



Level 7 Diploma in Accounting and Finance

Specification (For Centres)

November 2016

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About QUALIFI

Quality: The Assurance of Recognition and Rigorous Quality Standards

At the heart of QUALIFI's commitment to the creation and awarding of respected Qualifications is a rigorous focus on high standards and consistency, beginning with recognition as an Awarding Organisation (AO). QUALIFI is approved and regulated by Ofqual (in full). Our Ofqual reference number is RN5160.

Ofqual is responsible for maintaining standards and confidence in a wide range of vocational qualifications. QUALIFI are also recognised by the Qualifications in Wales (QiW) and the CCEA (in full) who are responsible for awarding organisation and the quality assurance in both Wales and Northern Ireland. QUALIFI is also a signatory to BIS international commitments of quality.

As an Ofqual recognised awarding organisation, QUALIFI has a duty of care to implement good quality assurance processes. This is to ensure that centres that are approved for the delivery and assessment of QUALIFI's qualifications and awards. It will also safeguard the outcome of assessments and meet the national regulatory requirements.

QUALIFI's qualifications are developed as being accessible to all learners in that they are available to anyone who is capable of attaining the required standard. QUALIFI promotes equality and diversity across aspects of the qualification process and centres are required to implement the same standards of equal opportunities and the learner is free from any barriers that may restrict access and progression.

QUALIFI's policy document for learners with specific requirements or who need special consideration are available for centre reference. Centres are responsible for reviewing the applicant's ability to successfully complete the training programme and ultimately achieve a qualification. The initial assessment by the centre, will need to take into account the support that is readily available or can be made available to meet individual needs as appropriate. The centre must also consider prior learning and qualifications and they must be in a position to make a judgement on the learners' entry requirements.

Relevance

QUALIFI works with a growing number of sector skills councils, professional associations and employers to identify mission-critical learning requirements and assess outcomes of programmes to achieve a consistent and recognised professional and academic standards.

We have built a reputation for supporting relevant skills in a range of job roles and industries including Leadership, Enterprise and Management, Hospitality & Catering, Health and Social Care, Business Process Outsourcing and Public Services. Our portfolio includes nationally recognised Qualifications as well as bespoke Qualifications.

Accessible

The result is a growing number of UK and internationally recognised Qualifications that reflect workforce and professional areas of needed competency.

We support our Approved Learning Centres with flexible approaches to learning assessment through classroom based study, blended learning and distance learning programmes. Our goal is to support learners by giving them access to current and relevant education and Qualifications that support their career aspirations. Learn more about online learning.

The world is changing and QUALIFI has the innovative spirit and commitment to learners to change with it while maintaining high standards of integrity and credibility.

Ambition

Our ambition is **“To enable all individuals to realise their true potential by achieving success through learning.”**

Student Commitment

This represents a clear statement of QUALIFI Ltd and its partners’ intentions to deliver agreed standards for a range of academic and administrative services. It spells out what is expected of you as a student and the contribution that can be made to gain the most benefit from your study time through our courses. Students play an important part in the process of improving the quality of this course through the feedback they give. In addition to the ongoing discussion with the course team throughout the year, there are a range of mechanisms for students to feedback about the experience of teaching and learning.

Students will get the best out of their study time with QUALIFI centres if you are encouraged to:

- Prepare for classes and attending punctually
- Complete work to the best of their ability and submitting it on time
- Not committing plagiarism
- Keeping up to date with course information through email or other channels
- Using the feedback opportunities given to improve subsequent work
- Making appropriate use of teaching staff’s time
- Taking responsibility for personal development planning and skills development
- Treating staff, fellow learners and neighbours in the local community with respect at all times

Supporting Diversity

QUALIFI Ltd and its partners recognise and value individual difference and have a public duty to promote equality and remove discrimination in relation to race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Why Choose QUALIFI Qualifications?

This suite of Qualifications provides a realistic and broad opportunity for Learners seeking career and professional development. They will support Learners in realising their potential and by association the prospects of the organisations they work with or for.

The objectives of this suite of Qualifications is to:

- provide career path support to Learners who wish to develop their management, enterprise capabilities and opportunities in their chosen sector;
- improve understanding of the business environment, organisations and how they are managed and developed; and
- develop skills and abilities in Learners to support their professional development.

The suite of Qualifications provides a rich mix of disciplines and skills development opportunities. Learners will gain insight into the functioning, objectives and processes of organisations, appreciating their diversity and the influences and impact of external forces on them. The fast changing and complex business environment and different organisation's ability to stay resilient and respond positively to change and opportunities will be explored.

Management of a range of business operations and functions, the management of specific challenges for organisations will introduce Learners to management theory, practice and models that will provide valuable knowledge and know-how.

The issues and concepts dealt with as part of this suite of Qualifications are best explored through exposure to organisations, for any full time Learners work placements are encouraged so that genuine experience and insight can be gained. Problem solving and creativity are attributes encouraged and developed in Learners through all the Units.

The Qualifications will develop the Learner's ability to:

- apply analytical and evaluative techniques and to enhance those skills;
- investigate issues and opportunities;
- develop their awareness and appreciation of managerial, organisational and environmental issues;
- use management techniques and practices in imaginative ways;
- make use of relevant information from different sources;
- develop and encourage problem solving and creativity to tackle problems and challenges;
- exercise judgement, own and take responsibility for decisions and actions; and
- develop the ability to recognise and reflect on personal learning and improve their personal, social and other transferable skill

1.2 Employer Support for the Qualification Development

The development of this suite of Qualifications has been initiated and guided by discussions and idea sharing with a range of employers, providers and existing centres demonstrating the rigour, validity and demand for the Qualifications.

Discussions and feedback has been taken during the duration of the development of the Qualifications on content, the potential Learner audience for the Qualifications and assessment methods ensuring a valuable experience and recognised set of skills, knowledge and understanding are realised.

1.3 Qualification titles and codes

The Qualifications have been accredited to the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) and each Qualification has its own unique Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN). This number will appear on the learner's final certification document. Each unit with the Qualification has its own RQF code. The QAN for these Qualifications are as follows:

Qualifi Level 7 Diploma in Accounting and Finance: 603/0723/7

1.4 Awarding institution

QUALIFI LTD

2 Programme purpose

2.1 Reasons for the Qualifications

The QUALIFI Diploma in Accounting and Finance is designed to meet the needs of senior/middle managers and accountants in the running of their businesses, and to facilitate their progression to higher levels within their organisation.

Managers need to be aware of issues, able to analyse their potential outcomes and consequences, and decide how to react. They do not have to be expert in all areas of business, but they need to possess a general awareness of what specialist facilities and services exist, and how they can assist in carrying out that role. The programme includes contemporary topics with cutting- edge content, reflecting key issues within the 21st-century business environment as well as the latest developments in management research.

The Diploma is accredited at the post graduate Level 7. The programme has a total equivalence of 120 credits. Completing the Diploma allows access to a dissertation at one of our University partners for a related Master Degree.

2.2 Aims of the Diploma

Level 7 qualifications are designed to develop the learners' knowledge, understanding and skills required to deal with the complexities of leadership and strategic management in a business context, and to develop their ability to lead change in organisations.

The Qualifi Level 7 Diploma in Accounting and Finance aims to give learners the opportunity to:

- Apply theoretical understanding of accounting theories and concepts to complex and current business issues with a view to improving business practice
- Critically reflect upon analytical skills and thereby allow learners to prepare for senior roles within their organisation
- Develop a lifelong learning attitude to education and training
- Gain a critical insight into contemporary research and leading-edge practice within the field of finance.
- Develop considerable autonomy in their learning and enhance their ability to plan and implement investment projects and portfolio management.
- Generate originality and enterprise in approaching global financial issues
- Demonstrate self-direction, initiative and autonomy in research and scholarship towards a new contribution to knowledge in a chosen field of finance.

