

 CILEX



A8 – Business and Employment Law

Advanced Stage

2026-2027

A8: Business and Employment Law

The overall aim of this module is to give you, the trainee, the essential knowledge and understanding of common business structures, including how they are formed and operate within relevant legal frameworks. It will also ensure awareness of associated internal procedures, liability issues for owners and managers and how such businesses may come to an end through insolvency. The module will additionally provide an outline of issues relating to employer/employee relationships, including providing an introduction to key employment rights, and taxation, including of profits and capital gains arising in the business (building on the knowledge of business accounts from the Advanced Stage Skills module).

The module covers:

1. The types of business structure
2. Starting a business; formation of the different types of business structure
3. Running and growing a business
4. Company procedures
5. Dissolution, insolvency and winding up
6. Taxation
7. Introduction to Employment Law

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

1. Know how to identify and advise upon the most appropriate form of business structure for a client, based on their instructions
2. Know how to explain to a client how to set up their chosen form of business structure and identify the advantages and disadvantages of each business medium
3. Understand the liability arising from the main forms of business ownership and how to bring a business entity to an end
4. Know how to draft the key documents relating to company procedures
5. Understand in outline the key taxes that will be encountered when running a business and common employment issues that will arise
6. Identify situations that potentially give rise to conflicts of interest, issues of professional ethics and obligations or other issues under the applicable Codes of Conduct

Linked online assessment: A8

TQT: 180 hours

Candidates will not be penalised for referring to previous versions of the law, thresholds, or rates if changes have occurred within the six months preceding the examination.

Module Resources

In addition to the course book, there is a reading list that accompanies the module along with an updates document, both located in the 'Study Guide and Content Updates (latest edition)' document in the VitalSource bookshelf, Training Provider hub and in myCILEX.

All CPQ candidates must read the relevant CILEx Regulation Education Standards Handbook.

Details of updates included in 2026 –2027 Module Specification

- Revision to Module Resources
- 3c) – Addition of '...including identity verification'
- 4b) – Addition of '...including short notice'
- 4c) – Addition of '...including changes under ECCTA 2023'
- 7a) – Addition of '...the gig economy'
- 7a) – Removal of 'Limited rights to subcontract' and 'No obligation to accept hours when offered but once accepted must attend work'
- 7a) – Addition of 'Common law and main tests'
- 7a) – Removal of 'Mutuality of obligations' and 'Degree of control and supervision' and 'Personal service'
- 7b) – Addition of 'common terms and managing changes to terms and conditions'
- 7c) – Removal of '(s.94 ERA 1996)'
- 7d) – Removal of 's.95 ERA 1996' and 's.94'
- 7d) – Addition of 'Fixed term contracts'
- 7d) – Addition of 'Background and eligibility' and 'Reasonableness and ACAS Code of Practice' and 'Constructive dismissal' and 'Procedure, time limits and remedies'
- 7d) – Addition of 'Consultation'
- Addition of '7f) Settlement of employment disputes and compromise agreements'

1. The types of business structure	Knowledge and understanding of the core characteristics of main types of business structure are essential to the work of a trainee in the business department. Therefore, you will need to know the distinguishing features of the following: a) Business structures • Sole traders • Partnerships • Limited liability partnerships (LLPs) • Companies limited by shares (both private and public) • Companies limited by guarantee b) The legislation relevant to these structures, including: • The Companies Act 2006 (CA 2006) • The Partnership Act 1890 (PA 1890) • The Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000 (LLPA 2000) • The Insolvency Act 1986 (IA 1986) • The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023
2. Starting a business; Formation of the different types of business structure	The different types of business structure are formed in different ways. You must be aware of the varying formalities in order to advise the client adequately and be able to carry out the necessary formalities, including drafting appropriate documents. Therefore, you will need to know the following: a) Sole trader • No prescribed formation procedure • Regulation of choice of business name under s1192 CA 2006 b) Partnerships • No prescribed formation procedure • Definition of a partnership under ss1 to 2 PA 1890 • Relevant case law • Partnership agreements: no requirement but advisable • Key content of a partnership agreement c) Limited liability partnerships • Governed by the LLPA 2000 • Legal requirements of an LLPA • Registration process under the LLPA: prescribed documentation and fee • Agreements: no requirement but advisable • Regulation of choice of business name under CA 2006

