

# *International GCSE* **Accounting**

(9215) Specification



**For teaching** from September 2024 onwards

**For exams** May/June 2026 onwards

**For teaching and examination** outside  
the United Kingdom

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## Are you using the latest version of this specification?

- You will always find the most up-to-date version of this specification on our website at **[oxfordaqa.com/9215](https://oxfordaqa.com/9215)**
- We will write to you if there are significant changes to the specification.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Why choose OxfordAQA International GCSEs?

Our international qualifications enable schools that follow a British curriculum to benefit from the best education expertise in the United Kingdom (UK).

Our International GCSEs offer the same rigour and high quality as GCSEs in the UK and are relevant and appealing to students worldwide. They reflect a deep understanding of the needs of teachers and schools around the globe and are brought to you by Oxford University Press and AQA, the UK's leading awarding body.

Providing valid and reliable assessments, these qualifications are based on over 100 years of experience, academic research and international best practice. They reflect the latest changes to the British system, enabling students to progress to higher education with up-to-date qualifications.

You can find out about OxfordAQA at [oxfordaqa.com](https://oxfordaqa.com)

## 1.2 Why choose our International International GCSE Accounting?

We have worked closely with teachers to develop a relevant, engaging and up-to-date accounting specification to inspire, motivate and challenge all students regardless of their academic ability.

Particular care has been taken to make the language used in question papers as accessible as possible and suitable for those students for whom English is not their first language. UK English spellings will be used in examination papers. British idiosyncratic terms however, will be avoided to aid students' understanding. Where currency is referred to in the question papers, the US dollar (\$) will be used.

Our specification is designed to provide a stimulating course that students will enjoy through studying book keeping and financial accounting. We ensure a clear structure to our assessments, using a combination of question styles so that all students have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. Our specification offers excellent preparation for International AS and A-level Accounting, as well as giving students a firm foundation of the knowledge and skills required for further study and future employment.

You can find out about all our International GCSE qualifications at [oxfordaqa.com/9215](https://oxfordaqa.com/9215)

## 1.3 Recognition

OxfordAQA meet the needs of international students. They are an international alternative and comparable in standard to the Ofqual regulated qualifications offered in the UK. Our qualifications have been independently benchmarked by UK ENIC, the UK national agency for providing expert opinion on qualifications worldwide. They have confirmed they can be considered 'comparable to the overall GCE A-level and GCSE standard offered in the UK'.

To read their report and see the latest list of universities who have stated they accept these international qualifications, visit [oxfordaqa.com/recognition](https://oxfordaqa.com/recognition)

## 1.4 The Oxford International Programme learner attributes

In order to equip students with the skills they need for success both now and in the future, we have worked with Oxford University Press to create the Oxford International Programme. This combines the Oxford International Curriculum with OxfordAQA qualifications, creating an integrated offer for international schools, from Early Years to A-level.

At its core we have introduced the Oxford International Programme learner attributes – the skills and competencies that enable our students to thrive academically, socially and personally.

The learner attributes, alongside our focus on demonstrating higher order critical thinking skills, ensure that students are equipped to get the grades that will take them places, and build the skills they need to be successful when they get there.



## 1.5 Support and resources to help you teach

We know that support and resources are vital for your teaching and that you have limited time to find or develop good quality materials.

That's why we've worked with experienced teachers to provide resources that will help you confidently plan, teach and prepare for exams.

### Teaching resources

You will have access to:

- sample schemes of work to help you plan your course with confidence
- training and support to help you deliver our qualifications
- student textbooks that have been checked and approved by us
- command words with exemplars
- Accounting vocabulary with definitions.

### Preparing for exams

You will have access to the support you need to prepare for our exams, including:

- specimen papers and mark schemes
- exemplar student answers with examiner commentaries.

### Analyse your students' results with Enhanced Results Analysis (ERA)

After the first examination series, you can use this tool to see which questions were the most challenging, how the results compare to previous years and where your students need to improve. ERA, our free online results analysis tool, will help you see where to focus your teaching.

Information about results, including maintaining standards over time, grade boundaries and our post-results services, will be available on our website in preparation for the first examination series.

### Help and support

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at [oxfordaqa.com/9215](https://oxfordaqa.com/9215)

You can contact the subject team directly at [info@oxfordaqa.com](mailto:info@oxfordaqa.com) or call us on +44 (0)161 696 5995 (option 1 and then 1 again).