2.3 Learning Outcomes of the Diploma

The overall learning outcomes of the Diploma are:

1. To understand and apply the principles of accounting and finance in a business environment
2. Review and apply the principles of accounting and finance within industry
3. To understand and apply the principles of accounting and finance in a specific environment
4. To improve the employability of learners by allowing them to explore the relationship between theories and their practical application in the business world.
5. Analyse problem solving techniques specific to business and industry
6. Select, collate, review and analyse information from a wide range of sources
7. Work independently and as part of a team
8. Manage one's own personal development and growth

These are the overall learning outcomes in line with post graduate programmes. The learning outcomes for each module are identified in Appendix 1 within the module descriptors.

3. Delivering the qualification

3.1 Quality Assurance Arrangements

All centres go through an approval process to be recognised as an approved centre. Centres must have in place qualified and experienced tutors. The experience of tutors and their ability to support Learners will be important. Centres must commit to working with QUALIFI and its team of Quality Reviewers/External Verifiers. Continuing professional development (CPD) for tutors is also required.

Approved Centres will be monitored by QUALIFI External Quality Reviewers (EQAs) to ensure that Learners are provided with appropriate learning opportunities and guidance. EQA's will ask to see and discuss a Centre's formative assessment plans. The suitability of plans will be agreed with the Centre.

QUALIFI's guidance on invigilation, preventing plagiarism and collusion will apply to centres. QUALIFI Quality Reviewers/External Verifiers will monitor Centre's compliance. For assessment purposes QUALIFI:

- verifies assignment setters, markers and moderators;
- sets or agrees assignments;
- quality assures marks and moderation of assignments;
- agrees the final mark and issues certificates.

QUALIFI's 'Handbook on Guidance and Requirements for Assessment and Marking' will apply to its assignment setters, markers and moderators.

3.2 Access to study

All learners should be invited to an induction event to be introduced to the programme in detail through presentations and discussions with lecturers and the centre support team.

All learners should be issued with the diploma handbook, a timetable and meet with their personal tutor and fellow learners. Centres should assess learners carefully to ensure that they take the right Qualification and the right pathways or optional units, to allow them to progress to the next stage.

Centres should check the Qualification structures and unit combinations carefully when advising learners. Centres will need to ensure that learners have access to a full range of information, advice and guidance in order to support them in making the necessary Qualification and unit choices. When learners are recruited, you need to give them accurate information on the title and focus of the Qualification for which they are studying.

All learners must be registered with QUALIFI within 30 days of centre registration.

3.3 Entry Criteria

The Qualification has been designed to be accessible without artificial barriers that restrict access and progression. Entry to the Qualifications will be through centre interview and the candidates will be expected to hold the following

Level 6 Qualification or;
First Degree

In certain circumstances, managers with considerable experience but no formal Qualifications may be considered, subject to interview and being able to demonstrate their ability to cope with the demands of the programme. This would typically be a minimum of 5 years in an accounting and finance role.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6 (or equivalent) is required. International Qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education postgraduate programmes. The applicants are normally required to produce two supporting references, at least one of which should preferably be Academic.

4 Structure of the Qualifications

4.1 Units, credits and Total Qualification Time (TQT)

The QUALIFI Diploma in Human Resource Management is a Level 7 Qualification made up of 120 credits.

All units are either 20 credits in value. These units have been designed from a learning time perspective, and are expressed in terms of **Total Qualification Time (TQT)**. TQT is an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required for a student to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a Qualification. TQT includes undertaking each of the activities of Guided Learning, Directed Learning and Invigilated Assessment. 120 credits equate to 1200 hours of TQT.

Examples of activities which can contribute to Total Qualification Time include:

- Guided Learning
- Independent and unsupervised research/learning
- Unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience
- Unsupervised e-learning
- Unsupervised e-assessment
- Unsupervised coursework
- Watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar
- Unsupervised work-based learning.

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) are defined as the time when a tutor is present to give specific guidance towards the learning aim being studied on a programme. This definition includes lectures, tutorials and supervised study in, for example, open learning centres and learning workshops. Guided Learning includes any supervised assessment activity; this includes invigilated examination and observed assessment and observed work-based practice.

Some examples of activities which can contribute to Guided Learning include:

- Classroom-based learning supervised by a tutor
- Work-based learning supervised by a tutor
- Live webinar or telephone tutorial with a tutor in real time
- E-learning supervised by a tutor in real time
- All forms of assessment which take place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training, including where the assessment is competence-based and may be turned into a learning opportunity.

4.2 Qualification structure

The overall structure of the course is based on 6 units that cover a number of topics relating to learning outcomes. All 6 modules are mandatory. Each unit has the equivalency of 20 credits.

Learners will be invited to attend lectures and workshops that will introduce the subject matter.

Learners must complete all units successfully and achieve 120 credits before the Diploma can be issued.

Formative assessments (weighted at 0%) may be used in lectures or tutorials to check knowledge and understanding of specific topics and subject areas.

Units require reflective exam sets and/or summative assessments for marking.

QUALIFI Level 7 Diploma in Accounting and Finance

The Level 7 Diploma focuses upon developing understanding, skills and abilities to equip the Learner with the awareness and aptitudes to be an effective accounting and finance manager.

Learners must complete the 6 mandatory units.

Unit Reference	Mandatory Units	Level	TQT	Credits
AF701	Strategy and Global Finance	7	200	20
AF702	Strategic Financial Management	7	200	20
AF703	Strategic Auditing	7	200	20
AF704	Ethical Behaviour and Corporate Governance	7	200	20
AF705	Corporate Reporting	7	200	20
AF706	Financial Analyst	7	200	20

4.3 Progression and links to other QUALIFI Programmes

Learners completing the **QUALIFI Level 7 Diploma in Human Resource Management** will allow progress to:

- the QUALIFI Level 8 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership, or
- a university partner to complete a dissertation to then receive a full master's degree, or
- directly into employment in an associated profession.

4.4 University exemptions

QUALIFI has exemptions for learners to progress to a number of Universities to complete a master's degree. This generally requires completion of a dissertation only.

The pathways are an indication of the learner's progress towards a University degree and is based on the University's review of QUALIFI's learning programmes and outcomes. Further information is available here <http://www.QUALIFI.net/learning-pathways/>

4.5 Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a method of assessment (leading to the award of credit) that considers whether learners can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess, and so do not need to develop through a course of learning.

QUALIFI encourages centres to recognise learners' previous achievements and experiences whether at work, home or at leisure, as well as in the classroom. RPL provides a route for the recognition of

the achievements resulting from continuous learning. RPL enables recognition of achievement from a range of activities using any valid assessment methodology. Provided that the assessment requirements of a given unit or Qualification have been met, the use of RPL is acceptable for accrediting a unit, units or a whole qualification.

Evidence of learning must be valid and reliable. For full guidance on RPL please refer to the QUALIFI's policy document on RPL.

5 Guidance to teaching and learning

To ensure consistency and quality of delivery amongst centres QUALIFI has outlined a template to ensure the very best standards are available to learners. These include:

5.1 Expertise of staff

Programmes of study are managed by a nominated course director within the centre and supported by an administrator responsible for the approved delivery and assessment team.

The team of educators and tutor associated with QUALIFI Ltd are, in typical UK University terms, the equivalent of senior academics and experienced practitioners.

All units will be delivered by an appropriately qualified tutor. The tutor responsible for each aspect of delivery and assessment is clearly identified within the module and assessment descriptors and will have appropriate industry experience.