	d) Companies limited by shares • Incorporation governed by the CA 2006 • Registration process with Companies House, including relevant documentation and fee • Required company constitution ○ Memorandum and articles of association ○ Model articles • Identity verification under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 • Use of 'off the shelf' companies • Regulation of choice of company and business name under CA 2006 • Public companies: minimum authorised capital requirement; s763 CA 2006 • Brief comparison with other forms of company e) Promoters and pre-incorporation contracts • Nature of promoter • s51 CA 2006 • Potential personal liability • Protection from liability
3. Running and growing a business	A trainee in the business department must understand and be able to advise on the nature of ownership and consequent liability issues, and how the businesses may be managed and run. You must be able to distinguish between unlimited and limited liability, and outline the possible management structures, day to day running issues and associated regulation. Therefore, you will need to know the following: a) Sole trader • Business owner • Self-finances: cash or a loan; personal guarantees • Potential personal liability for business debts • Freedom to manage • Business transfer procedure b) Partnerships • Each partner owns part of the business • Jointly and severally liable • Partners are agents (s5 PA 1890); differences between actual (express or implied) and apparent authority • Fiduciary duties in outline • Freedom to manage • Partnership agreements: govern management structure; limits on authority to incur debts/liabilities • PA 1890 implies in absence of express agreement

- Liability of partnership for acts of individual partner: ss6 to 8, 14 and 17 PA 1890
- Partnership property: ss20 and 21 PA 1890
- Exit routes under PA 1890 in absence of express agreement
- Consequences of breach of partnership agreement
- Expulsion of a partner

c) Companies limited by shares

- Separate legal personality
- The entity can sue and be sued and enter into contracts
 - Entering into contracts and execution of documents: ss43 and 44 CA 2006
- Owners are shareholders
- Shareholders; limited liability
- Meaning and significance of persons of significant control, including identity verification (PSCs)
- Corporate veil; separation between the shareholders and the company; Salomon v Salomon [1897]
- Lifting of corporate veil
 - Overview of elements of 'test'
- Nature and purpose of the company's constitution:
 - s33 CA 2006
- Management of company: directors; CA 2006; company constitution
- Limits on capacity and directors' authority; ss39 and 40 CA 2006
- Transfers
 - Procedure for transfer of shares
 - Stock transfer forms
 - Register of members
 - Restrictions in articles

d) Company directors and secretary

- Appointment; s154 CA 2006 and Model Article 17; members' or directors' resolution - including minimum number
- Identity verification
- De facto and shadow directors
- Executive, non-executive and alternate directors
- Duties under ss170 to 177 CA 2006
- Regulation by the articles of association; Model Articles for Private Companies Limited by Shares
- Removal and CDDA
- Service contracts
- Company secretary: required for a public company; not required for private companies

	e) Day to day running of the business • Hiring and firing ○ Sole trader ○ Partnerships ○ Companies • Data control - broad principles
4. Company procedures	A company is regulated by the CA 2006, which lays down a number of requirements for company decision-making and proceedings. There are also numerous disclosure requirements. You must be able to advise clients appropriately, including completing relevant forms, drafting generic text in documents and commenting critically on documents including board minutes. Therefore, you will need to know the following: a) Directors' proceedings • Governed by the articles of association • Form - board meetings and other forms including written directors' resolutions • Notice • Quorum and voting ○ Remote voting procedures • Resolutions • Declarations of interest s177 CA 2006 • Conflict of interest and MA 14 b) Shareholder proceedings • CA 2006 provisions • General meetings • Annual general meeting requirements • Notice, including short notice • Quorum • Ordinary and special resolutions • Written resolutions • Voting • Proxies and poll votes • Examples: change of company name; change of articles of association c) Company administration and disclosure requirements • Filing requirements such as resolutions, and forms, following: ○ Change of registered office ○ Change of name ○ Appointment and departure of director ○ Change of articles • Accounts • Penalties for non-compliance • Company searches

