



# IAB Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business 603/2737/6

# **Qualification Specification**

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## **1** Introduction

The IAB Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business qualification comprises four mandatory units:

- Principles of advanced computerised accounting J/508/5846
- Principles of cash management L/616/7362
- Manage cash effectively Y/616/7364
- Use a computerised accounting package D/508/6629

(See Section 11 'Unit specifications' for further details.)

On registration with the IAB and the payment of their course fees, learners are given access to a version of Sage 50 Accounts Professional, which is time limited for them to use during their course of study. Supplementary study materials are also provided.

The Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification are as follows:

тот	GLH
290	130

TQT is an estimate of the amount of time that a learner might reasonably require to achieve the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification. TQT includes GLH, which describes the time spent by a learner being taught or instructed by a tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training. The remaining hours are time spent by the learner in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training that takes place as directed by, but not under the immediate guidance or supervision of, a tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

### 2 Statement of level

This is a Level 3 qualification, defined with reference to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), as follows:

Knowledge descriptor	<b>Skills descriptor</b>
The learner:	The learner can:
<ul> <li>has factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks and address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine</li> <li>can interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas</li> <li>is aware of the nature of the area of study or work.</li> <li>is aware of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine</li> <li>use appropriate investigation to inform actions</li> <li>review how effective methods and actions have been.</li> </ul>

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#### 3 Purpose

This qualification aims to develop learners':

- understanding of financial record keeping and accounting using Sage accounting software, the
  importance of maintaining accuracy, security and data integrity in performing any bookkeeping and
  accounting tasks using Sage accounting software, the capabilities of Sage accounting software and
  how it can enable better financial management and control of a business and the basics of cash
  management
- skills so they are able to carry out a range of day-to-day computerised accounting routines and
  activities using Sage accounting software including entry of complex business transactions, and
  routine bookkeeping tasks including the posting of transactions to ledger accounts, the preparation
  and use of journal entries, calculating and applying period end adjustments, the preparation of
  period end financial statements, and amendments to a chart of accounts.

### 4 Target groups

The Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business qualification has been designed to appeal to learners:

- already in employment with a sound knowledge of double entry bookkeeping and a working knowledge of the use of computerised accounting systems who want to formalise their knowledge and skills by gaining a recognised accredited computerised accounting qualification
- who are self-employed practitioners with a sound knowledge of double entry bookkeeping and a working knowledge of the use of computerised accounting systems who wish to formalise their knowledge and skills by gaining a recognised accredited computerised accounting qualification
- and owners of small businesses with a sound knowledge of double entry bookkeeping and a working knowledge of the use of computerised accounting systems who wish to formalise their knowledge and skills by gaining a recognised accredited computerised accounting qualification.

### 5 Entry requirements

It is recommended that prospective learners enrolling for the Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business qualification should already have acquired good numeracy, literacy and information technology skills prior to starting their studies in this subject area. They should also have experience of using an accounting software package up to Trial Balance stage. Successful completion of the IAB Level 2 Certificate in Computerised Bookkeeping qualification, the IAB Level 2 Certificate in Accounting for Business qualification, or an equivalent qualification from another awarding body will allow natural progression to this Level 3 qualification.



#### 6 Progression

Holders of the Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business qualification may progress to another qualification at:

- Level 3 carrying with them credits for units achieved to expand their knowledge and skills in the subject area
- a higher level, thereby developing their knowledge and skills in the subject area.

## 7 Assessment, achievement and grading

#### 7.1 Methods of assessment

The method of assessment for each unit is outlined in the table below.

Assessment Title	Method of Assessment
Principles of advanced computerised accounting	Knowledge Test
Principles of cash management	Knowledge Test
*Manage cash effectively	Assignment
*Use a computerised accounting package	Examination

The knowledge tests and assignments are delivered online. Pilot assessments are provided for the purposes of practice and revision. Pilot assessments are not timed and can be undertaken as many times as the learner chooses. Once the pilot assessment is passed, the learner can attempt the live assessment. Live assessments are timed.

The examination must under controlled conditions and involves setting up an accounting system based on a particular scenario, completing a number of tasks and generating reports.

The time allowed for the examination is three hours.

Sample examination materials are available on the IAB website (in the Centre and Student areas).

**\*NB:** those learners who have successfully completed the IAB Level 3 Diploma in Accounting and Cash Management qualification will be exempt from resitting the Manage cash effectively assignment and Use a computerised accounting package examination.

