

Working together



**Preparing
for Strategic
Professional**



Strategic Professional exams are a step up from the Applied Skills level and candidates require a different approach to these exams in order to pass and move on towards becoming an ACCA member.

Professional Accountancy Training (PAT) is a Gold ALP institution which was established in 2017 for the provision of tuition to ACCA students. Founded by Gerry Fahy and Terry Lawless – both experienced and successful lecturers. Courses are delivered on an online, classroom and blended basis with an emphasis on exam technique and the application of taught principles to exam-based scenarios. Our unique ‘PAT for P’ approach helps you develop the skills which will maximise your ability to pass the Strategic Professional exams.

Before you start studying for Strategic Professional exams, it's important to understand how the Applied Skills studies relate to your exams at this level.

All ACCA exams reflect main technical areas that all accountants are required to master; the Strategic Professional exams build on that knowledge and explore advanced skills and techniques.

If you attend structured tuition, assumed technical knowledge from the Applied Skills exams may be revised briefly in class, but the emphasis will be on teaching new technical material and the application of the existing and new knowledge. Most courses and materials for Strategic Professional exams will build upon your existing knowledge rather than re-teach it.

You should therefore think about how to refresh your knowledge before you start studying for your exam. A look through the syllabus for underpinning papers will remind you of the content

but, for a more proactive approach, you can also test yourself on what you remember, and refresh your knowledge, using the specimen exams and past exams for corresponding Applied Skills exam. You could focus on the objective test question aspect of the specimen exams as an efficient way of testing your knowledge. A large part of Applied Skills exams takes the form of objective test questions so it should be relatively easy for to fit in a few at a time in a busy schedule.

ACCA also have a series of articles about stepping up from the Applied Skills to Strategic Professional exams, all reflecting on the key knowledge which should be brought forward from the study of the underpinning exams:

[SBR – stepping up from FR](#)

[SBL – mapping of key applied knowledge and applied skills](#)

[Stepping up from FM to AFM exam](#)

[Moving up from PM to APM exam](#)

[Stepping up from TX UK to ATX UK](#)

[Underpinning knowledge for Audit exams](#)

These are full of useful guidance and are highly recommended reading if you are taking one of these exams.

In addition, you may wish to consider how can your choice of Options exams improve your chances of passing them. Consider the advice in [Making the best options choices](#) before making a decision.

We in PAT can discuss your specific circumstances with you as we are experienced in helping students like you pass!

If you would like to learn more about the ‘PAT for P’ approach to the Strategic Professional exams, please contact us [here](#) at PAT and we can discuss your specific circumstances.



What if you have joined ACCA after graduating from university with an accredited programme which allowed you to claim exemptions from Applied Knowledge and Applied Skills exams?

If this scenario applies to you, in addition to the steps outlined above you may wish to consider referring to PAT's brought forward repository update courses to refresh your understanding, if you feel your knowledge is lacking. Also, referring to an ACCA's Approved Content Provider study text can help.

It is also important to understand some of the key differences in expectations from university study compared to ACCA. Please see table below as reference:

At Strategic Professional, you will be expected to have a good level of technical knowledge across the full range of topic areas in the Study Guide. While technical knowledge is essential, on its own it will not be enough to obtain a pass mark.

You should also keep up to date on current affairs and read newspapers, but with a critical eye to be able to relate the real-life situations to the syllabus of your exams and any

