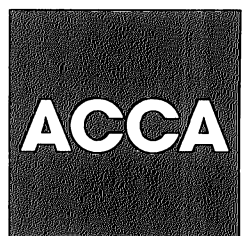
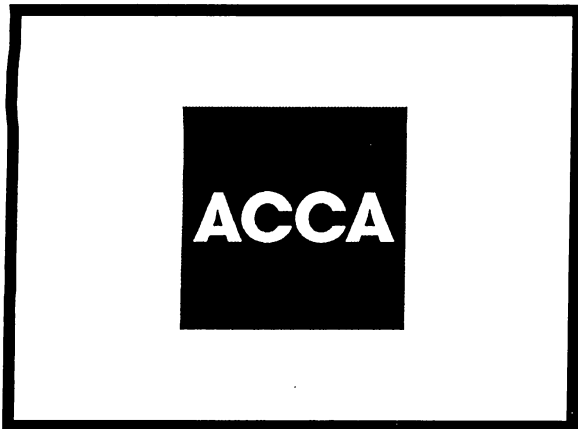


Post Teachers' Conference Discussion 2009

Session Two

Financial Management Papers (F9 and P4)
Performance Management Papers (F2, F5 & P5)





Advanced Financial Management

M level option paper

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*** REVIEW OF PAST EXAMS**

General Comments

Significant improvement in pass rate and average score (December 07 – June 08).

- * Wide distribution of standard
- Problem of learning silos
- Lack of professional grounding and awareness

Reasons for poor performance?

- Students from some centres are not prepared
- Poor technical competence
- Very poor performance on written sections and Q4
- Misguided by question spotters
- Not working with the mark ramp

a b c
QUESTION DIFFICULTY

**WHAT WAS
DONE WELL?**

The Positives

- One student wrote just 6 sides and earned 65%!
- Very high technical proficiency
- Good standards of English
- Good attention to professional presentation
- Understanding of options and their role
- Understanding of structure of problems

**WHAT WASN'T
DONE WELL?**

The Negatives

- Weak carry forward from F9 (early days)
- Weak integration with other elements of professional syllabus
- Lack of attention to discursive element
- Lack of contextual understanding
- Ability to exploit different syllabus areas in solving problems



**LESSONS
LEARNED**

What I have got from this...

- The paper strategy is essentially correct
- Focus on cases and contemporary themes
- Process of adjustment is still under way

**WHAT TO
FOCUS ON?**

Key concerns:

What is the role and responsibility of the senior financial manager?

How can a business maximise its value?

What are the most significant risks?

How to keep ahead of the game – current and emerging issues.

The 'go fors':

Upgrading general knowledge of finance

Securing the basics – standard good practice and understanding of techniques and their appropriate use

Contemporary issues – student accountant

Emphasis on significant corporate decisions - refinancing, acquisition, reconstruction, unbundling

**HOW TO
IMPROVE?**

How to improve

Ignore the tipsters (they are misleading)

Encourage wider reading – this is M level

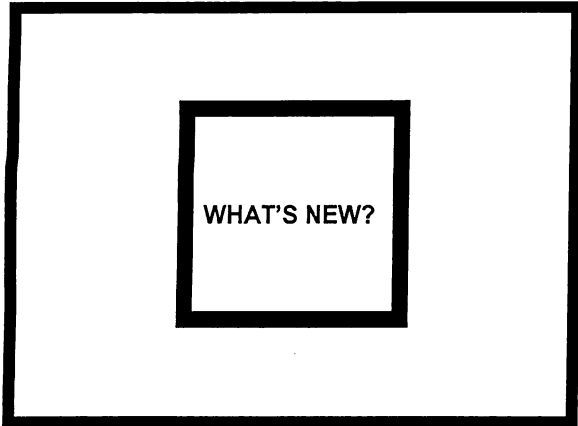
Look at current topics – Student Accountant

Note the themes in papers – debt markets, securitization, default risk, recursion

Focus on my style of examining (high discrimination, steep mark ramp)



**FOCUS ON
FUTURE
EXAMS**



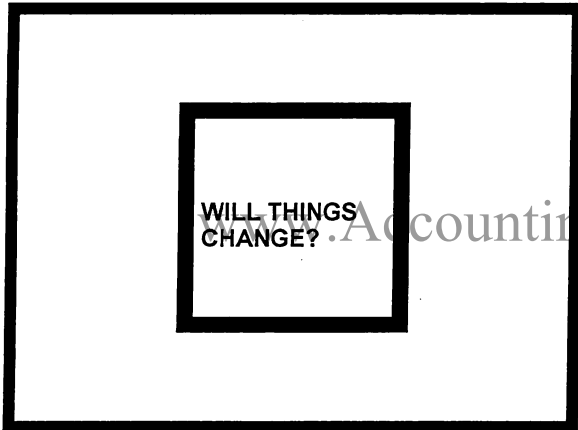
The trajectory.....
A shift of focus to the 'M' in AFM

Corporate survival

- credit risk and default risk management
- unbundling poor performing businesses
- restructuring and financial reorganisation
- focus on value and value management

New topics in risk management – e.g.: spreadsheet risk

More financial analysis – looking for corporate value



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YES - AFM is rapidly evolving as a professional topic

