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The **ExP** Group

ACCA TX | Express Notes

Taxation (UK)

SBL

SBR

AFM

APM

ATX

AAA

BT

MA

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TX

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Steve Crossman
CEO The ExP Group

Hello

Thank you for downloading a copy of these ExPress notes and I hope you find them useful for your studies.

We provide these ExPress notes free of charge to individual students as part of our CSR initiatives. The notes are designed to help students assimilate and understand the most important areas for the exam as quickly as possible.

A word of warning though in that they have not been designed to cover everything in the syllabus so you should only use these notes for either an overview of the key areas where you start your main studies or as part of your final revision in the run up to your exam.

Importantly though, we want you to be successful in your exams so good luck with your studies and please do let us know how you get on.

All the best,

Steve

We were born with one mission, with one aim, with one desire. To use technology the way it should be used. To use technology to open up education, and in particular financial education, to whoever needs it regardless of their income, wealth, race, sex, religion or location.

We wanted to use technology to empower individuals to develop themselves through financial expertise, organisations to improve their performance through enhanced human capital and ultimately communities and families to benefit as a result.

We're on target and since our birth we have had the privilege of working with and learning from inspirational individuals and organisations from all 4 corners of the world in countries as varied as the UK in the north, Indonesia in the east, South Africa in the south and Columbia in the west.

We're only part way through our journey but we're doing better than we expected. The best is yet to come though,

Education + Technology = Ethical Empowerment.

Thank you for being part of our story.

1

Introduction

The Big Picture

The Taxation (TX - UK) paper introduces candidates to the core principles of taxation in the UK. The paper is mainly computational. Taxation can get very complicated as there are many detailed calculations and lots of intricate rules to remember. A successful candidate must have a good understanding of the core areas of taxation. It is vital therefore that candidates understand the key areas and do not get bogged down in the detail. The main taxes are:

- **Income tax** – payable by individuals on earnings and investment income.
- **Corporation tax** – payable by companies on their income and gains.
- **Capital Gains tax (CGT)** – payable by individuals on the disposal of certain assets.
- **Inheritance tax** – payable on certain gifts made by an individual and, more specifically by executors on the value of an estate of a deceased individual.
- **Value Added Tax (VAT)** – payable by both companies, and unincorporated businesses.
- **National Insurance Contributions (NIC)** – not strictly a tax but payable by both employees and their employers, as well as self-employed individuals.

Section A of the exam comprises 15 Objective Test (OT) questions worth 2 marks each.

Section B of the exam comprises three short scenarios. Each scenario has five OT questions worth 2 marks each.

Section C of the exam comprises one 10 mark and two 15 mark constructed response questions. The 15 mark questions in section C will cover income tax and corporation tax. Other questions in the paper may examine any topic of the syllabus.

The TX (UK) paper has a comprehensive syllabus. These ExPress notes are designed to provide guidance on the core areas of the syllabus. Whilst we believe that the items contained herein have a strong chance of being tested, no guarantee can be provided as to what will be examined. Taxation legislation can change rapidly. These notes are designed to assist students taking the TX (UK) ACCA exam from June 2026 to March 2027. These notes should not be used for any other purpose. The ExP Group explicitly denies liability for any action taken as a result of using these notes. The ExP Group does not warrant in any form that these notes represent the UK tax legislation as at the date of reading of these notes.

2

Income Tax – An Introduction

The Big Picture

Income tax is a key area of the syllabus and will be examined.

Key Knowledge – Income tax: an introduction

Individuals who are UK tax resident will be taxed on their worldwide income. The period of assessment is the **tax year**. The tax year runs from 6 April to 5 April. For example, the tax year 2025/26 runs from 6 April 2025 to 5 April 2026 (2024/25 runs from 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025 and so on) All income of the individual arising in the tax year will be assessed in the tax year.

Key Knowledge – pro forma tax computation 2025/26

This is the format to follow to calculate an individual's liability to income tax. The pro-forma income tax computation is: (note the numbers are for illustrative purposes)

INCOME TAX COMPUTATION – 2025/26		£
Non-savings income		
Employment income		10,000
Trading income		23,000
Pension income		2,000
Property income		5,000
Savings income		
Bank interest		1,000
Dividends		<u>1,000</u>
Total income		42,000
Less: Reliefs		<u>(2,000)</u>
Net income		40,000
Less: Personal allowance (PA)		<u>(12,570)</u>
Taxable income		<u>27,430</u>

Certain income is exempt from income tax including:

- Income from certain National Savings and Investments certificates (NS&I)
- Income from Individual Savings Accounts (ISA)
- Gambling, betting and premium bond winnings

Personal Allowances (PA)

Every taxpayer is entitled to a PA. For 2025/26 this amount is £12,570. It is an income tax personal allowance and cannot be set against any other tax liability such as CGT.

The PA is deducted from an individual's net income to arrive at taxable income.

The PA is reduced for individuals with income >£100,000.

The reduction is based on adjusted net income (ANI).

Adjusted Net Income:

Net income

Less: gross gift aid donations

Less: gross personal pension contributions

ANI

If ANI is >£100,000, the PA is reduced by 50% x (ANI - £100,000). Therefore, individuals with ANI >£125,140 receive no PA.

