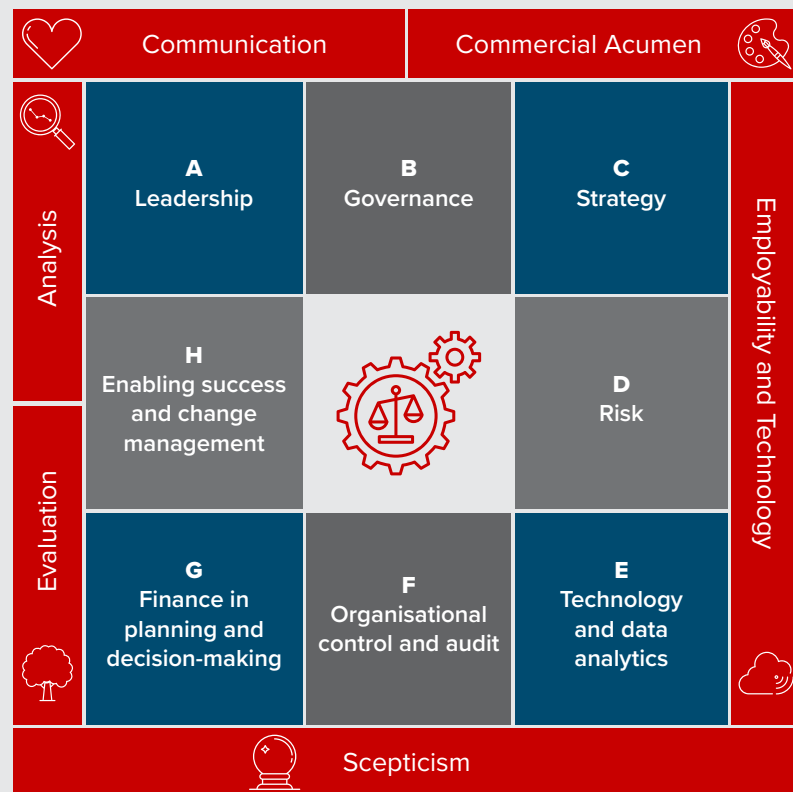


# About Strategic Business Leader (SBL)

The Strategic Business Leader (SBL) exam is an integrated case study that is designed to mirror the workplace. It assesses not only technical and ethical skills, but also the professional skills expected of effective leaders and advisers to senior management.

Students are advised to complete the [Ethics and Professional Skills module](#) (EPSM) before attempting SBL.

## Overview of SBL



Review the syllabus to get a detailed understanding of syllabus coverage and learning outcomes, all of which may be tested in the SBL exam.

## How to approach your studies

### Advice from the examining team

- The SBL exam requires students to demonstrate organisational leadership, senior consultancy or advisory capabilities and relevant professional skills.
- Students must learn the whole SBL syllabus and apply that knowledge to tasks in the exam.
- In addition to applying technical knowledge, students must demonstrate professionalism in the context of the five professional skills when making their technical answer points.
- Prior understanding of the information in the pre-seen will enable students save time in the exam.

Read more in the [Examining team guidance](#).

### CBE Practice Platform

- Become familiar with question types and the exam environment by attempting past, practice & mock exams.
- Self-mark your answers within the practice platform using the marking guides and sample answers available.

### Link to study support resources

Access the SBL syllabus, technical articles & topic explainer videos, mock & debrief videos, the compass planning tool and additional support resources [HERE](#).

Subscribe to the official [ACCA student YouTube channel](#) for the latest videos to help you prepare for your exams.

## About the exam

### Exam format

SBL is a three-hour, 15-minute case study comprising three compulsory tasks.

- There are 80 technical marks and 20 professional skills marks.
- Pre-seen material is released two weeks before the exam, containing information on the business activities of the case study organisation and the industry in which it operates.

### Professional skills marks

The exam has 20 professional skills marks available – four for each of the areas below:

1. Analysis
2. Commercial acumen
3. Communication
4. Evaluation
5. Scepticism

See more guidance on [Professional Skills in SBL](#)

### Most frequently used verbs in the SBL exam:



- **EVALUATE** – determine the scenario in the light of the arguments for & against, with evidence.
- **ASSESS** – judge the worth, importance, evaluate or estimate the nature, quality or significance.
- **RECOMMEND** – advise the appropriate actions to pursue in terms the recipient will understand.

Read [this article](#) for more about exam verbs.