All tutors will be supported by a nominated administration person.

Administration and support for both technical and non-technical will be identified.

5.2 Learning and teaching methods

The Diploma course deliveries lead themselves to blended learning. Blended Learning is an inclusive approach to a variety of differing learning styles and activities, enabling all learners to achieve successful outcomes.

Content is provided with appropriate exercises and the learning is reinforced through lectures facilitated workshops and online.

Learners will be expected to attend all workshops and lectures and will be able to access subject matter through the delivery team and online.

Learners will develop academically by continually researching, evaluating, analysing theories and then testing out their findings in a simulated work environment.

5.3 Study skills

The support team will assist learners that require further development of study skills.

Personal development skills that include time management, organisational and research methods will be encouraged at all times. Learners unable to manage their academic workload can seek assistant.

QUALIFI can provide further learning support that includes how to write effective essays this can be requested through your registered centre or emailing support@QUALIFI-international.com

5.4 Learning resources

Extensive resources and learning support materials are available to support studies provided by QUALIFI and our partner. The materials are designed to enable you to gain all the skills needed for research and study.

Core text and suggested further reading are identified in the module descriptors in Appendix 1.

QUALIFI Ltd may provide (where appropriate) access to a range of electronic resources – e-journals and databases, e-books, images and texts through their learning management system. Core text has been made available as part of the Qualifications offered by QUALIFI Ltd and their centre partners.

All learners will be given access to the platform that also records all formative exercises as a record of achievement.

5.5 Personal development planning

Learners are encouraged to develop and achieve personal development plans. Personal tutors and administration staff will support all learners looking to set out a plan and realise their ambitions.

Personal development plans promote a sense of direction and assist with future objectives. The learning management system provides all learners with an e-portfolio. This will record all learning and achievements.

5.6 Career opportunities

The learning experience is not only about achieving a chosen award, it is also about developing as a person and realising potential. QUALIFI encourages learners to gain the skills and attitudes that will help them achieve their goals and aspirations.

QUALIFI may offer a range of support for centres and learners including:

- career and employability advice and guidance
- access to voluntary opportunities and live projects
- workshops, seminars, modules, certificates and events to develop your skills
- business start-up, freelance and self-employment advice
- your University Diploma/Certificate will formally recognise your employability and enterprise achievements.

6 Student Support

Centres should continue to support learners and encourage appropriate behaviour. In addition:

6.1 Learners with disabilities

If learners have a disability that may affect their studies, they should either contact a personal tutor or let one of the course team know as soon as possible. With a centre agreement information will be passed on to the course admin team. QUALIFI can make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs and to provide appropriate support for them to complete your study successfully. Where necessary, learners will be asked for evidence to help identify appropriate adjustments.

6.2 Health and Safety

Learners are responsible for the safety of themselves and for others around them. They must understand and follow all the regulations and safety codes necessary for a safe campus environment. Please help to keep it safe by reporting any incidents, accidents or potentially unsafe situations to a member of staff as soon as possible.

6.3 Conduct

Learners will be expected to abide by the Regulations for the Conduct of Learners in the centre of study. QUALIFI Ltd expects learners to behave in a respectful manner demonstrated by using appropriate language in class, and switching mobile phones/other devices off prior to attending classes.

If behaviour is considered to be unacceptable, any member of academic staff is able to issue an informal oral warning and all QUALIFI partners will support staff by invoking formal procedures where necessary. Learners and centres can receive more information about our expectations in the regulations for the Conduct of Learners. This will be made available on request.

6.4 Progression

Discussions about academic progression through the course should normally take place 3 months before the end of the Qualification. It is an opportunity for learners to make plans for further study over the next academic year and to identify progression to the University for a final year.

6.5 Weekly timetable

A timetable must be provided from all centres of learning. Learners are encouraged to attend all workshops and lectures available or online. These will be followed by final assessments.

6.6 Attendance Requirements

Learners are required to attend all timetabled learning activities for each unit. Notification of illness or exceptional requests for leave of absence must be made to the centre of study.

If learners have not gained the required authorisation for leave of absence, do not respond to communications from the course tutor or support team and if they are absent for four weeks or more, they may be deemed to have withdrawn from the course. If this is the case, then the date of withdrawal will be recorded as the last day of attendance.

6.7 Data Protection

All of the personal information obtained from learners and other sources in connection with studies will be held securely and will be used during the course and after they leave the course for a variety of purposes. These should be all explained during the enrolment process at the commencement of studies. If learners or centres would like a more detailed explanation of the partner and QUALIFI policies on the use and disclosure of personal information, please contact QUALIFI via email support@QUALIFI-international.com

7. Assessment

The Qualifications within this suite are vocational because they support a Learner's career progression. To meet QUALIFI's aim to provide an appropriate assessment method each unit will be assessed through an assignment. Assignment tasks will be written in a way to make them realistic 'work-related' tasks wherever possible. Knowledge, understanding and application will be need to be demonstrated by Learners. Original thought, problem solving and recommendations on actions will also be asked for from the Learner where appropriate for the unit. Intellectual rigour will be expected appropriate to the level of the Qualification.

Assignments will contain a question strand for each of the given unit's Learning Outcomes. The assignment tasks will address the LO (Learning Outcome) and AC (Assessment Criteria) requirements. Within assignments there will always be requirements for Learner's to engage with important and relevant theory that underpins the subject area.

The assignment questions will require Learners to draw on real organisations to illustrate their answers. To support this activity during the programme of learning Centres are required to make sure that they include case studies of relevant organisations and wherever possible facilitate in-company opportunities for Learners to undertake research and investigation projects and/or support the organisation with various tasks. Mature and part-time Learners will ideally be able to draw on their personal work experience too. Centres are required to provide a programme of

formative assessment that prepares the Learners for their final assessment. Sample assignments can be provided as part of the Qualification Specification supplied to Centres.

7.1 Assessment Strategy

All units include summative assessments. Assignments are handed out by course tutors and marked in line with the marking processes.

Assessment is varied and may include; written reports, business plans, change management plans, presentations, group work, viva, a worked-based project and personal development plan.

All assessments are linked to the learning outcomes of each module identified in Appendix 1 module descriptors. Learners are encouraged to act on feedback from tutors and markers so that they can take as part of their own learning and development.

7.2 Assessment arrangements for learners with a disability

Arrangements are made for learners who have a disability/learning difficulty for which valid supporting evidence can be made available. Contact the course tutor to advise.

7.3 Verification

The tutors will also act as assessors. This will contribute to the verification of the student submitting their own work and will act against cheating or plagiarism as the student will be known.

7.4 Marking

The marking of the summative assignment will include comments on the text as well as an overall grade and feedback. The feedback will be based on the level of references and the quality of the interpretation of the question.

Marks will be deducted for transgressions, especially plagiarism and poor citation of sources:

- Assessors will make a judgement of minor transgressions not sufficient to require penalties.
- A warning will be issued and any further transgressions will result in marks being deducted.
- This will be in agreement with the course Director.
- Learners will pass the assignment to their respected tutors for assessment.

A marking scheme will be made available with all assignments. Guidelines are issued on plagiarism. Assessors are to be encouraged to avoid the use of borderline marks.

7.5 Marking Scheme

7.5.1 Pass Mark

A mark of at least 40% is required for a unit to be passed and the credit achieved. This same pass mark applies to all units that contribute to the Diploma. Once a unit pass mark has been agreed by and credit awarded, the student may not be re-assessed in that unit.

