



**CAREER CLUSTER**

Finance

**CAREER PATHWAY**

Accounting

**INSTRUCTIONAL AREA**

Professional Development

**ACCOUNTING APPLICATIONS SERIES EVENT**

**PARTICIPANT INSTRUCTIONS**

- The event will be presented to you through your reading of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, Performance Indicators and Event Situation. You will have up to 10 minutes to review this information and prepare your presentation. You may make notes to use during your presentation.
- You will have up to 10 minutes to make your presentation to the judge (you may have more than one judge).
- You will be evaluated on how well you demonstrate the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and meet the performance indicators of this event.
- Turn in all of your notes and event materials when you have completed the event.

**21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY SKILLS**

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- Critical Thinking – Reason effectively and use systems thinking.
- Problem Solving – Make judgments and decisions and solve problems.
- Communication – Communicate clearly.
- Creativity and Innovation – Show evidence of creativity.

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

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- Identify career opportunities in accounting.
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of accounting professionals.
- Discuss professional designations for accountants.
- Describe the services of professional organizations in accounting.
- Explain the need for ongoing education as a worker.

## EVENT SITUATION

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You are to assume the role of an accountant at JB FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING. A local middle school asked the company to participate in their annual career day and your supervisor (judge) has asked you to prepare a presentation about career opportunities in accounting.

Your supervisor (judge) wants you to represent JB FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING and present information about careers in accounting to 200 middle school students. There will be four other speakers in other fields also presenting career information, so your presentation must be kept under 10 minutes.

The presentation must be geared toward middle school students and focus on:

- Various career opportunities in accounting
- The roles and responsibilities of accounting professionals
- Career-advancement activities and resources within the industry

The students have already submitted a few general questions they want each speaker to provide answers regarding their industries. The student questions include:

- Are there any opportunities for travel in your industry?
- Does a career in your industry provide a stable income?
- Are technology skills needed in your industry?

You will give your presentation to your supervisor (judge) in a role-play to take place in the supervisor's (judge's) office in preparation for the career day. The supervisor (judge) will begin the role-play by greeting you and asking to hear your presentation. After you have given the presentation and have answered the supervisor's (judge's) questions, the supervisor (judge) will conclude the role-play by thanking you for your work.

## JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS

### DIRECTIONS, PROCEDURES AND JUDGE ROLE

In preparation for this event, you should review the following information with your event manager and other judges:

1. Participant Instructions, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Performance Indicators
2. Event Situation
3. Judge Role-Play Characterization  
Allow the participants to present their ideas without interruption, unless you are asked to respond. Participants may conduct a slightly different type of meeting and/or discussion with you each time; however, it is important that the information you provide and the questions you ask be uniform for every participant.
4. Judge Evaluation Instructions and Judge Evaluation Form  
Please use a critical and consistent eye in rating each participant.

### JUDGE ROLE-PLAY CHARACTERIZATION

You are to assume the role of an accounting supervisor at JB FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING. A local middle school asked the company to participate in their annual career day and you have asked an accountant (participant) to prepare a presentation about career opportunities in accounting.

You want a staff accountant (participant) to represent JB FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING and present information about careers in accounting to 200 middle school students. There will be four other speakers in other fields also presenting career information, so the presentation must be kept under 10 minutes.

The presentation must be geared toward middle school students and focus on:

- Various career opportunities in accounting
- The roles and responsibilities of accounting professionals
- Career-advancement activities and resources within the industry

The students have already submitted a few general questions they want each speaker to provide answers regarding their industries. The student questions include:

- Are there any opportunities for travel in your industry?
- Does a career in your industry provide a stable income?
- Are technology skills needed in your industry?

The participant will present information to you in a role-play to take place in your office. You will begin the role-play by greeting the participant and asking to hear the presentation.

During the course of the role-play, you are to ask the following questions of each participant:

1. Which career opportunity do you think the students will find most exciting?
2. What advice can you give them for high school that will help them with a future career in accounting?

Once the accountant (participant) has presented information and has answered your questions, you will conclude the role-play by thanking the accountant (participant) for the work.

You are not to make any comments after the event is over except to thank the participant.

