of effective performance management in an organisation.

Allocating and controlling overheads

- Record and analyse information with respect to allocation, apportionment and absorption of overhead costs using direct and step methods;
- record and analyse information with respect to allocation, apportionment and absorption of overhead costs using the linear algebraic method; and
- establish a predetermined overhead rate and calculate under/over-applied manufacturing overhead.

Job costing

- Describe the characteristics of job costing;
- calculate unit costs using job costing;
- identify the differences between job costing and process costing;
- describe the steps involved in job costing;
- identify overhead application rates in a job costing environment;
- calculate the cost of a job;
- calculate and analyse the profit or loss of a job;
- identify and calculate over- or under-absorbed overheads;
- calculate the cost of a job taking into account work-in-process and finished goods;
- identify and complete a job order cost sheet;
- account for normal and abnormal wastage;
- prepare relevant ledger accounts for a job costing system;
- prepare manufacturing accounts; and
- distinguish between work-in-process and finished goods in a job costing environment.

Contract costing

- Define contract costing;
- describe common terms used in contract accounting, including contract price, total estimated;
- Identify and calculate costs and profit, certified and uncertified work, as well as retention money;
- differentiate between fixed price and cost-plus products;
- examine the reasons for work being certified;
- describe how the contract accounting system works;
- prepare a contract account (WIP) in the general ledger;
- prepare the general ledger accounts under the completed contract method;
- prepare the general ledger accounts under the percentage-of-completion method;
- prepare contract accounts when holding back a reserve;
- outline the accounting processes to account for the disposal of unsuitable materials, plant, etc.; and
- apply the concept of prudence in the recording process when it appears that a loss is going to be made during the course of a contract.