7.5.2 Deferral after valid mitigating circumstances

Unit Assessment Boards may offer a deferral where it is considered that a valid claim for personal mitigating circumstances has been made. The nature of the deferral task and its timing is decided by the MAB. When the deferred student next presents her/himself for assessment the outcome will be judged as if for the first time, and the full module mark awarded.

7.5.3 Referral after failure

Unit Assessment Boards may offer one referral (= resit) opportunity to candidates who have failed a module. This 'second chance' is the right of the learner. The nature of the referral task and its timing is decided by the Assessment Board(AB). When the referred candidate next presents her/himself for assessment a maximum mark of 40% can be awarded by the AB, although it is best practice to inform the candidate of the un-moderated mark, which may be greater than 40%.

7.6 Dealing with difficulties in meeting assessment deadlines

Assignments must be submitted no later than the date on your assignment instructions / brief:

- **Assignments received up to 5 working days late will be eligible for a maximum mark of up to 40%. Submissions made later than 5 working days late will receive a fail grade;**
- **This is stated on the assignment submission sheet which should be electronically copied with each assignment.**

If learners anticipate that they will have difficulty in meeting assessment deadlines or have missed or are likely to miss in-semester tests they must report this at the earliest possible opportunity to the centre.

Authorisation of the late submission of work requires written permission. The centre is the only person authorised to give permission for one extension period of between 1 and 10 working days where evidence of circumstances has been accepted and where submission within this timescale would be reasonable taking into account those circumstances.

Centres should aim to inform learners of a decision about granting an extension within 5 days of the receipt of the request.

If learners are unable to submit work within 10 working days after the submission date due to verifiable extenuating circumstances, they may submit a case for consideration in accordance with the Extenuating Circumstances Procedure.

7.7 Extenuating circumstances

‘Extenuating Circumstances’ is a phrase which refers to exceptional factors outside of the student’s control which have adversely affected their performance. These factors may prevent them from attending examinations or other timed assessments or caused them to miss assessment submission dates. Examples are illness, accidents or serious family problems.

Normally extenuating circumstances will relate to a change in their circumstances since they commenced your course, which have had a significant, adverse effect on their studies. Everyday occurrences such as colds or known conditions such as hay-fever will not qualify unless the effects are unusually severe and this is corroborated by a medical note. Centres should not look sympathetically on absences or delays caused by holiday commitments or by work commitments in the case of full-time learners.

The normal work commitments of part-time learners would not constitute an extenuating circumstance.

A disability or learning difficulty does not constitute an extenuating circumstance. In determining assessment recommendations, Assessment Boards will consider properly submitted claims from learners who believe their performance has been adversely affected by extenuating circumstances.

Note: Assessment Boards are not permitted to alter individual assessment marks to take account of extenuating circumstances.

7.7.1 Late submissions

If a learner submits work late and unauthorised, a universal penalty will be applied in relation to their work:

- If a learner submits work within 5 working days following the published submission date they will obtain a maximum mark of 40% for that element of assessment.
- Work submitted later than 5 working days after the published submission date will be awarded a mark of 0%.
- Unauthorised late submission at resubmission will automatically be awarded a mark of 0%.

7.8 Assessment Boards

The Assessment Board will meet to consider the percentage marks gained by the learners. The role is to moderate and agree module marks, award credits to learners who have achieved a pass mark, offer the federal opportunities to fail candidates who provided satisfactory evidence of mitigating circumstances.

7.9 Appeals

If a student wishes to appeal a decision made by the board then the following two stage appeal process is available to them:

7.9.1 First Stage Appeal

If, after being notified of results, a student considers that an appeal is justified, s/he must within 7 days of the notice of grades make a written submission of grounds for appeal to QUALIFI Ltd. This written appeal must state the grounds on which the appeal is sought and should be accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence.

QUALIFI Ltd will contact the student to discuss the matter. If it is not possible to resolve the issue a formal meeting will take place with the student having the right to bring a friend or colleague with them.

QUALIFI Ltd will make it clear to the appellant at the opening of the appeal that the decision could be one of the following options:

- (i) To uphold the appeal based on the evidence presented and either to refer the matter to a full meeting of the Assessment Board; or to request that the Chair of that Assessment Board take action;
- (ii) To turn down the appeal and to uphold the original decision of the assessment board;
- (iii) To postpone a final decision on the appeal, subject to seeking further clarification, evidence or advice as necessary. If the outcome is postponed, a second meeting will be necessary and must be conducted as an extension of the first meeting and be governed by the procedures pertaining to the appeal.

In all cases, the student must be informed of the right of appeal to the second stage if dissatisfied with the outcome of the first stage appeal. QUALIFI Ltd will be responsible for preparing a report of the Stage One meeting. This report will be sent to the student and a copy retained by QUALIFI Ltd.

7.9.2 Stage Two Appeal

If the appeal is not satisfactorily resolved at Stage One, a written appeal must be submitted by the student to the Managing Director of QUALIFI Ltd (or nominee) within 14 days of the first appeal meeting. This written appeal must state the grounds on which the appeal is sought and should be accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence.

Extenuating circumstances which have not been declared at either time of the Board meeting or the first stage appeal will not be considered at the second stage appeal.

However, a learner can still appeal on the grounds that s/he believes that the Board and/or the Chair of the Board did not give sufficient weight to the declared extenuating circumstances.

7.10 Cheating and plagiarism

A learner may appeal against a decision in relation to an allegation of cheating or plagiarism. Information that will be provided to learners with their assignment briefs include.

QUALIFI Ltd regard with particular severity any use of unfair means in an attempt to enhance performance or to influence the standard of award obtained.

Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that QUALIFI and centres regard with concern. All work that is submitted for assessment must be genuinely a learner's own work and not the result of plagiarism. If they are quoting actual words from a published or unpublished source they must acknowledge that fact each time they do it by using quotation marks and citing the source.

Learners must not also pass work off as the result of individual efforts, if they have in fact colluded with other learners to prepare the piece of work jointly, or have copied each other's work. Clearly, it is also wrong to copy another learner's work without her/him knowing about it.

If there are any doubts on this important matter, centres and learners are advised to contact QUALIFI Ltd direct.

7.11 Referencing

The standard adopted by QUALIFI Ltd is the Harvard method, in the style used by the *British Journal of Management (BJM)*. It is strongly recommended that learners use *only* this style standard. However, if learners use another style of Harvard referencing correctly and consistently, they will not be penalised. They must not mix styles.

7.11.1 Bibliographies

In the Harvard/*BJM* system, bibliographies of works consulted are **not** to be used. Learners should list **only** the sources directly referred to in work in the references. The page(s) where they show these references should be entitled References, *not* Reference List or References Section.

7.11.2 Direct quotations

In the Harvard/*BJM* system, direct quotations are only rarely used. Learners should instead summarise the author's ideas in your own words and provide the appropriate reference in the body of work, followed by the full references in the list of References.

7.11.3 Summary of Harvard/BJM style details:

1. Show sources in brief in the body of your work. Instructions on how to do this follow.
2. Direct quotations should only be used rarely. Instead, summarise the ideas in your own words (paraphrasing) and show the source by indicating the author's/authors' name(s), the year of publication and the page number(s) on which the reference occurs.
3. Show full details of sources as References at the end of your work, but before appendices.
4. In the References section, show sources only for articles/books/etc. directly referred to in the body of your work.
5. Do not use footnotes to reference sources or number the references in the References list.
6. In the References section, list the works in alphabetical order by the author's surname.
7. Put all references in the same list. Do not list books, articles, websites etc. separately.
8. There is a standard order for listing publishing details in the References list. For individual references, the order is:
 - a. author(s)' surname
 - b. author(s)' initials
 - c. year of publication
 - d. title of the work (book, journal article, chapter in a book, name of the scholarly paper, etc.)
 - e. name of the journal or magazine (if not a book)
 - f. publishing details. The publishing details will vary depending upon whether it is a book, a journal or magazine, a conference paper or a website.