**Please note: We aim to respond to all email enquiries within two working days.**

**Our UK office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm.**

## 2 Specification at a glance

The title of the qualification is:

- OxfordAQA International GCSE Accounting

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The guided learning hours (GLH) for this qualification are 120–140. This figure is for guidance only and may vary according to local practice and the learner's prior experience of the subject.

### 2.1 Subject content

- 1 Sources and recording of data (page 10)
- 2 Verification of accounting records (page 12)
- 3 Development of the accounting model (page 13)
- 4 Preparation of financial statements (page 15)
- 5 Interpretation, analysis and communication of financial information (page 17)

## 2.2 International GCSE

### Assessments

<b>Paper 1: Introduction to Book keeping and Financial Accounting</b>	+	<b>Paper 2: Financial Statements</b>
<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content 1-3</li> </ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content 3-5</li> </ul>
<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li> <li>75 marks</li> <li>50% of GCSE</li> </ul>		<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li> <li>75 marks</li> <li>50% of GCSE</li> </ul>
<b>Questions</b> <p>Two compulsory sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section A has 10 multiple choice questions (10 marks) followed by a range of short answer questions (15 marks). This section is worth 25 marks.</li> <li>Section B has three structured questions two worth 15 marks and one worth 20 marks. This section is worth 50 marks.</li> </ul>		<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two compulsory sections:</li> <li>Section A has 10 multiple choice questions (10 marks) followed by a range of short answer questions (15 marks). This section is worth 25 marks.</li> <li>Section B has three structured questions two worth 15 marks and one worth 20 marks. This section is worth 50 marks.</li> </ul>



## 3 Subject content

Students must demonstrate a good understanding of the double entry model and accounting principles and concepts as these form the foundation of all financial accounting techniques. They will also need to demonstrate quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject.

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the formulae used for computations, carrying out computations and use the results of computations to inform judgements, solve problems and make decisions.

### 3.1 Sources and recording of data

Content	Additional information
<p>The double entry system including understanding of the use and the preparation of source documents.</p> <p>The recording of transactions from source documents in books of prime entry and ledger accounts and transferring accounts to financial statements.</p>	<p>Source documents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purchase invoices</li> <li>• sales invoices</li> <li>• debit notes</li> <li>• credit notes</li> <li>• statements of account</li> <li>• petty cash vouchers</li> <li>• journal vouchers</li> <li>• cheque counterfoils</li> <li>• till rolls</li> <li>• cash receipts</li> <li>• paying-in slip counterfoils</li> <li>• bank statements (for standing orders, direct debits, credit transfers, dishonoured cheques, debit card transactions, direct transfers).</li> </ul> <p>Books of prime entry are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purchases journal</li> <li>• sales journal</li> <li>• sales returns journal</li> <li>• purchases returns journal</li> <li>• general journal</li> <li>• cash book</li> <li>• petty cash book.</li> </ul>

	<p>Ledger accounts may be subdivided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● receivables ledgers</li> <li>● payables ledgers</li> <li>● general ledger accounts.</li> </ul> <p>Transactions could be for service or trading businesses and, as well as those arising from the documents listed above, could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● trade and cash discounts</li> <li>● disposal of non-current assets</li> <li>● irrecoverable debts</li> <li>● contra entries between accounts of credit customers and credit suppliers.</li> </ul> <p>The accounting equation.</p>
Prepare and understand accounting records based on source documents and use the main books of prime entry and ledger accounts to record transactions.	
Prepare and understand the use of the imprest system to record petty cash.	

## 3.2 Verification of accounting records

Content	Additional information
Verification of the double entry records.	<p>Verification techniques are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trial balance</li> <li>• trade receivables ledger control accounts</li> <li>• trade payables ledger control accounts</li> <li>• bank reconciliation statements.</li> </ul>
Prepare and understand the use of a trial balance.	<p>Including the preparation of a trial balance from a list of balances and the correction of a trial balance.</p> <p>Explaining the use and limitations of a trial balance.</p> <p>The benefits and limitations may include identifying errors that are not revealed by a trial balance and could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• commission</li> <li>• complete reversal</li> <li>• compensating</li> <li>• omission</li> <li>• original entry</li> <li>• principle.</li> </ul> <p>Errors that are revealed by a trial balance could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addition</li> <li>• partial omission</li> <li>• transposition</li> <li>• unequal posting.</li> </ul>
Prepare, understand and interpret trade payables and trade receivables ledger control accounts.	<p>Control accounts will be memorandum records and could include the following in addition to transactions stated or implied elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contra entries</li> <li>• interest charged on overdue accounts</li> <li>• debit balances in payables ledger</li> <li>• credit balances in receivables ledger.</li> </ul>