Income Tax Liability and Income Tax Payable

Once the **taxable income** has been identified, the income tax liability can be calculated. Note that taxable income is calculated after the Personal Allowance.

The rate of income tax depends on the type of income. The rates for 2025/26 are:

		Normal rates	Dividend rates
Basic rate	£1 to £37,700	20%	8.75%
Higher rate	£37,701 to £125,140	40%	33.75%
Additional rate	£125,141 and above	45%	39.35%
Savings nil rate band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - basic rate taxpayers £1,000 - higher rate taxpayers £500 - additional rate taxpayers £Nil 		
Dividend nil rate band	- all taxpayers £500		

* Note that a starting rate of tax of 0% applies to savings income if it falls within the first £5,000 of taxable income. *These rates will be provided in the exam.*

Marriage Allowance (MA)

The MA (also called the 'transferable amount') allows a spouse or civil partner to elect to transfer a fixed amount of the personal allowance to their spouse/civil partner.

The MA is NOT available if either spouse/civil partner is a higher rate or additional rate taxpayer.

The amount that can be transferred is fixed at 10% of the PA (i.e. $10\% \times £12,570 = £1,260$).

The maximum tax saving is $20\% \times £1,260 = £252$ and is deducted from the tax liability not the taxable income. *The transferable amount is provided in the exam.*

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3

Income Tax – Employment Income

The Big Picture

Employment income represents all income and benefits an individual receives from their employment.

Key Knowledge – income tax: employment income

Earnings

Earnings are taxed on the “receipts” basis, i.e. the amount of earnings received in the tax year. There are special rules for directors to prevent them manipulating the receipt date.

“Earnings” include salaries, wages, bonuses, commission, round sum allowances and benefits received by an individual.

As an example, if an individual receives a salary of £20,000 and benefits of £6,500 the total employment income will be £26,500. This figure is then included in the income tax computation.

Benefits

Benefits are regularly tested in the T1 (UK) paper. The general rule is to tax the employer’s cost of providing the benefit unless there are specific rules for exempting it or valuing it.

Exempt benefits include:

- One mobile phone for private use by the employee.
- Relocation and removal expenses up to £8,000.
- Employer funded training (if training is relevant for the job).
- Staff canteen or restaurant (provided it’s made available to all employees).
- Employer’s contribution to a pension scheme.

There are many others too.

The calculation of the taxable benefit is reduced proportionally if the benefit is provided for only part of the tax year.

In most cases, contributions towards the provision of the benefit are deducted from its taxable amount.

Assessable benefit – Living Accommodation

An employee provided with living accommodation by their employer, and which is not exempt job-related accommodation, would be assessed as follows:

Benefit	
All properties basic charge	Higher of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual value of the accommodation (figure will be given in the exam), and 2. Rent paid by the employer.
Additional charge for "expensive properties"	$(\text{Cost}^* \text{ minus } \pounds 75,000) \times \text{official rate of interest at the start of the year, 3.75\% for 2025/26 (interest rate will be provided in the exam).}$

* If the employer acquired the property more than 6 years before providing it to the employee the market value, when first provided to the employee, should be used rather than cost.

Assessable benefit – motor cars

This benefit is examined on a regular basis.

Benefit:

List price when new x "relevant %".

Note the list price is the published brochure price when the car is first registered. This may be reduced by a maximum employee capital contribution paid towards the car of £5,000.

The relevant % depends on the CO₂ emissions of the car with the broad concept being that the more un-environmentally friendly the car is the higher the tax charge.

For hybrid-electric motor cars with CO₂ emissions between 1 – 50 grams per km the electric range of the car is relevant:

<u>Electric range in miles</u>	<u>%</u>
≥ 130	3
70-129	6
40-69	9
30-39	13
<30	15

For electric-powered cars with zero CO₂ emissions the benefit is 3%.

For petrol cars the % is calculated as follows:

<u>CO₂ emissions grams per km</u>	<u>% (for petrol cars and diesel cars meeting the RDE2 standard)</u>
51 - 54	16
55	17
Each complete additional 5 grams above 55 grams	Add an additional 1% to the 17% up to the maximum of 37%

For diesel cars that do not meet the RDE2 standard 4% is added to the figures above, but the maximum is still 37%. This is point is not included in the tax rates and allowances given in the exam.

Example – petrol

Throughout 2025/26, John is provided with a petrol powered car that has a list price of £22,000 and CO₂ emissions of 147 grams. He contributes £100 a month towards the use of the car.

Answer:

Percentage:

Base %	17%
Plus 1% for each complete 5 grams of CO ₂ above 55 grams (i.e. 55 to 145 = 18%)	18%
Relevant %	<u>35%</u>
% x list price = 35% x £22,000	£7,700
Less contributions (£100 x 12 months)	<u>(£1,200)</u>
Taxable benefit	<u>£6,500</u>

Note that the car benefit covers the servicing and maintenance costs but does not include any private fuel that is paid for by the employer.

Assessable benefit – private fuel

Some employers may pay all or part of the private fuel of an employee. The provision of fuel for private use is a separate benefit from the provision of a car.

The benefit is calculated as follows:

“Relevant %” as calculated for the car benefit x “base figure”.

For 2025/26 the base figure is £28,200 and will be given in the exam.