A full guide to referencing is available through your registered centre. You can request this through email to: support@QUALIFI-international.com

7.12 Confidential material

Learners may encounter confidential information whilst on work placements or through their research for assignments.

Learners are reminded that there are ethical and legal responsibilities to respect confidentiality and maintain anonymity of individuals and organisations within their assignments. If learners are unclear of their responsibilities, they must contact their course tutor for further guidance.

7.13 Submission

Please refer to Appendix 2 for the Assignment submission sheet and mailbox and refer to Appendix 3 for the Feedback sheet that will be used to mark assignments.

8. Course Regulations

8.1 Course requirements

Learners must complete all units and pass the appropriate mark to receive the full Diploma Award.

QUALIFI will issue certificates to all successful learners through the registered centres.

8.2 Classification of Awards

Where a candidate has achieved an overall average mark of at least 70% from all the units, QUALIFI may award a Distinction, although offering such a grade to individual candidates is at the discretion of QUALIFI, and is not normally given after any successful referral attempts.

Decisions about the overall classification of awards are made by QUALIFI through the application of the academic and relevant course regulations. It is based on the Average Percentage Mark (APM) or, at the discretion of QUALIFI, on the basis of your overall profile and performance subject to the minimum requirements.

8.3. Student Voice

Learners can play an important part in the process of improving the quality of this course through the feedback they give. In addition to the ongoing discussion with the course team throughout the year, there are a range of mechanisms for learners to feedback about their experience of teaching and learning.

8.4 Module Evaluation Questionnaires

Module evaluation questionnaires provide one of the most important means for learners and centres to express your opinion about teaching and learning experiences. They capture feedback on experience within each unit and inform staff about where improvements could be made. A sample evaluation sheet is provided in Appendix 4.

8.5 Complaints

QUALIFI recognise that there may be occasions when learners and centres have cause for complaint about the service received, when this happens, the complaints procedure is intended to provide an accessible, fair and straightforward system which ensures as effective, prompt and appropriate response.

For more information on our formal complaints procedure please contact in the first instance or email: support@QUALIFI-international.com

9 Equality and Diversity

QUALIFI recognises that discrimination and victimisation is unacceptable and that it is in the interests of the organisation and its employees to utilise the skills of the total workforce. It is the aim of the organisation to ensure that no employee or other representative of the organisation receives less favourable facilities or treatment (either directly or indirectly) in recruitment or employment on grounds of age, disability, gender/gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).

Our aim is that our workforce will be truly representative of all sections of society and each employee feels respected and able to give of their best. We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination or victimisation. To that end the purpose of this policy is to provide equality and fairness for all in our employment.

All employees and other related representatives, whether part-time, full-time or temporary, will be treated fairly and with respect. Selection for entry on to learning programmes and selection for employment, promotion, training or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the organisation.

Our staff will not discriminate directly or indirectly, or harass customers or clients because of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation in the provision of QUALIFI's goods or services.

This policy and the associated arrangements shall operate in accordance with statutory requirements, particularly Equality Act 2010 <https://www.gov.uk/equality-act-2010-guidance>. In addition, full account will be taken of any guidance or Codes of Practice issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, any Government Departments, and any other statutory bodies.

The policy document will be monitored and reviewed annually and can be downloaded from our website or making contact with QUALIFI.

10. Further professional development and training

QUALIFI supports UK and international customers with training related to our qualifications. This support is available through a choice of training options offered through publications or through customised training at your centre.

The support we offer focuses on a range of issues including:

- planning for the delivery of a new programme
- planning for assessment and grading
- developing effective assignments
- building your team and teamwork skills
- developing student-centred learning and teaching approaches
- building in effective and efficient quality assurance systems.

You can request customised training through your registered centre in the first instance. If you need to contact QUALIFI directly:

Our customer service number: +44 (0) 161 818 9904

Or email: support@QUALIFI-international.com

Website: www.QUALIFI.net www.QUALIFI-international.com

Appendices

Appendix 1: Unit Descriptors

Unit AF701: Strategic and Global Finance

Unit code: T/615/3312

RQF level: 7

Aim

The aim of this unit is to ensure the learner can exercise techniques and decide on decisions that add value in terms of corporate finance based on sound theoretical concepts. In addition, the unit helps the learner to present and interpret financial information in a recognised format and to work independently to solve the problems arising within the specified time given. It also endures that the learning can be applied on the practical context.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1: Identify the concept of globalisation and evaluate the investment process involved in relation to globalisation.	1.1: Define the concept of globalisation.
	1.2: Identify the affiliation between the concept of globalisation and investment process.
	1.3: Evaluate on the advantages of investment proves with globalisation.
2: Evaluate the impact of global business environment on the national and multinational organisations.	2.1: Identify the global business environment factors.
	2.2: Evaluate the impact of the identified factors on national and multinational organisations.
3: Evaluate and recommend strategies which will result in the enhancement of the value on an organisation.	3.1: Identify the current value statement of the organisation.
	3.2: Identify how the organisation resulted in achieving the values.
	3.3: Evaluate and recommend strategies which enhance the value of the organisation.
4: Be able to evaluate the financial consequences of strategic decisions and presentation of report to the management.	4.1: Identify the strategic decision in an organisation.
	4.2: Explain and evaluate the financial consequences of the strategic decision made.

5: Identify appropriate sources of finance and evaluate the risk involved and the cost of in managing the global risk.	5.1: Identify the sources of finance available.
	5.2: Identify and evaluate the risk involved on the identified sources of finance.
	5.3: Identify the cost involved in managing the global risk.
6: Identify and explain suitable techniques to manage global risk.	6.1: Identify the risk mitigation techniques.
	6.2: Identify the global risks.
	6.3: Explain the suitability of techniques identified to manage the global risk of the organisation.
7: Critical assess potential investment decisions available and the strategies applied in the global environment.	7.1: Identify the potential investment decisions and strategies available.
	7.2: Critical assess the impact of decisions and strategies on the global environment.

Delivery and Assessment

Tuition and guidance should feature flexible approaches to delivering the unit. Formal tuition sessions, whether face to face or online, will identify some of the required, theoretical subject matter. This will help students to work individually, or as part of a group, researching and gathering information about the subject.

Personal and group research, case studies, simulations, exercises and discussion are typical and engaging ways of learning about the subject. Students will likely use tutor- and self- directed study and reflect on their experience and expertise.

Up-to-date information and materials are available from many sources such as businesses, the World Wide Web, television and radio broadcasts, broadsheet newspapers and advisory services.

Outline Learning Plan

The following outlined learning plan can be used as a guidance document in conjunction with the unit. This is an exemplar in which the unit can be delivered.

Topic and Suggested Assignments/Activities/Assessment

- Introduction to the unit and the programme of assignments
- Presentation of the concept of globalisation and investment process.
- Presentation on the evaluative impact on global business environment.
- Presentation on the national and multinational organisations and its impacts.

- Presenting strategies to enhance the value of the organisation.
- Presentation on the financial consequences of strategic decisions.
- Presentation on the appropriate source of finance and the cost involved in managing the global risk.
- Presenting the suitable risk management techniques.
- Presentation on the information as to how the global risk can be managed.
- Presenting potential investment decisions and strategies on global environment.
- Review of unit and programme of assignments

Suggested Resources

The recommended sources listed below should be familiar to each tutor and assessor who is delivering this unit as part of the qualification. Learners should be made aware of these sources before delivery of this unit, and be fully conversant with these sources upon completion of this unit.