#### 7.2 Achievement and grading

To achieve the qualification learners must take and pass the assessments for the three mandatory units of which the qualification is comprised. To pass an assessment, the learner must achieve:

70% or above for a Knowledge Test

70% or above for an Assignment

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60% or above for an Examination

There are no grade scales – learners will receive either a pass or a fail result.

## 8 Certification

On achievement of all the mandatory units the learner will receive an IAB Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business certificate. The certificate will carry the full name of the learner as registered.

Learners who do not achieve the full qualification may request a Certificate of Unit Completion for any of the individual units they have passed. This certificate will refer only to the title of the unit completed.

#### 9 Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Please refer to the Centre Area of the IAB website <u>www.iab.org.uk</u> for a copy of this procedure.

#### **10** Enquiries and appeals

Please refer to the Centre Area of the IAB website <u>www.iab.org.uk</u> for a copy of this procedure.

#### **11 Unit Specifications**

The unit specifications indicate the content, in terms of learning outcomes and assessment criteria, for each of the four mandatory units within the Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Accounting for Business qualification.

All the learning outcomes and assessment criteria must be covered by providers when delivering the qualification. Each live assessment covers a selection of the unit learning outcomes and assessment criteria and full coverage is achieved across the live assessment variations for each unit.

The content of the assessments is subject to ongoing review by the IAB and changes periodically.

Each of the unit specifications is provided below.



