

BF3312 TAXATION: POLICY AND PRACTICE

Module Number: BF3312
Module Title: Taxation: policy and practice
Number of Aston Credits: 20
Total Number of ECTS Credits: 10
(European Credit Transfer)

Staff Member Responsible for the Module:

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Availability: please see Blackboard

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Pre-Requisite(s) for the Module: BF1100 Introduction to Financial Accounting
and
BF1114 Introduction to Management Accounting

Module Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- Understand the theoretical and applied role of taxation in the national economy as a source of public revenue, as a regulator of business activity and as a mechanism for the adjustment of social conditions.
- Consider, in terms of the theory of taxation, its impact upon individuals, companies and the economy. Students are expected to be able to understand these theories and consider questions of equity and efficiency in personal taxation, embracing both income and capital taxes upon individuals, but also corporate income taxes.

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- Compare the differing bases for the assessment of corporation tax, analyse the effect of such taxes upon corporate finance and investment, and explain the interaction between corporate and personal taxes.
- Understand the basic methods of accounting for tax and discuss the application of tax rules.
- Describe, explain and critically evaluate the operation of the UK tax system.
- Understand and calculate relevant tax computations for a variety of situations and taxpayers.
- Discuss current international tax issues and the UK tax system within an international context.

Module Content:

The following outline is indicative of the weekly material to be covered with the lecturer responsible for the topic shown in brackets.

- 1 Introduction to taxation [RG]
- 2 Tax design and evaluation: objectives, bases and equity issues [RG]
- 3 Tax design and evaluation: efficiency [RG]
- 4 Tax design and evaluation: the EU dimension: direct taxes [RG]
- 5 Tax design and evaluation: the EU dimension: indirect taxes [RG]
- 6 Income tax: introduction and the pro forma computation [ST]
- 7 Income tax: allowances [ST]
- 8 Income tax: savings, deductions and tax relief [ST]
- 9 Income tax on unincorporated businesses: the tax treatment of income and expenditure [ST]
- 10 Income tax and capital allowances [ST]
- 11 Income tax and trading losses [ST]

CHRISTMAS VACATION

- 12 EXAM WEEK
- 13 EXAM WEEK

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- 14 Income tax on employment and pensions [ST]
- 15 Introduction to capital gains tax [ST]
- 16 Further capital gains tax [ST]
- 17 Capital gains for shares and securities [ST]
- 18 Capital gains tax on residences [ST]
- 19 Corporation tax: introduction [RG]
- 20 Corporation tax: computation and payment of the CT liability [RG]
- 21 Corporation tax: the treatment of losses [RG]
- 22 Corporation tax: the treatment of groups [RG]

EASTER VACATION

- 23 Corporation tax: international aspects and reform issues [RG]
- 24 VAT [RG]
- 25 Revision week [RG, ST]

This outline is intended to be a general guide for the module and is not an all-encompassing description of the topics or expected learning outcomes. These topics will not necessarily be covered in the order given, and there may be additions, deletions or alterations of emphasis taking into account contemporaneous tax developments and students' understanding of the material.

International Dimensions:

The module focuses primarily on the UK tax system but relevant principles of European taxation law and comparisons with other jurisdictions are made where relevant.

Corporate Connections:

Practical case studies are used throughout. Reference is made to recent developments and tax case law as well as the tax planning strategies adopted by personal and business taxpayers.

Links to Research:

This module draws on Robert Goddard's research, particularly concerning the relationship between accounting principles and tax law.

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Learning and Teaching Rationale and Methods:

A 2-hour lecture each week is used to introduce the relevant topic and provide a framework for students' own reading and research. Worked examples are used in the lectures and interaction is expected.

In addition tutorial questions are set so that students are able to consolidate their understanding and knowledge. The tutorials provide an opportunity for discussion of the issues raised by the lectures and tutorial questions. They also provide the opportunity for feedback to be given to students on their progress and for the lecturer to provide support to students, exploring any areas of individual difficulty.

Contact and directed learning:

Lectures	48 hours
Tutorials	20 hours
Tutorial preparation and reading	87 hours
Research for January test	20 hours

Indirect learning

Revision	20 hours
Assessments	5 hours

Total **200 hours**

Ethical Approval:

This module does not require any primary research and accordingly no ethical approval will be necessary.

Assessment and Feedback Rationale and Methods:

Examination	70%
Week 12/13 Test	30%

The test will be a two hour paper and students will be required to [a] write one essay considering tax theory and [2] perform a detailed tax calculation. The test is intended to guide students in their studies and to assist them in identifying their strengths and any weaknesses before the final examination. Students will receive detailed feedback on their performance in the test and will learn how to improve their performance. The essay question will be set on a topic identified in advance and is intended to provide students with the opportunity to undertake independent research.

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The examination will comprise one three hour exam, consisting of two sections requiring two answers from each section to be answered. All questions will be equally weighted. Section A will examine students' theoretical understanding and Section B will require students to apply computational and accounting techniques. There will be one compulsory question in Section B.

Neither the class test nor end of year examination are open book, although tax tables will be provided (and distributed in advance).

Students are encouraged to use lecturer office hours to obtain more detailed feedback and advice, in addition to the support available in tutorials.