

CA FINAL New Syllabus:

Hi,

A lot has already been said about the new syllabus for CA students and there seems to be a lot of confusion about the same.

From the point of view of a student, here's my advice and justification for the same:

FINAL DUE IN:

NOV 2017:

You can't appear for the new syllabus

MAY 2018:

I believe it may be a little tricky here, but at the same time, those who have taken classes/ prepared for Cost and SFM, should stick to the old curriculum. (or any 2-3 subjects for that matter)

For those who haven't yet begun preparation or have just started, there is a trade-off between:

a) you do not have to study ISCA and you get to study the new and updated syllabus.

vs

b) you may have to attend the amendment (Technically additional) classes, and more importantly you will not have the updated material because it will take time to prepare the new material.

My recommendation will be quite subjective here. If Risk management or International Taxation is very important to someone, hasn't started preparing at all and thinks he or she can pull off at last minute (6 months) with whatever material is provided, may opt for the new syllabus. For those who need a year to prepare may stick to the old syllabus.

Please note, if you have studied accounts and you think that you need not know the accounting standards that have now been shifted to the Inter syllabus, you are wrong; the same will be needed to attempt the new syllabus.

NOVEMBER 2018:

Will strongly recommend all students to please shift to the new curriculum. The reason being, you get rid of ISCA, you have an elective based on your interest, and also you get to study the updated curriculum. Also, by then the additional lectures shall be available to you. Additional material shall be there and there will be much more certainty about things. You may have to work a little harder in case you have already covered a couple of subjects like SFM, Cost or Accounting. But I firmly believe that the effort shall be worth it.

However, one may choose to stick to the old syllabus, but in case you don't clear the exam, there will be the risk of wanting to shift from old to new syllabus owing to ISCA. You may not want to regret in the future.

Please note, if you have studied accounts and you think that you need not know the accounting standards that have now been shifted to the Inter syllabus, you are wrong; the same will be needed to attempt the new syllabus.

MAY 2019 ONWARDS:

No brainer here. Definitely go for the new syllabus for same reasons above.

THE CHANGES:

1. **Financial Reporting:** A clarification is required. Even though most of the accounting standards have been shifted to the inter level, still the knowledge of the same is required. So, if you have taken classes, it is not a waste, rather you can do the additional part.
2. **Strategic Financial Management:** There seem to be quite a few changes, a couple of chapters have the name changed (Indian capital market is now derivatives), A few have more detailed content (Bond valuation in Interest rate risk management), Portfolio, Security analysis covers the same theory, and security valuation and Corporate valuation is extending the old syllabus chapter; International Capital Budgeting is an extension of Capital Budgeting and the basics of the old chapter will be needed, also the institute has been including the sums on International Cap. Budg. Anyways; Mutual funds, Mergers, Forex with a few additions seem to be the same; with a few theory chapters on Start-up financing, SME, Islamic Finance and a chapter on Risk Management added.
(We shall begin the New syllabus batch on 9th May 2017 5:30 pm. Contact 9830497377 for details.)
3. **Audit:** Slight changes and Upgrade, would not comment much
4. **Corporate Law:** A few new chapters added in the Economic law section. The changes still are not too much and anyways the students prepare this subject towards the end
5. **Cost:** There are significant changes here and the syllabus has been upgraded to match industry requirements. The basics of the old syllabus excepting just a few chapters will still be needed here.
6. **ISCA:** Removed. A welcome change. Instead we have an [Elective](#) now.
7. **Direct Tax:** Amendments are a regular thing here, however a section of international taxation is added. Still since most of the students prepare for this towards the end, should not be an issue.
8. **Indirect Tax laws:** You have the GST covered here which makes sense to study.

ELECTIVES:

We have been offered 6 electives and the new syllabus is definitely a welcome change. One needs to opt for the elective based on the career choice (Needless to say)

- Those planning to make a career in Taxation, have to go for International Taxation
- Those planning a career in Law, Compliances will be opting for Economic Laws
- For those interested in Corporate reporting and Auditing and Accounting profiles, carrying out accounting for Cross border acquisitions and mergers, should opt for Global Financial Reporting Standards
- Those planning a career in Finance and Banking, shall be opting for either Risk management or Financial Services and Capital Markets. Both the papers have a slight overlap with the SFM Paper. If you plan to pursue Risk management (FRM) or keen on working in the banking and Financial sector, I would recommend the Risk management paper. However, if you wish to continue in the Finance department of companies you may opt for the Financial services paper. Although the Risk management paper seems more numerical and the other more on the theoretical front.

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- The Multidisciplinary case study, as interesting as it sounds, I would recommend to avoid at the moment until more clarity is obtained about the same.

In case you are unsure about the elective, think of the subject you like to study the most. Go with Risk management/ Financial Services if you like SFM, with Global Financial Reporting if you like Financial reporting/Accounts paper, and with International Taxation, if you like DT/IDT paper and with Economic Laws if you like Company law.

COMMENTS:

- The new syllabus is a welcome change and students should try and opt for it
- The advantage being losing ISCA, updated syllabus and specialization and disadvantage being updating of what is already prepared, new resources to be available.
- Do not get into the hearsay that old syllabus Pass Rates will be high, or new Syllabus papers will be easy. The moment you start making predictions and strategizing, you will reduce your chances of clearing. Give it a couple of months and everything will be even clearer. Just decide on Old/New syllabus and start preparing the portions for which material and classes are available instead of wasting too much time.

Regards,

Aswini Bajaj

CA, CS, CFA, FRM, CAIA, CIPM, CCRA

Team SAGC

me@aswinibajaj.com | +91 9830497377

www.aswinibajaj.com



ASWINI BAJAJ
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