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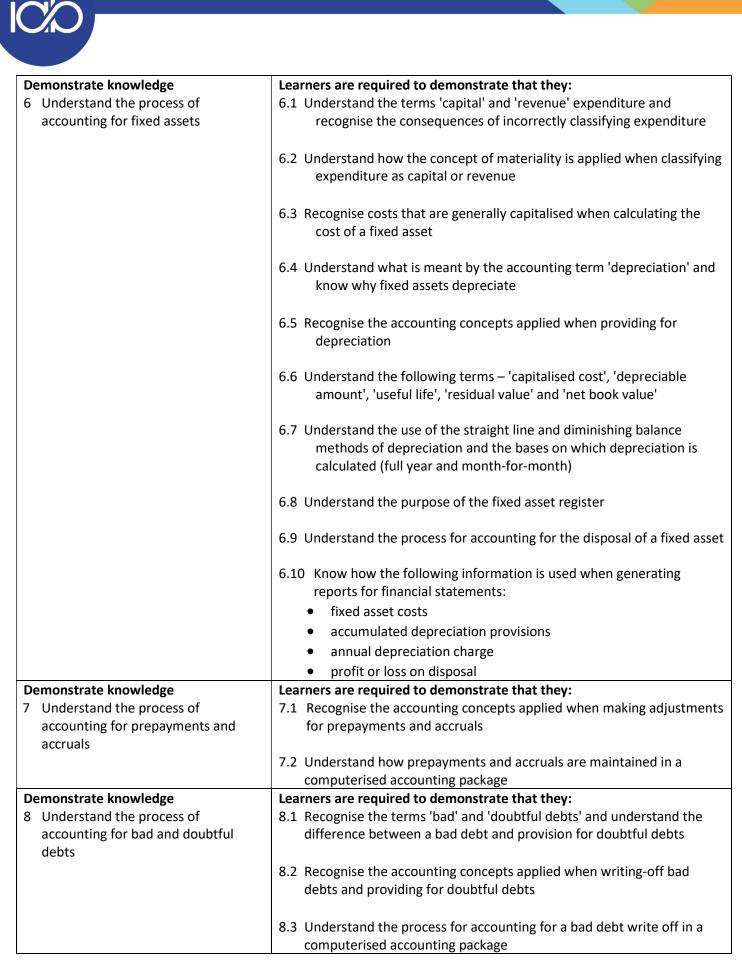
Unit title Principles of adv		vanced computerised accounting – J/508/5846
Level 3		
GLH	10	Total Qualification Time25
Learning Outcomes		Assessment Criteria
Demonstrate knowled 1 Understand the puraccounting conceprises the optimise of the optimise o	rpose of ts and standards, qualitative	<ul> <li>Learners are required to demonstrate that they:</li> <li>1.1 Understand the accounting terms 'true and fair'</li> <li>1.2 Understand how the following accounting concepts are used in computerised accounting: <ul> <li>going concern</li> <li>accruals</li> <li>prudence</li> <li>consistency</li> <li>dual aspect</li> <li>materiality</li> <li>objectivity</li> <li>realisation</li> </ul> </li> <li>1.3 Understand the purpose of domestic and international accounting standards and how these are reflected in reports generated by computerised accounting systems</li> <li>1.4 Understand how the following qualitative characteristics make financial information more useful: <ul> <li>relevance</li> <li>reliability (faithful representation)</li> <li>understandability (ease of understanding)</li> <li>comparability</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Demonstrate knowledge 2 Understand the basics of computerised accounting	Learners are required to demonstrate that they: 2.1 Understand the characteristics of sole trader, partnership, and li company entities in terms of ownership, control and owner's pe financial liability and how these are created in a computerised
	accounting system 2.2 Recognise the advantages of using a computerised accounting system
	<ul><li>2.3 Understand the use of account codes and the purpose of the ch accounts</li></ul>
	<ul> <li>2.4 Understand the purpose of the following within a computerised accounting system: <ul> <li>ledger accounts</li> <li>the nominal ledger</li> <li>debtor, creditor and VAT control accounts</li> <li>supplier and customer files</li> <li>customer and supplier activity/history reports</li> <li>aged debtor and creditor reports</li> <li>trial balance</li> <li>summary audit trail</li> <li>bank reconciliation</li> <li>bank statement reconciled and unreconciled transactions</li> <li>VAT return</li> <li>budget reports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Demonstrate knowledge	profit and loss account and balance sheet     Learners are required to demonstrate that they:
3 Understand terms used in accounting	<ul> <li>3.1 Have a knowledge and understanding of the following terms:</li> <li>business transaction <ul> <li>income (capital and revenue)</li> <li>expenditure (capital and revenue)</li> <li>cash purchases and sales</li> <li>credit purchases and sales, and purchases and sales returns</li> <li>profit and loss</li> <li>balance sheet</li> <li>drawings</li> <li>stock</li> <li>trade debtors and creditors</li> <li>bad debt</li> <li>provision for doubtful debts</li> <li>discounts (trade, bulk and prompt payment discounts)</li> <li>wages, salaries, gross pay, net pay and statutory and volunta</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Demonstrate knowledge	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:
4 Understand the purpose of VAT Accounts and the VAT return	4.1 Understand the purpose of the VAT purchase tax and sales tax accounts
	4.2 Understand the purpose of the VAT control account
	4.3 Understand the function of the VAT return
Demonstrate knowledge	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:
5 Understand the process of accounting for a stock valuation	5.1 Understand what is meant by the accounting term 'stock'
	5.2 Recognise the accounting concepts applied when:
	<ul> <li>using opening and closing stock valuations</li> </ul>
	valuing stock
	5.3 Understand how opening and closing stock valuations are entered in a computerised accounting system
	5.4 Understand where opening and closing stock valuations are used when generating reports for financial statements
	5.5 Recognise the terms 'mark up' and 'margin' and know how to adjust selling price to cost price given mark up or margin and selling price
	5.6 Recognise the term 'net realisable value' and know how to calculate net realisable value
	5.7 Understand the rule on which cost and net realisable value are applied and identify the accounting concept on which the rule is based



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	<ul> <li>8.4 Recognise each of following as methods on which a doubtful debts provision is calculated:</li> <li>general provision</li> <li>specific provision</li> </ul>
	8.5 Understand the process for calculating a provision for doubtful deb and entering a provision for doubtful debts adjustment in a computerised accounting system
	<ul> <li>8.6 Know how the following are used in the generation of reports for the purpose of financial statements:</li> <li>bad debt write-off</li> <li>provision for doubtful debts adjustment</li> <li>provision for doubtful debts</li> </ul>
Demonstrate knowledge	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:
9 Understand the purpose of a trial balance and a suspense account	<ul><li>9.1 Understand the purpose of the trial balance</li><li>9.2 Recognise types of error the trial balance will <b>not</b> expose</li></ul>
	<ul> <li>9.3 Recognise types of error exposed by the trial balance and know the process for tracing errors within the bookkeeping system</li> </ul>
	9.4 Understand the purpose of the suspense account
Demonstrate knowledge	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:
10 Understand the purpose of financial statements	10.1 Recognise the format of the trading and profit and loss account generated by the computerised accounting package and understatis purpose
	10.2 Recognise the format of the balance sheet generated by the computerised accounting package and understand its purpose
Demonstrate knowledge	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:
11 Understand the principles of	11.1 Understand the term 'partnership'
accounting for partnerships	11.2 Recognise advantages and disadvantages of partnerships
	11.3 Recognise the main provisions of the Partnership Act 1890
	11.4 Understand the purpose of a Partnership Agreement and identify the main contents of such an agreement
	<ul> <li>11.5 Recognise the purpose of the following accounts and reports</li> <li>partners' fixed capital accounts</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>partners' current accounts</li> <li>partnership trading and reading account</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>partnership trading and profit and loss account</li> <li>partnership profit or loss appropriation account</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>partnership profit of loss appropriation account</li> <li>partnership balance sheet</li> </ul>
Demonstrate knowledge	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:

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12 Understand the purposes of	12.1 Understand the purpose of budgets
budgeting	

Unit title	Principles of cash management - L/616/7362	
Level 3		
GLH	15	Total Qualification Time 30
Learning Outcomes		Assessment Criteria
Demonstrate knowledge 1 Understand how the exter environment impacts on h business manages its cash	ow a	<ul> <li>Learners are required to demonstrate that they:</li> <li>1.1 Understand how government policies affect a business's treasury functions: <ul> <li>understand the term 'treasury function'</li> <li>understand how the government's monetary policy in</li> <li>controlling the supply of money in the economy, and the</li> <li>effect of this on the rate of inflation and interest rates,</li> <li>impacts on a business's treasury function</li> </ul> </li> <li>1.2 Identify statutory and other regulations relating to the management of cash balances in different types of business organisation</li> <li>1.3 Recognise that a business's principles of cash management will be determined by their own specific financial regulations, guidelines and security procedures and understand how its regulations, guidelines and procedures influence its principles of cash management</li> <li>1.4 Understand that recording and accounting practices may vary in different parts of a business resulting in a variety of sources of information being available for determining likely patterns of cash flow</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Demonstrate knowledge</li> <li>2 Be able to make informed regarding the managemen balances of a business</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Learners are required to demonstrate that they:</li> <li>2.1 Understand that effective cash management is based on the need to categorise a business's cash receipts and payments according to their main characteristics and patterns of cash flow</li> <li>2.2 Identify and categorise a business's cash receipts and payments</li> <li>2.3 Identify the characteristics of the following main types of cash receipts and payments: <ul> <li>regular (operational) cash receipts</li> <li>capital receipts</li> <li>exceptional receipts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul> <li>regular (operational) cash payments</li> <li>capital payments</li> <li>exceptional payments</li> <li>proprietor drawings</li> </ul>
	2.4 Understand how a business can raise finance from a bank In the form of a loan and an overdraft
	<ul> <li>2.5 Recognise and compare the main features of overdrafts and loans, including: <ul> <li>advantages and disadvantages</li> <li>the purpose and content of facility letters</li> <li>term (time period)</li> <li>interest rates (fixed, variable and capped)</li> <li>fees</li> <li>repayment structure</li> <li>security (personal guarantee, fixed and floating charges)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>2.6 Identify the following as types of business investment and recognise the risks and terms and conditions associated with each of them: <ul> <li>certificates of deposit</li> <li>government securities</li> <li>local authority short term loans</li> <li>shares</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Demonstrate knowledge</li> <li>3 Understand a range of accounting and other business techniques used to imp the efficiency of cash balances within a business</li> </ul>	Learners are required to demonstrate that they:3.1 Understand the relationship between the techniques of cash flow accounting, accounting for a business's income and
	<ul> <li>3.2 Understand the meaning of the term 'liquidity' and identify the following as being features of liquidity management:</li> <li>the importance of cash to a business's daily operations an its ability to meet its future financial obligations</li> <li>the management of working capital</li> <li>the management of cash so as to avoid overtrading and overcapitalisation</li> </ul>
	3.3 Identify the following as being component parts of a cash budget and understand that the cash budget is presented in a format that shows the composition and timing of receipts and payments and changes in the cash position

