

BEFORE FEEDBACK FROM CALIBRATION WORKSHOP

Research Assignment (individual submission)

To complete the Research Assignment you will need to form a Research Group of three people. Each person should research the questions independently and then meet with their group to discuss the issues and help one another answer the questions. You can seek a group and register your group on the LMS. One way to find a group is to lodge your details on the LMS in the discussion board group member market-place.

Each person in your group selects ONE of the following three roles: (1) a financial statement preparer, (2) an external auditor or (3) a **securities analyst**. Each person submits an individual research assignment from the perspective of the role they have taken (that is, the team submits three individual assignments, one each from the perspective of a preparer, auditor and analyst). For each person, Part 1 of the assignment = 750 words. Use headings to organise your material (i.e. you are writing a report not an essay). Provide references to accounting standards (including references to specific paragraphs) and cite relevant academic and practitioner articles.

See **library websites** for useful resources (links to resources and guide to Harvard referencing style):

Required

Outline the benefits of the current lease standard for you in your role as a securities analyst and the implications of the changes proposed in the ED 2010/9 *Leases*. [max 750 words]

Your assignment will be evaluated on the criteria listed below:

- (1) Technical content i.e. your discussion of the issues relating to the leasing standard and exposure draft;
- (2) Inclusion of academic and professional material relevant to the topic;
- (3) The quality of written communication (presentation, grammar and spelling); and
- (4) Use of academic referencing (use Harvard Style referencing).

Your assignment must be typed using 12 font, 1.5 line spacing and 2.5 cm margins on all sides, with a maximum length of **750 words (including in text references and bibliography)**. State the word count at the beginning of the assignment. All material over 750 words will be disregarded. Reference all material taken from other sources.

AFTER FEEDBACK FROM CALIBRATION WORKSHOP

Individual Research Assignment on Leases (20% of final mark)

This is a research assignment which is based on the proposed changes to accounting for leases as proposed in ED /2010/9 Leases. Choose one company from Brambles Ltd, Transfield Services, Qantas Ltd or Toll Holdings that you should use to illustrate your answers to (a) and (b) below.

Required

- a) You are a recent graduate working for a Big 4 accounting firm and your manager has asked you to prepare a report which is to be presented to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of your selected company. The report should outline the main changes to accounting for leases proposed in ED 2010/9 and advise the CFO on its implications for the company. You should use appropriate headings to organise your material, provide references to accounting standards (including specific paragraphs) and cite relevant academic and practitioner articles.
- b) You have a friend who holds shares in the same company and she has emailed you to explain the implications of the proposed changes to her. Your friend is a teacher with no accounting knowledge. Your written email response can be much less formal and should be in a style and format that is easily understood by a non-accountant.

Your assignment must be typed using 12 font, 1.5 line spacing and 2.5 cm margins on all sides, with a maximum length of 2,000 words for both parts (a) and (b), (excluding in-text references and bibliography). State the word count at the beginning of the assignment. All material over 2,000 words will be disregarded. Reference all material taken from other sources.

Objectives of the Assignment:

The objectives of this assignment are to assist you to develop effective written communication skills which are crucial gaining employment and ongoing career success. .

In the 2012 Graduate Outlook report employers were surveyed about the most important selection criteria when recruiting graduates. It is evident in Table 8 below that employers rate communication skills as their number one priority when recruiting graduates across the board including accounting and finance employers (A/F).

Table 8: Most important selection criteria when recruiting graduates by sector, (Rank)

Selection Criteria	G/D/H	C/M/E	A/F	L/PS	M	C/T/U	All
Interpersonal and communication skills	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Passion/Knowledge of industry (etc.)	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Critical reasoning and analytical skills (etc.)	3	6	4	5	2	4	3
Calibre of academic results	5	5	3	3	6	6	4
Cultural alignment / Values fit	7	4	5	4	5	3	5
Work experience	6	3	7	7	4	5	6
Emotional intelligence	8	7	6	6	9	7	7
Teamwork skills	4	8	8	8	6	8	8
Activities	9	8	9	8	10	10	9
Leadership skills	9	10	10	10	6	9	10

1 Graduate Careers Australia, 2012, *Graduate Outlook 2012*, Melbourne.

Since 2012, the Australian Parliament legislated that all higher education providers are required to provide evidence that their graduates achieve a common national set of learning outcomes by the time they graduate. Minimum or threshold learning outcomes (TLOs) for accounting graduates were developed collaboratively across Australia in 2010 with input from the professional accounting bodies, various business practitioners and accounting academics. Five TLOs were developed for the accounting discipline of which the communication standard is relevant for this assignment.

“Bachelor graduates in Accounting will be able to justify and communicate accounting advice and ideas in straightforward collaborative contexts involving both accountants and non-accountants.”

Please keep this TLO in mind when preparing your assignment as this is the basic benchmark against which your assignment submission will be assessed. The main objective of this assignment, therefore, is to assist you to develop and practice a level of presentation that meets this TLO.

Submission of assignments

You are required to submit your assignment by XXXXX. Prior to submission make sure you use tools like spelling and grammar checkers in WORD before submitting your assignment. You may also want to make use of the *Writer’s Diet* <http://writersdiet.com/WT.php?home> to improve the quality of your written work.

Marking criteria and weighting

- (1) Summary of the main changes proposed in ED /2010/9 (20%);
- (2) Relevance and accuracy of the analysis of the impact of the proposed changes according to the role (50%); and
- (3) The quality of written communication, assessed for clarity, presentation, grammar, spelling, sentence structure and correct referencing using Harvard style. (30%).

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE ASSIGNMENT FOLLOWING THE CALIBRATION

WORKSHOP

- 1) Incorporation of the TLO into the assignment with an explanation about why written communication is important (ie. Employment).
- 2) Students are required to write to a specialist (CFO) and a non-specialist (the friend).
- 3) Specific and significant marks allocated to the quality of the written communication.
- 4) Students alerted to use the spell grammar check and other resources like *Writers Diet*.