Prepare and understand the use and purpose of bank reconciliation statements.	<p>Including the purpose of a bank statement, identifying reasons why the bank statement and cash book may not agree</p> <p>Amending and updating the cash book for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank charges and interest paid, bank interest received</li> <li>• direct debits, standing orders and credit transfers</li> <li>• correction of errors.</li> <li>• Prepare a bank reconciliation statement including:</li> <li>• correction of bank errors</li> <li>• outstanding bankings</li> <li>• unrepresented cheques.</li> </ul>
How to correct errors in double entry records.	Correcting errors includes the use of the general journal and suspense account.
The effect of errors on profit calculations.	The effect of errors includes the adjustment of profit or loss for an accounting period following the correction of errors.

### 3.3 Development of the accounting model

<b>Content</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
General accounting concepts used in the preparation of accounting records.	<p>Concepts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• business entity</li> <li>• money measurement</li> <li>• duality</li> <li>• historic cost</li> <li>• going concern</li> <li>• accruals</li> <li>• consistency</li> <li>• prudence</li> <li>• materiality</li> <li>• realisation.</li> </ul>
The use of accounting concepts in a variety of situations.	<p>Situations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation of financial statements</li> <li>• asset valuation</li> <li>• depreciation of non-current assets</li> <li>• inventories (using cost or net realisable value as the basis for valuation)</li> <li>• recording the purchase of non-current assets</li> <li>• recording transactions in ledger accounts.</li> </ul>

The recording of adjustments in ledger accounts.	<p>Adjustments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• other payables</li> <li>• other receivables</li> <li>• income due</li> <li>• income received in advance</li> <li>• provisions for doubtful debts</li> <li>• irrecoverable debts</li> <li>• depreciation charges</li> <li>• disposal of non-current assets</li> <li>• opening and closing inventory.</li> </ul>
Accounting for capital and revenue expenditure and income.	The distinction between capital expenditure and revenue expenditure and capital income and revenue income.
Accounting for depreciation and disposal of non-current assets.	<p>Identify and explain why non-current assets depreciate eg obsolescence, wear and tear etc</p> <p>Treat depreciation as a non-cash expense and know the effect on the valuation of assets.</p> <p>Explain and apply the straight line and reducing balance methods of calculating depreciation.</p> <p>Enter depreciation into the books of account, including the provision for depreciation.</p> <p>Record the sale of a non-current asset in the books of account, including the use of a disposal account.</p>
Make entries for simple adjustments for other payables and other receivables in ledger accounts and in income statements and statements of financial position.	
Make entries for irrecoverable debts in the trade receivables ledger and financial statements.	Note: the recovery of irrecoverable debts will not be examined.

## 3.4 Preparation of financial statements

Content	Additional information
The use of concepts in the preparation of financial statements.	<p>The use of concepts will result in recording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• other payables and other receivables</li> <li>• depreciation (using straight line and reducing balance methods)</li> <li>• disposal of non-current assets</li> <li>• provision for doubtful debts</li> <li>• irrecoverable debts</li> <li>• income due</li> <li>• income received in advance</li> <li>• goods taken for own use</li> <li>• inventory.</li> </ul> <p>Note: first in, first out (FIFO), average cost (AVCO) and last in, first out (LIFO) methods of inventory valuation will not be examined.</p>
The advantages and disadvantages of different organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole traders</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Limited companies</li> </ul>
<p>Sole traders:</p> <p>Prepare financial statements of sole traders from ledger accounts including adjustments from the application of accounting concepts.</p>	<p>Sole traders' financial statements could be for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• service businesses</li> <li>• trading businesses.</li> </ul> <p>Preparation of financial statements could include the recording of adjustments and items listed above in ledger accounts.</p>
Prepare and comment on income statements and statements of financial position from a trial balance including adjustments from the application of accounting concepts.	

