P3

MICHAEL’S TEST BASED COURSE

The key to passing P3 is not attending long hours of lectures in a classroom. The amount of knowledge you need to pass this paper is quite limited. The key to passing P3 is doing cases under time constraints, getting constructive feedback, and learning from your mistakes. The more cases you do the better you get at doing cases which is why I urge all P3 students to do the test based course. Your alternative is learning how to do cases in the exam hall.

All the tests are open book. Having notes open does not help much in tackling cases— and you need to realise this before you start accumulating masses of detailed knowledge that you will never use and that will just confuse you. In P3 the answer to the case comes mostly from the case- the examiner does not want you to vomit theory across your answer script. He wants you to understand a limited range of frameworks (he tends to examine the same frameworks in a fairly sequential order) which you can apply to the case information to answer the question. He also expects you to be able to manipulate figures- and that does not mean just churning out ratios!

Students do not fail this paper through lack of knowledge. They fail it because

- they do not understand the question requirements
- they get their time management wrong
- they fail to use the case information and instead vomit theory
- they present in a marker unfriendly way
- they make a mess of using the figures
- they fail to reach a conclusion that directly answer the question.

The case based course deals with all of these issues.

Three open book 50 mark cases done under time constraints. These will be assessed and commented upon by me usually within 24 hours of test submission. None of these cases are past P3 cases. You will receive my answers on completion of the test and a detailed guide (a case commentary) on how the case should have been tackled. This is much more useful than the model answer.

A full open book mock exam. As with the three 50 mark cases, the questions are not past P3 cases. I have written them myself and represent my view of what is likely to appear on the forthcoming exam paper. You will be given my answers on completion of the paper.

Two further 50 mark cases- my own and/or past P3- that are done under time constraints, are marked and commented upon and my answers provided. These will be cases not covered on the revision course and provide a highly effective approach to P3 revision in the weeks before the exam.

All cases have been selected to reflect the likely forthcoming exam topics
IMPORTANT.

Because of the amount of marking and commenting I have to do, places on the case based course are limited and are allocated on a “first come” basis.

If you have enrolled on the e-learning course, the tests and mock exam are all included in the course itself. They are in addition to the cases contained in the 8 e-learning modules and the Bluff Notes.

Students can make arrangements directly with me to sit ALL the tests at home (as e-learning students do) provided they have the necessary technology (computer/printer/scanner). Normally they will be done at the same time as the college based tests.

To pass this exam you do not need to get 50%- rather you need to be in the top 45% or so of students. After each test (where the numbers permit) you will be give a breakdown of marks- the average, the range, the distribution and the pass mark.

All marks and comments are confidential- only you and I get to see them. What matters is the rate of improvement across the tests and ensuring that by the time of the exam you are capable and confident about tackling the paper.

Please contact me- Michael- directly for any further information and advice

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