



**THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN IRELAND**

**EDUCATORS' BRIEFING 2020/21**

**PROFESSIONAL 2**

**ADVANCED AUDIT & ASSURANCE**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
1	Comments on Performance in 2020 Examinations:	<p>The overall pass rate in 2020 was acceptable. At the August sitting there was reasonable consistency demonstrated by candidates in respect of both the popularity of, and the performance on, the optional questions.</p> <p>However, it is disappointing to note that students did not perform very well in Question 1 which was a compulsory question. The average mark obtained in question 1 was 24/50. It is important students are able to identify audit risks in the case study, explain them, and provide suitable audit procedures in order to address the risks. Question 1 part b) was also answered poorly in respect of the audit work required to gain comfort over the retained earnings and dividends in the financial statements.</p> <p>Question 3 required the students to perform a substantive analytical procedure to gain comfort over the payroll expense. Students did not perform very well in this.</p> <p>Most students performed well in question 2 and question 4.</p>
2	Syllabus Objectives:	Educators should familiarise themselves with the syllabus aims and expect learning outcomes described on the pages 70 to 74 of the Syllabus.
3	Syllabus Changes:	Educators and potential exam candidates for 2021 should be aware that the syllabus has been updated to reflect the most recent additions of the recommended texts and the most important changes in financial reporting and auditing standards.
4	Format of the Examination Papers for 2021:	The style and format will be consistent with recent previous years. Hence, the case study will continue to be worth 50% of the available marks and there will three other questions from which candidates will be required to choose two. Candidates should, in general, be advised against doing an "extra" question.

		<p>Some questions, or parts of questions, will continue to be slightly more open-ended, discursive type question which will, to some extent, test the candidates' knowledge of current issues and allow credit for the candidates' opinion provided, of course, that they are reasonable. In the current business climate it is vital that candidates keep themselves abreast of practices, protocols and potential, as well as existing, trends.</p> <p>Candidates should not assume that there is a "correct" answer to all the questions asked. At this level, there are many possible approaches to the different questions and the examiner will take a holistic view of the candidates' attempts.</p>
5	Education Focus for 2021:	<p>As in previous years, the 2021 candidates should be advised to read carefully the wording of the questions so they tailor their answers to what is actually asked. The failure to do so often results in candidates underperforming in the examination.</p>