<p>Partnerships:</p> <p>Prepare and comment on the financial statements of partnerships.</p>	<p>Financial statements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● income statement</li> <li>● appropriation account</li> <li>● statement of financial position.</li> </ul> <p>Preparing financial statements will involve the calculation and recording of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● interest on capital</li> <li>● interest on drawings</li> <li>● partnership salaries</li> <li>● interest on a partner's loan</li> <li>● shares of profit and losses.</li> </ul>
<p>Prepare and comment on the capital and current accounts of partners.</p>	<p>Note: the admission, retirement of a partner, dissolution of partnerships, changes to profit sharing ratio will not be examined.</p>
<p>Limited companies:</p> <p>Prepare and comment on the internal financial statements of limited liability companies.</p>	<p>The financial statements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● income statements</li> <li>● statement of financial position</li> </ul> <p>Note: these statements will be for internal use and not for publication.</p> <p>Statement of financial position will have the following sub-headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● non-current assets</li> <li>● current assets</li> <li>● equity</li> <li>● non-current liabilities</li> <li>● current liabilities.</li> </ul> <p>Distinguish between share capital and loan capital.</p> <p>Note: statement of changes in equity, preference shares, general reserves, rights issues, bonus issues and the revaluation of non-current assets will not be examined.</p>

<p>Manufacturing organisations:</p> <p>Prepare and comment on the financial statements of manufacturers.</p>	<p>Financial statements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● manufacturing account</li> <li>● income statement</li> <li>● statement of financial position.</li> </ul> <p>Preparing financial statements will involve the calculation and recording of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● prime costs</li> <li>● overhead cost</li> <li>● factory cost of finished goods.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The provision for unrealised profit will not be examined.</p>
<p>Clubs and non-profit making organisations:</p> <p>Prepare and comment on the financial statements of clubs and non-profit making organisations.</p>	<p>Financial statements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● receipts and payments account</li> <li>● trading account</li> <li>● income and expenditure account.</li> <li>● statement of financial position.</li> </ul>
<p>Accounting for organisations with incomplete records:</p> <p>The calculation of profit of an organisation where there are insufficient records to prepare income statements.</p>	<p>Calculations could include the use of statements of affairs.</p>
<p>The benefits and limitations of maintaining accounting records using different systems including single and double entry records.</p>	



## 3.5 Interpretation, analysis and communication of financial information

Content	Additional information
Identify internal and external stakeholders who have an interest in a business organisation.	<p>Internal stakeholders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employees</li> <li>• management</li> <li>• owners/shareholders.</li> </ul> <p>External stakeholders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• customers</li> <li>• suppliers</li> <li>• government</li> <li>• lenders</li> <li>• local community.</li> </ul>
Calculation and interpretation of financial measures and ratios.	<p>Financial ratios and measures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gross profit margin %</li> <li>• markup %</li> <li>• rate of inventory turnover</li> <li>• profit in relation to revenue %</li> <li>• return on capital employed %</li> <li>• current ratio</li> <li>• liquid capital ratio</li> <li>• trade receivable days</li> <li>• trade payable days.</li> </ul> <p>Note: for the formulae for the above accounting ratios, please see guide on the OxfordAQA website entitled 'Formulae for accounting ratios'.</p>
Appraising business performance by using financial statements and ratios.  The difference between cash and profits and the effect of transactions on profitability and liquidity.	<p>Appraisals could focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• profitability</li> <li>• liquidity.</li> </ul>
The limitations of financial statements and ratio analysis when assessing business performance.	Limitations will include those relating to both financial and non-financial factors.
Use of computers in accounting.	Advantages and disadvantages of using computerised software for recording accounting data compared to manual methods.

## 4 Scheme of assessment

Find mark schemes, and specimen papers for new courses, on our website at: [oxfordaqa.com/accounting](https://oxfordaqa.com/accounting)

This qualification is a linear qualification.

In order to achieve the award, students must complete all assessments at the end of the course and in the same series. Our International GCSE exams and certification for this specification are available for the first time in May/June 2026 and then every May/June and November for the life of the specification.

All materials are available in English only.

### 4.1 Aims and learning outcomes

#### Aims

Courses based on this specification should encourage students to:

- understand the principles and purposes of accounting.
- understand the appropriateness and limitations of accounting techniques.
- apply the principles and techniques of accounting in the preparation of financial information including using the double entry model to: record transactions; prepare financial statements for different types of organisations.