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<ul> <li>of a business:</li> <li>an analysis of the sources of cash receipts for the period, resulting in the calculation of total cash receipts for the period</li> <li>an analysis of the sources of cash payments for the period, resulting in the calculation to total cash payments for the period</li> <li>net cash flow for the period</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>bank balance brought forward at beginning of period</li> <li>bank balance carried forward at end of period</li> </ul>
3.4 Understand the effect of lagged receipts and payments on a business's cash management
3.5 Recognise that the value of cash transactions can be calculated by adjusting figures in the financial statements to reverse the effect of accounting adjustments such as prepayments, accruals and depreciation
<ul> <li>3.6 Identify the following as statistical techniques that can be used to estimate the future trends of income and expenditure:</li> <li>moving averages (time series analysis)</li> <li>allowances for inflation</li> </ul>
3.7 Understand how a cash budget is used by management for the purpose of decision making
3.8 Identify the ways to manage risk and exposure when investing surplus funds, to minimise potential losses to the business



Unit title	Manage cash effectively - Y/616/7364			
Level	3			
GLH	45		Total Qualification Time	110
Learning Outcomes		Assessment	Criteria	
Demonstrate skills 1 Prepare forecasts of income and expenditure for a business for a given period of time	1.1 Use infor	required to demonstrate that t mation from a range of sources re a cash budget:	-	
		ir p	rom given information calculate nclusion in the cash budget, taki rice fluctuations, the effect of p iscounts, bad debts and lagging	ng into account sales rompt payment
		fc ir p	rom given information calculate or nclusion in the cash budget, taki urchase price fluctuations, the e ayment discounts and lagging	ng into account
		a n b	rom given information calculate nd on-purchase payments for inclu udget (to include cash receipts n different receipt and paymen	ision in the cash and payments based
			nsure exceptional receipts and nticipated and included in the c	
			preparing a cash budget amour bserving the mathematical rule	
		-	orecasts of income and expendi es – trend analysis and allowand	-
		-	a cash budget for a number of m g the net cash position of the bu hth	



Demonstrate skills	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
2 Use forecasts to monitor a business's cash flow	2.1 Compare actual cash flows with forecast cash flows and identify significant deviations (favourable and adverse variances) from the cash budget
	2.2 Summarise variances from the cash budget and reconcile forecast cash flows with actual cash flows
	2.3 Identify possible reasons for differences (favourable and adverse variances) between forecast cash flows and actual cash flows and take corrective action within the business's organisational policies
Demonstrate skills	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
3 Use a business's cash balances effectively	3.1 Observe the business's financial regulations and guidelines governing financing, investment and risk when making recommendations relating to the management of cash
	3.2 Take account of trends in the economic and financial environment in managing cash balances
	3.3 Manage cash, overdrafts and loans in order to maintain an adequate level of liquidity in line with cash forecasts
	3.4 Use a cash budget to anticipate financing requirements and investment opportunities
	<ul> <li>3.5 Make recommendations for financing cash shortfalls, identified by the cash budget, on the most favourable terms available by selecting the most appropriate form of financing considering the following factors:</li> <li>purpose for which the finance is required</li> <li>period of time for which the finance is required</li> <li>amount of finance required</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>3.6 Make recommendations for investing surplus funds, identified by the cash budget, taking into account the following factors: <ul> <li>the business's policies and procedures</li> <li>internal regulations</li> <li>attitude towards risk</li> <li>period of time of investment</li> <li>return on the investment</li> <li>termination costs</li> <li>realisation</li> <li>authorisation limits</li> </ul></li></ul>

