



## Certified International Professional Accountant

### Content Outlines

#### For the Certified International Professional Accountant Examinations

#### Finance

The content outlines presented below represent the body of knowledge that will be covered on the Finance examination of the Certified International Professional Accountant program. The outline may be changed in the future when new subject matter becomes part of the common body of knowledge. Candidates for the CIPA designation are required to pass Finance.

Candidates are responsible for being informed on the most recent developments in the areas covered in the outlines. This includes understanding of public pronouncements issued by accounting organizations such as the International Accounting Standards Board and the International Federation of Accountants as well as being up-to-date on recent developments reported in current accounting, financial and business periodicals. Note that candidates are responsible for knowing accounting and auditing pronouncements six months after a pronouncement's effective date, *unless early application is permitted*. When early application is permitted, candidates are responsible for knowing the new pronouncement six months after the *issuance* date.

The content outlines serve several purposes. These purposes include:

- Establishing the foundation from which each examination will be developed.
- Providing consistent coverage on each examination.
- Communicating to interested parties more detail as to the content of each examination part.
- Aiding candidates in their preparation for each examination.
- Providing information to those who offer courses designed to assist candidates in preparing for the examinations.

Important additional information about the content outlines and the examination is listed below.

1. The percentage range given for each major topic within each examination part does NOT represent the relative weight range given to that topic in an examination part. Instead the relative weight is an indication of the classroom time that should be spent on a particular topic within a 60 hour course. A 5% weight merely indicates that approximately 3 hours (5% x 60 hours) should be devoted to the subject matter. However, individual candidates should study the material to achieve the level of knowledge indicated, regardless of the time necessary to achieve such mastery of the subject.
2. Each examination will attempt to sample from the subject areas contained within each major topic area. No relative examination weights have been assigned to the subject areas. No inference should be made from the order in which the subject areas are listed or from the number of subject areas as to the relative weight or importance of any of the subjects.
3. Each major topic within each major topic area has been assigned a coverage level designating the depth and breadth of topic coverage, ranging from an introductory knowledge of a subject area (Level A) to a



thorough understanding of and ability to apply the essentials of a subject area (Level E). Detailed explanations of the coverage levels and the skills expected of candidates are presented below.

4. The topics for each of the examinations have been selected to minimize the overlapping of subject areas among the examination comprising the CIPA certification program. The topics within an examination and the subject areas within topics may be combined in individual questions.
5. Income taxation issues will be divided into four categories and be contained in questions that relate to the four categories.
  - a. Accounting for income taxes. The financial reporting requirements for income taxes, including the proper treatment of deferred income taxes, will be contained in questions in Financial Accounting 2 and the Finance examinations.
  - b. The Tax Reconciliation Form preparation will be included in the Financial Accounting 1 examination.
  - c. Detailed knowledge of the appropriate tax laws and regulations of the candidate's country will be tested in the Tax and Law examination.
  - d. Tax implications for decisions. The tax code provisions that impact decisions (e.g., depreciation, interest, etc.) will be contained in questions in the Managerial Accounting 1, Managerial Accounting 2, and Finance examinations.
6. Candidates for the CAP and CIPA designations are expected to have a minimum level of business knowledge that transcends all examination parts. This minimum level would include knowledge of economics, time value of money concepts, and elementary statistics.

In order to more clearly define the topical knowledge required by a candidate, varying levels of coverage for the treatment of major topics of the content specification outlines have been identified and defined. The cognitive skills that a successful candidate should possess and that should be tested on the examinations can be defined as follows:

**Knowledge:** Ability to remember previously learned material such as specific facts, criteria, techniques, principles, and procedures (i.e., identify, define, list).

**Comprehension:** Ability to grasp and interpret the meaning of material (i.e., classify, explain, distinguish between).

**Application:** Ability to use learned material in new and concrete situations (i.e., demonstrate, predict, solve, modify, relate).

**Analysis:** Ability to break down material into its component parts so that its organizational structure can be understood; ability to recognize causal relationships, discriminate between behaviors, and identify elements that are relevant to the validation of a judgment (i.e., differentiate, estimate, order).

**Synthesis:** Ability to put parts together to form a new whole or proposed set of operations; ability to relate ideas and formulate hypotheses (i.e. combine, formulate, revise).

**Evaluation:** Ability to judge the value of material for a given purpose on the basis of consistency, logical accuracy, and comparison to standards; ability to appraise judgments involved in the selection of a course of action (i.e., criticize, justify, conclude).