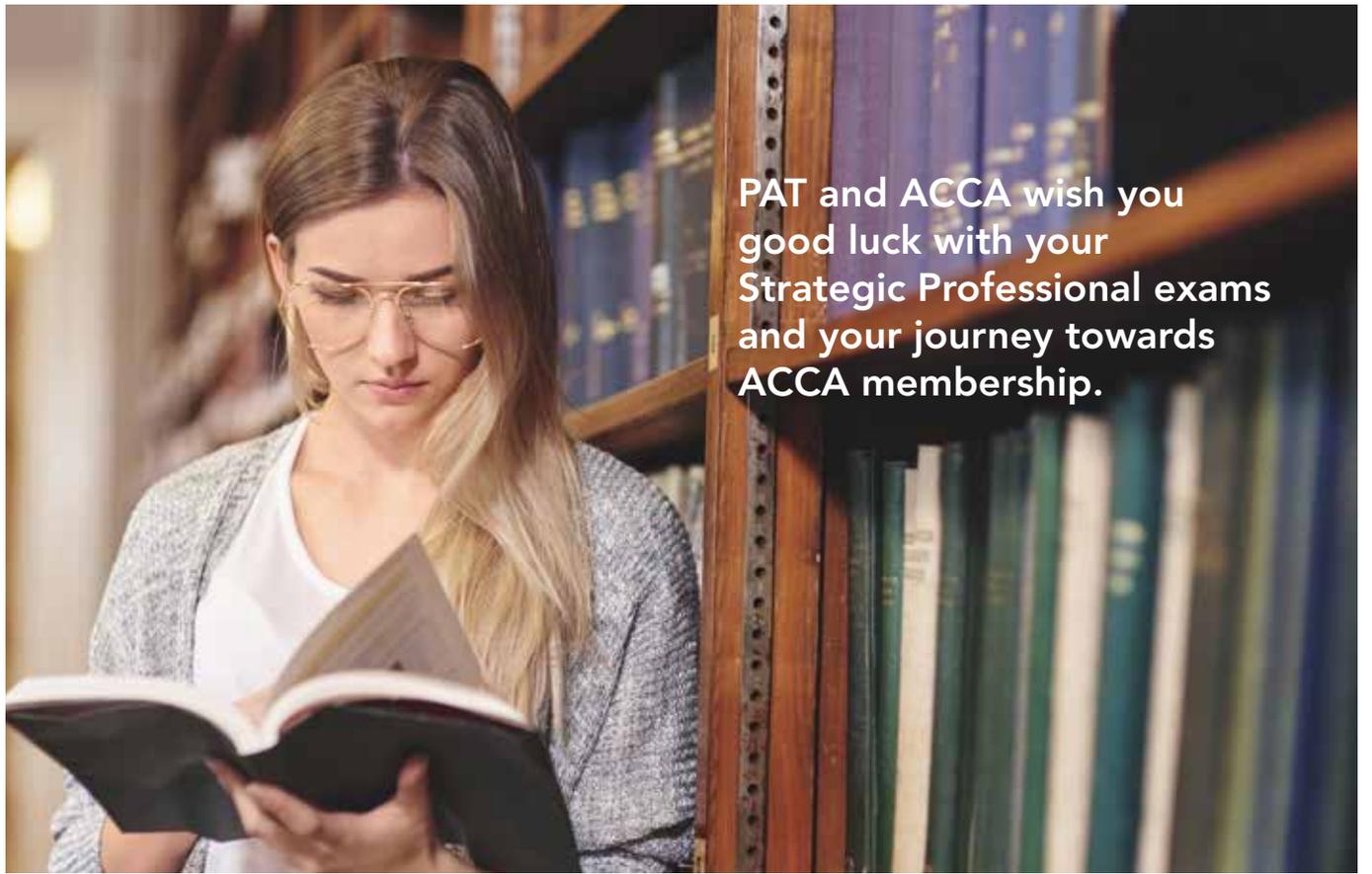
underlining theories. With practice you will find it easier to apply the theories to the scenario.

It is important to understand the skills the examining team are testing. What they are looking for is the application of the detailed knowledge and, how it is used in context.

Strategic Professional exams are at the higher end of learning skills, and require such skills as analysis, evaluation, assessment, decision making, critical analysis and discussion. Repetition of textbook material or model answers to a different question is highly unlikely to be awarded many marks.

For the Strategic Business Leader exam for example, the integrated case study, you will be required to demonstrate the professional skills that employers deem as most in demand in the accountancy sector, such as analysis, scepticism, evaluation, commercial acumen, and communication.

UNIVERSITY	ACCA
Topics are covered in depth	Learning is focused on addressing work place type exam scenarios
Focus is on knowledge building	Focus is on the application of knowledge
Variety of reference books may be used	ACCA's approved content provider – exam focused study materials should be used
Students develop skills in independent research through essays and assignments	Students must develop sound exam technique



PAT and ACCA wish you good luck with your Strategic Professional exams and your journey towards ACCA membership.

PASSING STRATEGIC PROFESSIONAL EXAMS

There are a number of things you can do, once you have completed your learning phase, to give yourself the best chance of passing your Strategic Professional exams. See [Passing Strategic Professional Exams](#) to find out more.

APPROVED CONTENT

Don't forget, using the Approved Content materials produced by our key partners and approved by ACCA, and going to an Approved Learning Partner will provide you with best chance of exam success.

Approved Content badge means that the study materials have been assessed by ACCA's examining team to ensure they are of the very highest quality and offer full syllabus coverage.

ACCA's Approved Content Providers are:

- **BPP Learning Media**
- **Kaplan Publishing**

The Approved Content Provider question and answer banks are a great source of exam-style questions, so we strongly recommend that you use these as your primary resource when it comes to question practice.

Content providers always update their study materials to reflect the latest syllabus content, examinable documents and exam structure.

We in PAT are delighted to collaborate with BPP learning Media with their Approved Contents materials.

PAT offers bespoke lecture material in addition to the BPP Approved Content of question and answer banks, as a additional source of exam-style questions.

ACCA STUDY RESOURCES

ACCA provides a range of resources designed for each one of the exams, to help you prepare successfully. These resources offer essential information to help you optimise your study time and use your knowledge of the syllabus to achieve success. There are a wide range of resources available including examining team guidance and reports from past sessions, exam specific study support guides, syllabus details, specimen exams and past exam papers, technical articles and more.

You can bookmark ACCA study support resources in your browser, and make good use of them to maximise your chances of exam success:

ACCA QUALIFICATION – PAPER SPECIFIC RESOURCES	
Applied knowledge	AB • MA • FA
Applied skills	LW • PM • TX FR • AA • FM
Strategic Professional	SBR • SBL • AFM APM • ATX • AAA

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