Textbooks

- Margaret, W., International Risk Management, 2008
- Larry, J.K., Business Valuations, 1997

Journals

- Journal of Business Strategy
- Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis

Websites

- <http://managementhelp.org/>
- <http://www.forbes.com>
- <http://www.fmsinc.org/>
- <http://www.accountingcoach.com/>
- <https://ideas.repec.org/a/scm/ausvfe/v10y2010ispecialp180-188.html>

Unit AF702: Strategic Financial Management

Unit code: L/615/3316

RQF level: 7

Aim

The aim of this unit is to provide learners ability to exercise the techniques and to make value added decisions in corporate strategy and finance based on sound theoretical concepts. Further it enhances the contribution on the formulation of business strategy, creation of comprehensive business development plans, together bringing their specialist accounting and finance skills as well as the strategic management learning of the module.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1: Understand and critically appraise the significance of strategic management and decision making to the performance of the organisation and apply and critique the various forms of internal and external business and strategic analysis and formulation.	1.1: Identify a range of business resources to meet organisational objectives.
	1.2 Identify and apply relevant academic theories to understand the various internal and external factors of an organisation.
2: Understand and evaluate the key financial theories relevant to financial decision making and critical application of strategic implementation techniques inclusive of balance scorecard and portfolio management tools.	2.1: Identify and evaluate key financial theories.
	2.2: Apply theories identified on financial decision making.
	2.3: Identify and apply strategic implementation techniques using balance scorecard and portfolio management tools.
3: Evaluate the role of culture on strategy, including managing change and be able to analyse the effects.	3.1: identify the role of culture on strategy.
	3.2: Identify the role of change management.
	3.3: identify the role of change management.
4: Evaluate and apply stakeholder analysis.	4.1: Understand the significance of stakeholder analysis.
	4.2: Understand the application of the analysis on a chosen organisation.
	4.3: Identify business expansion methods and its impact on stakeholders
	4.4: Identify the ability to compute the return and risk.

5: Critically evaluate corporate and business valuation techniques	5.1: Identify the concept of corporate and business valuation techniques.
6: Evaluate performance measurement systems for an organisation and application of problem solving and financial analysis techniques to strategic business problems.	6.1: Identify performance measurement systems.
	6.2: Identify financial analysis techniques.
	6.3: Assess the application of systems and techniques identified on solving business problems.

Delivery and Assessment

Tuition and guidance should feature flexible approaches to delivering the unit. Formal tuition sessions, whether face to face or online, will identify some of the required, theoretical subject matter. This will help students to work individually, or as part of a group, researching and gathering information about the subject.

Personal and group research, case studies, simulations, exercises and discussion are typical and engaging ways of learning about the subject. Students will likely use tutor- and self- directed study and reflect on their experience and expertise.

Up-to-date information and materials are available from many sources such as businesses, the World Wide Web, television and radio broadcasts, broadsheet newspapers and advisory services.

Outline Learning Plan

The following outlined learning plan can be used as a guidance document in conjunction with the unit. This is an exemplar in which the unit can be delivered.

Topic and Suggested Assignments/Activities/Assessment

- Introduction to the unit and the programme of assignments
- Presentation on resourcing decisions and the impact they have both internally and externally on organisational performance and effectiveness
- Practical work, research and discussion on resourcing decisions and the impact they have both internally and externally on organisational performance and effectiveness
- Presentation on sources of finance and investment appraisal
- Practical work, research and discussion on sources of finance and investment appraisal
- Presentation on risk management
- Practical work, research and discussion on risk management
- Presentation on cost concepts and management decision making
- Practical work, research, exercises and discussion on cost concepts and management decision making corporate accounting.
- Practical work, research, exercises and discussion on financial management techniques applied

to intangible items and efficient use of all resources

- Presentation on interpreting financial statements and strategic planning and decision-making
- Practical work, research, exercises and discussion on interpreting financial statements and strategic planning and decision-making
- Review of unit and programme of assignments

Suggested Resources

The recommended sources listed below should be familiar to each tutor and assessor who is delivering this unit as part of the qualification. Learners should be made aware of these sources before delivery of this unit, and be fully conversant with these sources upon completion of this unit.

Textbooks

- Charles, W.L.H., Gareth, R.J., Strategic Management Theory, 9th Ed, 2009
- Ross, G., Valuation and Investment Appraisal, 2002

Journals

- Journal of Risk and Financial Management
- Strategic Management Journal

Websites

- <http://finance.mapsofworld.com/strategic-management/model.html>
- <http://www.accaglobal.com/lk/en/student/exam-support-resources/professional-exams-study-resources/p4/technical-articles/economic-value-added.html>

Unit AF703: Strategic Auditing

Unit code: R/615/3317

RQF level: 7

Aim

The aim of this unit is to help students understand the ability to choose and apply suitable investigative techniques on a variety of situations which are simple and non-simple in the accounting environment. The unit provides a profound learning on the aims, objectives and methods of auditors and their contribution on the achievement of true and fair view on the published accounts.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1: Identify and evaluate the history and the current regulatory environment for auditing.	1.1: Identify the history and current regulatory environment for auditing.
	1.2: Evaluate on the historical and current regulatory environment for auditing.
2: Understand and critically apply the rules of professional conduct for the auditors.	2.1: Identify the rules of professional conduct.
	2.2: Identify the critical application of the rules of professional conduct for the auditors.
3: Evaluate the importance of legal and professional requirements when performing the audit.	3.1: Identify the importance of legal and professional requirements.
	3.2: Evaluate the identified requirements on the performance of audit.
4: Analyse overall audit strategy. Critical analysis on the effectiveness of audit monitoring process in use.	4.1: Identify and analyse an audit strategy in general.
	4.2: Critically analyse the effectiveness of the audit monitoring process.
5: Identify the risk involved in an audit and the use of suitable measures to minimise the risk.	5.1: Identify the risk involved in the process of auditing.
	5.2: Categorise appropriate measures to minimise the risk identified.
	7.2: Critically assess the current developments in auditing.
6: Be able to identify and explain the linkage between accounts preparation and the conduct of audit.	6.1: Identify the link between preparation of accounts and the audit conducted.
	6.2: Explain the link between preparation of accounts and the audit conducted.
7: Identify and critically assess on the current developments in auditing.	7.1: Identify the current developments in auditing.

	7.2: Critically assess the current developments in auditing.
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Delivery and Assessment

Tuition and guidance should feature flexible approaches to delivering the unit. Formal tuition sessions, whether face to face or online, will identify some of the required, theoretical subject matter. This will help students to work individually, or as part of a group, researching and gathering information about the subject.

Personal and group research, case studies, simulations, exercises and discussion are typical and engaging ways of learning about the subject. Students will likely use tutor- and self- directed study and reflect on their experience and expertise.

Up-to-date information and materials are available from many sources such as businesses, the World Wide Web, television and radio broadcasts, broadsheet newspapers and advisory services.

Outline Learning Plan

The following outlined learning plan can be used as a guidance document in conjunction with the unit. This is an exemplar in which the unit can be delivered.

Topic and Suggested Assignments/Activities/Assessment

- Introduction to the unit and the programme of assignments
- Presentation on the history and current regulatory surrounding for auditing.
- Presentation on the rules of professional conduct applied on the auditors.
- Presentation on the legal and professional requirements in performing audit.
- Presenting the audit monitoring process currently in use and the audit strategy in general.
- Presentation of the risk identified in auditing and the mitigating measures.
- Presentation on the relationship between the accounts preparation and the audit conducted.
- Presentation on the current developments in auditing.
- Presentation on the critical assessment of the current developments.