The five levels of coverage can be defined as follows:

**Level A:** Requiring the skill levels of knowledge.

**Level B:** Requiring the skill levels of knowledge, comprehension, and application.

**Level C:** Requiring the skill levels of knowledge, comprehension, application, and analysis.

**Level D:** Requiring the skill levels of knowledge comprehension, application, analysis, and synthesis.

**Level E:** Requiring all six skill levels, knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ  
СОВЕТ  
СЕРТИФИЦИРОВАННЫХ  
БУХГАЛТЕРОВ И  
АУДИТОРОВ



THE INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF  
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AUDITORS

The levels of coverage as they apply to each of the major topics of the Content Outlines are shown on the following pages with each topic listing. The levels represent the manner in which topic areas are to be treated and represent ceilings, i.e., a topic area designated as Level C may contain requirements at the “A,” “B,” or “C” level, but a topic designated as Level B will not contain requirements at the “C” level.



**Content Outlines**  
**for the**  
**Certified International Professional Accountant**  
**Finance**

- A. Finance framework (*Study weighting–5%, Level B*)
  - 1. Nature, purpose and scope of finance
  - 2. Relationship between finance, managerial accounting and financial accounting
  - 3. Forms of business organization
  - 4. Characteristics of financial system
  - 5. Role of financial manager and other key personnel
  - 6. Information needs
  - 7. Agency relationships
  - 8. External environment
  - 9. Concept, structure and purpose of financial markets
  - 10. Financial institutions, their purpose and objectives
- B. Analysis of financial statements (*Study weighting–10%, Level C*)
  - 1. Financial statements of an enterprise
    - a. Balance sheet
    - b. Income statement
    - c. Statement of retained earnings
    - d. Cash flow statement
  - 2. Uses and limitations of financial analysis
  - 3. Trend analysis
  - 4. Common size analysis
  - 5. Ratio analysis
    - a. Liquidity ratios
    - b. Asset management ratios
    - c. Debt management ratios
    - d. Profitability ratios
    - e. Market value ratios
    - f. DuPont model
- C. Working capital management (*Study weighting–22%, Level C*)
  - 1. Working capital terminology
  - 2. Operating and financial cycle
  - 3. Strategies for financing working capital needs
  - 4. Components of working capital
    - a. Cash management
    - b. Marketable securities management
    - c. Accounts receivable management
    - d. Inventory management
  - 5. Financing current assets
    - a. Types of short-term credit
    - b. Minimizing the cost of short-term credit



- D. Valuation, risk and rates of return (*Study weighting–22%, Level B*)
1. Valuation
    - a. Long-term securities
    - b. Preferred stock
    - c. Common stock
      - i. Dividend discount models
  2. Rates of return
    - a. Yield to maturity on bonds
    - b. Yield on preferred stock
    - c. Yield on common stock
  3. Relationship between risk and rate of return
  4. Measuring risk including probability distributions
  5. Capital asset pricing model
  6. Efficient financial markets
  7. Interest rate and foreign exchange risk
    - a. Risk management methods and tools
    - b. Financial risk mitigation methods: insurance, hedging, diversification
    - c. Tools for hedging financial risks
      - i. Forward contract
      - ii. Futures contract
      - iii. Options
      - iv. Swaps
- E. Long-term investment decisions (*Study weighting–21%, Level C*)
1. Identification of potential investment projects
  2. Risk/return relationship
  3. Evaluation of capital investment projects
    - a. Payback period
    - b. Net present value
    - c. Internal rate of return
    - d. Profitability index
    - e. Consideration of inflation, taxation, risk and uncertainty
  4. Sensitivity analysis
  5. Lease or buy decisions
  6. Asset replacement
- F. Capital structure and dividend policy (*Study weighting–20%, Level C*)
1. Cost of capital
    - a. Weighted average cost of capital
      - i. Cost of debt
      - ii. Cost of preferred stock
      - iii. Cost of common stock
    - b. Capital asset pricing model approach
    - c. Impact of varying capital structures on the cost of capital
  2. Capital structure
    - a. Structural policy of the company
    - b. The effect of capital structure on the value of the company
    - c. Leverage
      - i. Operating leverage
      - ii. Financial leverage
      - iii. Total leverage



3. Dividend policy
  - a. Types of dividend policy
    - i. Passive
    - ii. Active
  - b. Factors influencing the choice of dividend policy
  - c. Types of dividends
    - i. Cash dividends
    - ii. Stock dividends
    - iii. Stock splits
    - iv. Stock repurchase
  - d. Dividend policy and regulation of stock prices