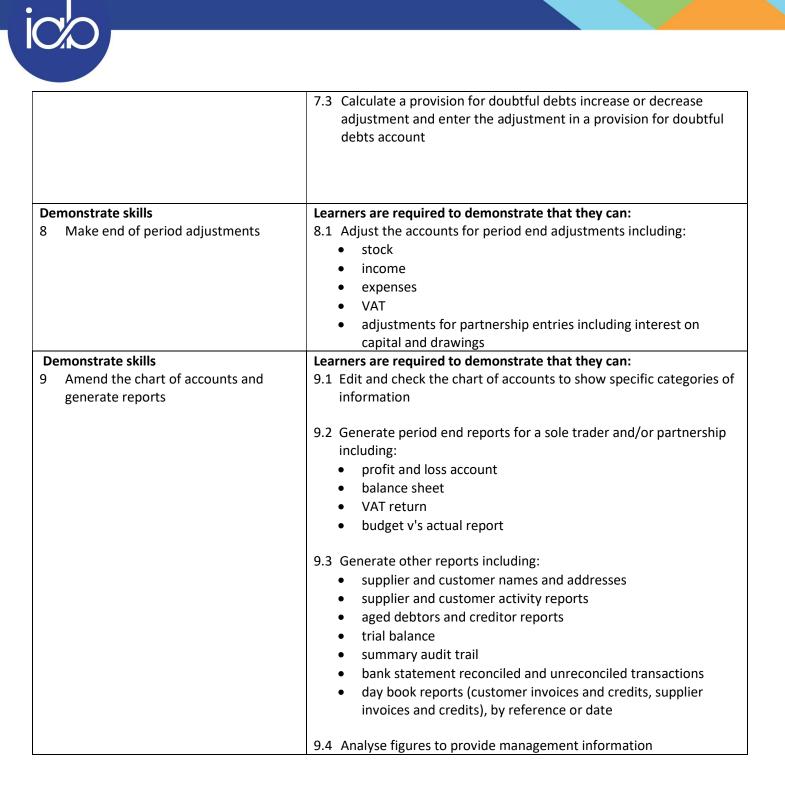
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Unit title	Use a computerised accounting package – D/508/6629		
Level	3		
GLH	60		125
Learning Outcomes		Assessment Criteria	
Demonstrate skills 1 Set up a computerised accounting system		<ul> <li>Learners are required to demonstrate that they</li> <li>1.1 Use the set up function and enter details to saccounting system for a business by complet within the set up procedure including: <ul> <li>business name</li> <li>financial year</li> <li>VAT scheme</li> <li>customer and supplier details</li> <li>nominal account names</li> <li>budget figures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	et up a computerised
		<ol> <li>1.2 Enter outstanding customer and supplier inverpayments on account</li> <li>1.3 Enter an opening trial balance</li> <li>1.4 Make amendments to account details, accound missing references or amend incorrect references</li> <li>1.5 Set up accounts for recording transactions were supplied to the set of th</li></ol>	nt codes, names, add ences
		1.5 Set up accounts for recording transactions w record transactions	ith the owner(s) and
Demonstrate skills		Learners are required to demonstrate that they	
2 Enter business transactions	<ul><li>2.1 Input data to account for credit based transa</li><li>2.2 Enter non-credit transactions</li></ul>	ctions	
		2.3 Process customer receipts and refunds	
		2.4 Process supplier payments and refunds	
		2.5 Process payments through the bank current	account
		2.6 Process payments made by a business credit	card
		2.7 Process petty cash transactions	
	2.8 Reconcile the balance on bank accounts, incl	uding credit cards	
		2.9 Record transactions relating to the owner(s) contribution by the owner(s) during the period	-



2 December and exact in second sectories	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
3 Prepare and post journal entries	<ul> <li>3.1 Prepare and post journal entries to account for the following:</li> <li>bad debts and VAT bad debt relief</li> <li>provision for doubtful debts</li> <li>the correction of errors</li> <li>the clearing of balances on VAT purchase tax and sales tax accounts</li> <li>wages and salaries (net pay, deductions from pay and employer on-costs)</li> <li>goods taken by the owner for own use</li> </ul>
Demonstrate skills	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
4 Account for a stock valuation	4.1 Adjust a stock valuation
	4.2 Prepare and post a journal entry to account for closing stock
Demonstrate skills	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
5 Account for fixed assets	5.1 Maintain a fixed asset register by updating the fixed asset module within the computerised accounting package
	5.2 Use the fixed asset module to calculate depreciation using the straight line and diminishing balance methods applying the full year and month-for month bases
	5.3 Prepare and post a journal entry to account for a fixed asset bought on credit
	5.4 Post the depreciation charge for the period to the profit and loss account
	5.5 Record the disposal of a fixed asset in the computerised accounting system
Demonstrate skills	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
6 Account for prepayments and accruals	6.1 Make calculations to account for amounts received in advance, receivable in arrears, paid in advance and payable in arrears
	6.2 Prepare and post entries on to the computerised accounting system to account for prepayment and accruals adjustments
Demonstrate skills	Learners are required to demonstrate that they can:
7 Account for bad and doubtful debts	7.1 Account for the write off of a bad debt and claim VAT bad debt relief
	7.2 Calculate a provision for doubtful debts using the general provision or specific provision bases



# **12** Links to National Occupational Standards (NOS)

The mandatory units within the Level 3 Certificate in Computerised Bookkeeping and Accounting qualification link with the following National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Accountancy and Finance:

- FA-1 Process Income
- FA-2 Process Expenditure
- FA-3 Account for Income and Expenditure.