Suggested Resources

The recommended sources listed below should be familiar to each tutor and assessor who is delivering this unit as part of the qualification. Learners should be made aware of these sources before delivery of this unit, and be fully conversant with these sources upon completion of this unit.

Textbooks

- Millichamp, A.H., Auditing, 8th Ed, 2002
- Frank, C., The essentials of auditing, 2015

Journals

- Journal of Auditing
- Journal of Accounting, Auditing & Finance
- Managerial Auditing Journal

Websites

- <http://www.slideshare.net/vishwacrv/auditing-notes-27123132>
- <http://www.forbes.com>
- <http://smallbusiness.chron.com/auditing-accounting-11772.html>

Unit AF704: Ethical Behaviour and Corporate Governance

Unit code: Y/615/3318

RQF level: 7

Aim

The aim of this unit is to reveal the sequential development and guideline of accounting and the impact of accounting and finance on the environment, the various stakeholders and on the society. The learners of this module will be equipped with the knowledge and skills essential to act as an advisor in relation to the governing authorities on the private, public and charitable sectors.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1: Explain what a profession is and identify the application of governance law and practices in the national and international context.	1.1: Explain what a profession is and the professional institutes.
	1.2: Identify the law and practices prevailing in the national and international context.
	1.3: Critical evaluate the framework on the national and international perspective.
2: Identify the nature and importance of corporate governance and ethical behaviour and critical evaluation of ethical issues in relation to corporate activity and recommend solutions.	2.1: Identify and explain the significance of corporate governance and ethical behavior.
	2.2: Critically evaluate ethical issues arising in relation to corporate activity.
	2.3: Evaluate solutions identified to overcome ethical issues arising in relation to corporate activity.
3: Assess the impact of financial reporting in relation to a wide range of stakeholders.	3.1: Identify the range of stakeholders available.
	3.2: Evaluate the impact of financial reporting on the range of stakeholders identified.
4: Identify the principle approaches of governance, identifying and assessing how the risk should be managed in order to achieve good corporate governance.	4.1: Identify the principle approaches of governance.
	4.2: Identify the risk involved and how it could be managed to achieve good corporate governance.
5: Research and communicate complex and leading edge issues in CSR and governance, in an appropriate format.	5.1: Identify CSR and governance issues.
	5.2: Evaluate communication issues identified in an appropriate and understandable format.

Delivery and Assessment

Tuition and guidance should feature flexible approaches to delivering the unit. Formal tuition sessions, whether face to face or online, will identify some of the required, theoretical subject matter. This will help students to work individually, or as part of a group, researching and gathering information about the subject.

Personal and group research, case studies, simulations, exercises and discussion are typical and engaging ways of learning about the subject. Students will likely use tutor- and self- directed study and reflect on their experience and expertise.

Up-to-date information and materials are available from many sources such as businesses, the World Wide Web, television and radio broadcasts, broadsheet newspapers and advisory services.

Outline Learning Plan

The following outlined learning plan can be used as a guidance document in conjunction with the unit. This is an exemplar in which the unit can be delivered.

Topic and Suggested Assignments/Activities/Assessment

- Introduction to the unit and the programme of assignments
- Presentation of the framework underlying governance law and practice in national and international context
- Presentation on the nature and importance of corporate governance and ethical behaviour
- Presentation on the critical evaluation on the ethical issues and recommendations to overcome the issues
- Presentation on the wide range of stakeholders
- Presentation on the impact of financial reporting on a wide range of stakeholders
- Presenting the principle approaches of governance
- Presentation on the identification and the assessment of risk and how it should be managed to achieve good corporate governance
- Presentation of CSR and governance issues in an appropriate format

Suggested Resources

The recommended sources listed below should be familiar to each tutor and assessor who is delivering this unit as part of the qualification. Learners should be made aware of these sources before delivery of this unit, and be fully conversant with these sources upon completion of this unit.

Textbooks

- Fernando, A.C., Corporate Governance, 2009
- Justin, S., John, T., Corporate Governance, Ethics and CSR, 2013

Journals

- Journal about ethics
- Social Responsibility Journals
- International Journal of Corporate Strategy and Social Responsibility

Websites

- <http://www.forbes.com>
- <http://www.oecd.org/corporate/principles-corporate-governance.htm>
- <http://www.iospress.nl/book/ethics-and-accountability-in-a-context-of-governance-and-new-public-management/>

Unit AF705: Corporate Reporting

Unit code: D/615/3319

RQF level: 7

Aim

The aim of this unit is to assist the learners in the preparation and interpretation of financial statements for a group of companies where it is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and to understand and evaluate the key aspects of accounting theory. On the completion of the unit the learners will be able to communicate complex numerical and qualitative information effectively and solve problems in a selective and critical manner.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1: Identify and understand the main sources of regulatory framework.	1.1: Identify the main sources of the regulatory framework.
	1.2: Identify and explain on the use of accounting information.
	1.3: Identify and explain on the exploitation of accounting information.
2: Explain the significance and the general impact of regulatory framework on the businesses.	2.1: Identify and explain the impact of regulatory framework on businesses.
3: Identify and assess accounting concepts and theories.	3.1: Identify the accounting concepts and conventions.
	3.2: Assess the concepts and theories identified.
4: Understand how to implement accounting calculations and information.	4.1: Identify appropriate accounting calculation and implement the computation.
5: Critically evaluate and interpret the accounting information.	5.1: Interpret accounting information gathered.
	5.2: Critically assess the accounting information gathered.
6: Be able to study and criticise on specific accounting regulations.	6.1: Identify specific accounting regulations on a chosen sector.
	6.2: Critically analyse the specific accounting regulations identified.

7: Identify and appraise key accounting policies and practices within corporate accounting.	7.1: Identify and evaluate key accounting practices and policies.
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Delivery and Assessment

Tuition and guidance should feature flexible approaches to delivering the unit. Formal tuition sessions, whether face to face or online, will identify some of the required, theoretical subject matter. This will help students to work individually, or as part of a group, researching and gathering information about the subject.

Personal and group research, case studies, simulations, exercises and discussion are typical and engaging ways of learning about the subject. Students will likely use tutor- and self- directed study and reflect on their experience and expertise.

Up-to-date information and materials are available from many sources such as businesses, the World Wide Web, television and radio broadcasts, broadsheet newspapers and advisory services.

Outline Learning Plan

The following outlined learning plan can be used as a guidance document in conjunction with the unit. This is an exemplar in which the unit can be delivered.

Topic and Suggested Assignments/Activities/Assessment

- Introduction to the unit and the programme of assignments
- Presentation on the main sources of regulatory framework and the use of the accounting information.
- Presentation on the significance of the regulatory framework on the business.
- Presentation on the accounting concepts and theories.
- Presenting the calculations and the accounting information required.
- Presentation on the critical evaluation of the accounting information.
- Presenting critically the specific accounting regulations.
- Presenting identified accounting policies and practices within corporate accounting.
- Presentation on the critical assessment of the accounting policies and practices identified within corporate accounting.
- Review of unit and programme of assignments

Suggested Resources

The recommended sources listed below should be familiar to each tutor and assessor who is delivering this unit as part of the qualification. Learners should be made aware of these sources before delivery of this unit, and be fully conversant with these sources upon completion of this unit.

