



Top Tips for the Accounting Exam

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The Leaving Certificate Accounting exam is three hours at Higher and Ordinary level. The paper is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Financial Accounting – 120 marks (30%)

Students are required to do either Q1 or two questions from Q2, Q3, Q4.

Section 2: Financial Accounting – 200 marks (50%)

Students are required to attempt any TWO questions from Q5, Q6, Q7.

Section 3: Management Accounting – 80 marks (20%)

1. Learn the Theory

Theory can account for up to 20% of the marks in any year – that is 80 marks. In 2017 in higher level there was a total of 58 marks (14.5%) for theory, and 76 marks (19%) in 2016. In the Ordinary level paper in 2017 theory accounted for 64 marks (16%), and 50 marks (12.5%) in 2016. While we all love numeracy, literacy also plays a big part.

2. Practice makes Perfect

The only way to learn Accounting is to do questions. Practice from the papers and ask your teacher for previous years mock papers. Time yourself doing them. I would advise doing a full paper at least once between now and your exam.

3. Timing

This is particularly important doing Accounting. There is a 400-mark exam to be completed in three hours. Allow yourself 5 minutes to scan the paper.

Q1 - 52 mins.

Q2, Q3, Q4 - 26 mins per question.

Q5, Q6, Q7 - 44 mins per question

Q8, Q9 - 35 mins for either question.

Please decide well in advance of the exam whether you will attempt Q1 or two from Q2, Q3 and Q4.



4. Workings

Please ensure that all your workings are labelled, and cross referenced to that question. While a figure may be inaccurate, it is possible to get high marks for it. However, unless the actual number is in the account/answer you will not receive the marks for it e.g. in Incomplete Records, please insert the workings total as you do them as you may run out of time. I also suggest that you ask the superintendent for a continuation sheet at the beginning of the exam to complete your workings on. This will save you a lot of time flicking pages back and forth. Remember to keep workings tidy and legible.

5. Sleep

Don't wait up late practicing questions the night before the exam. Get a good night sleep and have a clear head. Practice can be done the morning of the exam - assuming you don't do Ag. Science, Greek etc...

6. Highlighter

Use your highlighter to focus your attention on the key pieces of information in a question. If you are attempting Q5, please highlight your final answers in A.

7. Take Time

Take time doing your calculations and get them right first time to avoid making needless errors.

8. Don't Panic

If the paper seems difficult – DON'T PANIC. Slowly work your way through it, starting with the question you know best. Always remember that you have the work done.

9. Post Exam

When an exam is finished don't perform a post mortem on it. This will reduce your self-confidence and waste preparatory time for your next exam. It's too late to change anything.

Finally, these exams will come and go before you know it. Good luck to all of you. Please remember there is always a back door into every career choice if things don't work out as you planned.