## **SOLUTION**

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**Solutions will vary.**

### **1. Forensic Accountant**

- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Forensic accountants specialize in investigating financial crimes such as embezzlement, fraud, and money laundering. They analyze financial records and transactions to uncover irregularities and provide expert testimony in legal cases.
- **Technology Skills:** High. Forensic accountants use advanced software tools for data analysis, auditing, and detecting suspicious activity.
- **Travel:** Yes. Forensic accountants may need to travel to gather evidence or testify in court.
- **Education and Certification:** A bachelor's degree in accounting or finance is essential, along with a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation.
- **Stability:** Forensic accounting offers stable income and demand; especially as financial regulations tighten and the need for fraud detection grows.

### **2. Management Accountant**

- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Management accountants help businesses make strategic decisions by analyzing financial data, preparing budgets, and evaluating the financial implications of business projects. They play a crucial role in guiding company management.
- **Technology Skills:** Moderate. Management accountants use financial modeling software and tools like Excel but may not require as many specialized tools as forensic accountants.
- **Travel:** Limited. Most work is done in-house or remotely, though some travel may be needed for large corporations with multiple locations.
- **Education and Certification:** A bachelor's degree in accounting is standard, with a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) credential enhancing career prospects.
- **Stability:** This role provides stable and potentially lucrative income, with opportunities for advancement into executive roles like Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

### **3. Tax Advisor**

- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Tax advisors help individuals and businesses optimize their tax positions, ensuring compliance with tax laws while minimizing liability. They prepare tax returns, plan tax strategies, and offer advice on tax-related decisions.
- **Technology Skills:** Moderate. Tax advisors use specialized tax preparation software and must stay updated on the latest tax laws and regulations.
- **Travel:** Minimal. Most work is office-based or remote, with occasional travel for client meetings.
- **Education and Certification:** A bachelor's degree in accounting or finance is typical, along with CPA certification. Enrolled Agent (EA) status is also beneficial.
- **Stability:** Tax advisory is a stable field, as tax compliance is a constant need. There is also high demand during tax season, offering potential for increased income.

### **Professional Designations and Organizations**

For each of these careers, obtaining professional designations like CPA, CMA, CFE, or EA can significantly boost career prospects and income potential. Professional organizations, such as the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) or the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), provide valuable resources, networking opportunities, and continuing education to support accountants throughout their careers.

## EVALUATION INSTRUCTIONS

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The participants are to be evaluated on their ability to perform the specific performance indicators stated on the cover sheet of this event and restated on the Judge's Evaluation Form. Although you may see other performance indicators demonstrated by the participants, those listed in the Performance Indicators section are the critical ones you are measuring for this particular event.

### Evaluation Form Interpretation

The evaluation levels listed below and the evaluation rating procedures should be discussed thoroughly with your event director and the other judges to ensure complete and common understanding for judging consistency.

<b>Level of Evaluation</b>	<b>Interpretation Level</b>
Exceeds Expectations	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator in an extremely professional manner; greatly exceeds business standards; would rank in the top 10% of business personnel performing this performance indicator.
Meets Expectations	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator in an acceptable and effective manner; meets at least minimal business standards; there would be no need for additional formalized training at this time; would rank in the 70-89 <sup>th</sup> percentile of business personnel performing this performance indicator.
Below Expectations	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator with limited effectiveness; performance generally fell below minimal business standards; additional training would be required to improve knowledge, attitude and/or skills; would rank in the 50-69 <sup>th</sup> percentile of business personnel performing this performance indicator.
Little/No Value	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator with little or no effectiveness; a great deal of formal training would be needed immediately; perhaps this person should seek other employment; would rank in the 0-49 <sup>th</sup> percentile of business personnel performing this performance indicator.



**ACCOUNTING APPLICATIONS SERIES  
2025**

**JUDGE'S EVALUATION FORM**  
DISTRICT EVENT 2

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONAL AREA:**  
Professional Development

ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the participant:		Little/No Value	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Judged Score
<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>						
1.	Identify career opportunities in accounting?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
2.	Explain the roles and responsibilities of accounting professionals?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
3.	Discuss professional designations for accountants?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
4.	Describe the services of professional organizations in accounting?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
5.	Explain the need for ongoing education as a worker?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY SKILLS</b>						
6.	Reason effectively and use systems thinking?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
7.	Make judgments and decisions, and solve problems?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
8.	Communicate clearly?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
9.	Show evidence of creativity?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
10.	Overall impression and responses to the judge's questions	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>						