Textbooks

- Corporate Reporting, Geoff, E., 7th Ed, 2004
- Corporate Financial Reporting Theory & Practice, Andrew, H., 2003

Journals

- Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting
- Journal of Critical Perspectives On Accounting

Websites

- <http://integratedreporting.org/corporate-reporting-dialogue/>
- <http://www.accaglobal.com/lk/en/student/exam-support-resources/fundamentals-exams-study-resources/f7/technical-articles/conceptual-framework-need.html>

Unit AF706: Financial Analyst

Unit code: R/615/3320

RQF level: 7

Aim

The purpose of this unit is to develop the understanding of market equilibrium models, bond valuation and performance evaluation. At the end of this module students should be encouraged to make enquiries as to the cause and effect of the impact of current developments in the world's capital markets on the investment process and critically appraise current thinking on the theories and investments.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1: Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses the different types of securities.	1.1: Identify different types of securities and their concepts.
	1.2: Evaluate the characteristics of each of the securities identified.
	1.3: Critically analyse the characteristics and the strengths and weaknesses of different types of securities.
2: Analyse and explain the regulation of, and procedures relating to, the trading of securities and new issues in the world markets, including the London Stock Exchange (LSE).	2.1: Identify the regulations and procedures relating to trading securities.
	2.2: Investigate the arising issues in the global markets including (LSE).
3: Know how to apply the principles of investment theory, security and market analysis and efficiency	3.1: Identify and explain the principles of investment theory.
	3.2: Critically evaluate securities.
	3.3: Evaluate the underlying concepts of market analysis and efficiency.
4: Analyse the principles of taxation and their implications, including income tax, capital gains tax, inheritance and corporation tax.	4.1: Identify the range of taxes and their characteristics.
	4.2: Explain the implications of taxation.
5: Critically evaluate the effectiveness of the law and regulation in controlling the financial services industry	5.1: Identify the regulations prevailing in the financial services industry.
6: Know how to plan, manage and review client portfolios according to customer profile and the needs in order to recommend and justify appropriate types of savings and investment.	6.1: Evaluate client portfolios according to customer profile.
	6.2: Investigate issues relating to portfolio management.

Delivery and Assessment

Tuition and guidance should feature flexible approaches to delivering the unit. Formal tuition sessions, whether face to face or online, will identify some of the required, theoretical subject matter. This will help students to work individually, or as part of a group, researching and gathering information about the subject.

Personal and group research, case studies, simulations, exercises and discussion are typical and engaging ways of learning about the subject. Students will likely use tutor- and self- directed study and reflect on their experience and expertise.

Up-to-date information and materials are available from many sources such as businesses, the World Wide Web, television and radio broadcasts, broadsheet newspapers and advisory services.

Outline Learning Plan

The following outlined learning plan can be used as a guidance document in conjunction with the unit. This is an exemplar in which the unit can be delivered.

Topic and Suggested Assignments/Activities/Assessment

- Introduction to the unit and the programme of assignments
- Presentation of the framework underlying concepts of financial industries and its regulations.
- Presentation on the nature of financial securities
- Critical evaluation on the principles of taxation and their implications.
- Application of the principles of investment theory, security and market analysis and efficiency.
- Presenting the methods of risk mitigating circumstances.
- Presenting the principle approaches of Hedging, Arbitrage & speculation.
- Analysing portfolio management and the functions of performance measurements.

Suggested Resources

The recommended sources listed below should be familiar to each tutor and assessor who is delivering this unit as part of the qualification. Learners should be made aware of these sources before delivery of this unit, and be fully conversant with these sources upon completion of this unit.

Textbooks

- Reilly & Brown, Investment Analysis & Portfolio Management, 10th ED, 2009
- Cheng, L., Advances in Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, 9th ED, 2002

Journals

- Journal of International Financial Markets
- The Hedge Fund Journal
- Journal of Asset Management

Websites

- <http://www.managementstudyguide.com/portfolio-management.htm>
- <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/encyclopedia/Int-Jun/Investment-Analysis.html>
- <http://www.slideshare.net/aakashkulkarni3/mgbpm-market-efficiency-and-portfolio-theory>

Appendix 2 Student Assessment Cover Sheet

Learner Reference Number	
Unit Level and Title	
Assignment Number	
Name of Tutor	
Date Submitted	
Essay/Assignment Question	

Any piece of student's work without a declaration ***will not be accepted*** for marking.

Declaration

1. This assignment is the product of individual work.
2. I am aware of what plagiarism is and the penalties that I/we would suffer if I am found to have committed plagiarism.
3. The work submitted is the product of my original work and where material and ideas have been taken from the published and unpublished work of others, reference to all original sources has been made in the text and via the reference, bibliography or notes sections, or by some other means.
4. I understand that 3% points are deducted for each day of late submission.

Instructions to Student:

Assignments should be no longer than 1,500 words. Appendices, references and tables are not part of the word count. Ideally assignments should include an executive summary of key points, clarification of the question set and a critical perspective on the question based around course material. External sources should be referenced and wherever possible case examples included in the answer. Ensure that you provide a conclusion to the discussion that shows the balance of the argument.

The marking criteria are:

- Understanding of question and topic;
- Clarity and structure of argument;
- Use of sources and citation;
- Critical analysis and discussion of arguments.

Assignments should be submitted electronically to (insert address) using the Learner Reference Number. Do not write your name on the document.

Attach this cover sheet to all your assignments for submission and email the Course Administrator at (insert email address)

Appendix 3: Student Assessment Feedback Sheet

Name of Tutor	
Assignment Number	
Essay/Assessment Question	

Marking Criteria

<i>Understanding of question and topic.</i>	
<i>Clarity and structure of argument.</i>	
<i>Use of sources and citation.</i>	
<i>Critical analysis.</i>	
<i>Conclusions and recommendations.</i>	
General Comments	

Grade Issued			
1st Marker		Date	
2nd Marker		Date	

Appendix 4: Evaluation by Student

Qualification Title:

Name	
Date	
Tutor	
Module title(s)	
Assessment/Learning Period	

In the following sections please provide any information that will help us to improve the programme

Curriculum design, content and organisation

Teaching, learning and support

Assessment methods and feedback

Student achievement (to what extent have you met the learning outcomes)

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Any further comments

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Appendix 5: A Guide to Essay Writing

QUALIFI Ltd provides guides to writing essays and reports in line with expectations at this level of learning.

This guide is available on request through your tutor in the first instance or by emailing: support@QUALIFI-international.com

Essays require a structure with the arguments or topics flowing cohesively through the document in a logical manner in order to create an argument that answers the question asked. If you've prepared a good outline, the resulting written work's structure should develop from that. Reports and Briefing Papers have similar requirements although the logical structure is made explicit through headings and sub-headings.

As you write try to be concise and to the point. Think of the most economical way of putting every point across. Similarly, be as clear as possible. If you don't understand what you have written the chances are that nobody else will either. Try to give the reader a smooth progression from one idea to the next through your work, rather than a series of random, disconnected points. Your writing should lead the reader clearly and naturally to your conclusion.

With this in mind, you should only use bullet points if they are appropriate, i.e. you have an actual list of brief items that are clearly a list. Don't write in bullet points because you think it relieves you of the need for a logically flowing structure.

Avoid the use of jargon unless you are sure what it means. Likewise, don't pepper your work with large, unwieldy words in an effort to sound 'academic.' Using words that you almost (but don't quite) understand fully simply makes you sound silly.

Try to put things in your own terms. There is no sense in regurgitating passages from books or articles that you clearly don't understand, and this in any case carries the risk of committing plagiarism. Nobody wants to see that you have merely read the books; you need to show that you have understood them. A good assignment demonstrates both an understanding of relevant readings and independent thought about a topic.

You should therefore use direct quotations sparingly. Direct quotations should only be used when an author says something utterly unique in a unique and memorable way. Direct quotations are meant to add emphasis and interest to your ideas. They are not meant to be a substitute for your ideas.