### 4.2 Assessment Objectives

#### 4.2.1 Assessment Objective weightings

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following Assessment Objectives.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of accounting principles, concepts and techniques.
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of accounting principles, concepts and techniques.

#### 4.2.2 Assessment objective weightings for International GCSE Accounting

Assessments Objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx. %)		Overall weighting of AO's (approx. %)
	Paper 1	Paper 2	
AO1	40-50%	40-50%	40-50%
AO2	50-60%	50-60%	50-60%
Overall weighting of components	50%	50%	100%

### 4.3 Assessment weightings

Component	Maximum raw mark	Scaling factor	Maximum uniform mark
Paper 1	75	x1	75
Paper 2	75	x1	75

Total scaled mark:	150
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## 5 General administration

We are committed to delivering assessments of the highest quality and have developed practices and procedures that support this aim. To ensure that all students have a fair experience, we have worked with other awarding bodies in England to develop best practice for maintaining the integrity of exams. This is published through the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). We will maintain the same high standard through their use for OxfordAQA.

More information on all aspects of administration is available at [oxfordaqa.com/exams-administration](https://oxfordaqa.com/exams-administration)

For any immediate enquiries please contact [info@oxfordaqa.com](mailto:info@oxfordaqa.com)

**Please note: We aim to respond to all email enquiries within two working days.**

**Our UK office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm local time.**

### 5.1 Entries and codes

You only need to make one entry for each qualification – this will cover all the question papers and certification.

Qualification title	OxfordAQA entry code
OxfordAQA International GCSE Accounting	9215

Please check the current version of the Entry Codes book and the latest information about making entries on [oxfordaqa.com/exams-admin](https://oxfordaqa.com/exams-admin)

Exams will be available in the May/June and November series.

### 5.2 Overlaps with other qualifications

There is no overlap with other qualifications

### 5.3 Awarding grades and reporting results

In line with UK GCSEs, this qualification will be graded on a nine-point scale: 1 to 9 – where 9 is the best grade. Students who fail to reach the minimum standard for grade 1 will be recorded as U (unclassified) and will not receive a qualification certificate.

To find out more about the new grading system, visit our website at [oxfordaqa.com](https://oxfordaqa.com)

### 5.4 Resits

Students can retake the whole qualification as many times as they wish. This is a traditional linear specification, individual components cannot be resat.

You only need to make one entry for each qualification – this will cover all the question papers and certification.

### 5.5 Previous learning and prerequisites

There are no previous learning requirements. Any requirements for entry to a course based on this specification are at the discretion of schools.

## 5.6 Access to assessment: equality and inclusion

Our general qualifications are designed to prepare students for a wide range of occupations and further study whilst assessing a wide range of competences.

The subject criteria have been assessed to ensure they test specific competences. The skills or knowledge required do not disadvantage particular groups of students.

Exam access arrangements are available for students with disabilities and special educational needs.

We comply with the *UK Equality Act 2010* to make reasonable adjustments to remove or lessen any disadvantage that affects a disabled student. Information about access arrangements will be issued to schools when they become OxfordAQA centres.

## 5.7 Working with OxfordAQA for the first time

You will need to apply to become an OxfordAQA centre to offer our specifications to your students. Find out how at [oxfordaqa.com/centreapprovals](https://oxfordaqa.com/centreapprovals)

## 5.8 Private candidates

Centres may accept private candidates for examined units/components only with the prior agreement of OxfordAQA. If you are an approved OxfordAQA centre and wish to accept private candidates, please contact OxfordAQA at: [info@oxfordaqa.com](mailto:info@oxfordaqa.com)

Private candidates may also enter for examined only units/components via the British Council; please contact your local British Council office for details.

## Fairness *first*

Thank you for choosing OxfordAQA,  
the international exam board that puts  
fairness first.

Benchmarked to UK standards, our  
exams only ever test subject ability, not  
language skills or cultural knowledge.

This gives every student the best  
possible chance to show what they can  
do and get the results they deserve.



## Get in touch

You can contact us at  
*[oxfordaqa.com/contact-us](https://oxfordaqa.com/contact-us)*

or email *[info@oxfordaqa.com](mailto:info@oxfordaqa.com)*