

# A LEVEL ACCOUNTING



## WHAT IS ACCOUNTING?

Accounting techniques have been used for hundreds of years, a business must understand if they have made a profit/loss. The accounting process is a 5-stage process, resulting in the production of the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Position. Accounting looks at the collection, recording, compiling and forecasting of financial information. You will examine how managers can use financial information in their decision making and also question the value of many accounting techniques considering their relevance in the modern world.

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY ACCOUNTING?

To help answer this question, here are the thoughts of current students on the course:

You should study Accounting if:

- you are interested in how a business makes a profit
- you are wanting to work within the financial industry
- you enjoy challenging yourself and problem solving
- you have a methodical mind.

You shouldn't study Accounting if you think this is a Maths subject.

## USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

You should have the capacity for methodical and critical thought.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

During the first year you will learn the fundamentals of record-keeping and the purposes, techniques and consequences of effective financial accounting. You will consider how financial accounting helps in the measuring, monitoring and planning of successful business operations. This is a linear course and over the 2 years you will build up your knowledge of the following topics:

- The role of the Accountant in Business
- The purposes of accounting
- Types of business organisations
- Double Entry Model
- Accounting Concepts
- Preparation of the final accounts of sole traders
- Internal final accounts of limited companies
- Ratio analysis and the assessment of business performance
- Budgeting and budgetary control
- Incomplete records
- Partnership accounts
- Published accounts of limited companies
- Accounting standards
- Stock valuation
- Manufacturing accounts

- Marginal, absorption and activity based costing
- Capital Investment
- The impact of ethical considerations

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two, 3hr exams at the end of the two years which look at Financial Accounting and Accounting for Analysis and Decision-Making.

## COURSE COMMITMENT

Accounting is a vocational skill as well as an academic subject. As with any vocational skill you will only improve with constant practice. You must be prepared to put a lot of time in on practical accounting exercises to ensure success.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entrance on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9) including a GCSE grade 6 or above in Mathematics and a G Score of 5.5. To work out your G Score please go to the college website and click on the 16 – 18 tab and then entry requirements. If you are not sure how to work this out please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help.

You do not need to be doing A Level Maths to do Accounting – the course does not use higher level mathematical concepts, but you will make full use of GCSE techniques.

## PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students secure employment in accounting, banking, insurance, business or retailing. Accounting also leads to University courses in accounting, business, economics, finance, and is a good supporting course for all other degrees.

Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Manchester Met University – **Business Management**
- Newcastle University – **Accounting & Finance**
- Northumbria University – **Law**
- Teesside University – **Accounting & Finance**
- York St John University – **Accounting & Finance**
- Nestle – **Higher level apprenticeship**
- Price Waterhouse Cooper – **Graduate programme**

Students have also been successful securing **Degree Apprenticeships/School leaver programmes** in multinational organisations, for example **Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) and EY (Ernest Young)**. Students have also progressed onto **accounting apprenticeships** with local firms that the college works collaboratively with.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Full course specifications can be found at [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

If you require further information please contact the subject leader, Lesley Currie.

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.  
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