	• Statutory records, including changes under ECCTA 2023 ○ Register of members ○ Register of directors ○ PSC register
5. Dissolution, insolvency and winding up	Bringing a business entity to an end is largely procedural and is governed by the Insolvency Act 1986. You must be able to advise clients appropriately, including drafting relevant forms and documents. Therefore, you will need to know the following: a) Definition of insolvency • Statutory test for corporate insolvency: s123 IA 1986 • Initiation of winding up or bankruptcy proceedings • Statutory demands b) Personal bankruptcy • Outline of procedure • Implications for sole trader, partner, company director c) Dissolution of a partnership • Service of notice; automatic termination; PA 1890 provisions, ss32, 33, 35 and 44 • Partnership agreement d) Outlines of company winding up procedures • Members' voluntary winding up • Creditors' voluntary winding up • Compulsory winding up • Appointment of liquidator • Powers of liquidator • Winding up process • Order of priority and distribution of assets • Implications for company directors

6. Taxation

A trainee in the business department must have an outline understanding of the key taxation issues that may encountered by their clients in the context of running a business. Therefore, you will need to know the following:

- a) Income tax
 - What is income tax
 - Rates and tax year
 - Allowances and reliefs
 - Taxable income: elements for simple calculation
 - Income tax on employment related shares
- b) Capital gains tax (CGT)
 - What is CGT
 - Rates and tax year
 - What is a disposal
 - When is CGT not payable?
 - Chargeable gain: elements for simple calculation
 - Outline nature of allowances and reliefs:
 - Annual allowance
 - Business asset disposal relief
 - Roll-over on replacement of qualifying business assets
 - Roll-over on incorporation
 - Holdover relief
- c) Corporation tax
 - What is corporation tax
 - Rates and financial year
 - Trading losses in outline
 - Research and development expenditure
 - Goodwill and intellectual property
 - Distributions
 - Taxable income and gains: elements for simple calculation
- d) Tax avoidance: General Anti-Abuse Rule
- e) VAT
 - What is VAT
 - Scope
 - Inputs and outputs
 - Registration
 - Rates
 - Exempt supplies
 - VAT records
 - VAT returns
 - Flat rate scheme
 - Making tax digital

	f) Stamp duty on transfer of shares: • Rate • Certificate where consideration £1,000 or less g) Employment related taxes/obligations • PAYE • National Insurance
7. Introduction to Employment Law	To provide effective advice to clients running a business, trainees must understand common employment law rights, the implications of engaging and dismissing employees, and should be able to identify potential issues with an employer's proposed course of action. You should also recognise when TUPE applies and its effect. Therefore, you will need to know the following: a) Employment status • Status determines the level of rights/protections in law • Self Employed Contractor ○ Supervision ○ Invoices ○ Tax status ○ Rights of substitution ○ Providing equipment • Zero hours contracts and the gig economy • Worker • Employee ○ Common law and main tests b) Recruitment • Sourcing employees and advertising • Discrimination in recruitment and selection ○ The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 • Pre employment checks ○ Obtaining references ○ DBS checks ○ Right to work checks ○ Qualification checks • Appointment ○ s.1 Employment Rights Act 1996 statement of terms ○ The contract of employment- common terms and managing changes to terms and conditions ○ Automatic enrolment pension obligations c) Employment Rights • Protection from discrimination • National Minimum Wage • Statutory sick pay

	○ Eligibility and when it's paid ○ Contractual sick pay • Working Time Regulations 1998 • Maternity/family friendly rights • Protection from unfair dismissal • Protection from unlawful deduction from wages (s.13 ERA 1996/breach of contract considerations) d) Terminating Employment • Definition of termination • Wrongful dismissal ○ Statutory notice and contractual notice • Fixed term contracts • Unfair dismissal ○ Background and eligibility ○ Potentially fair reasons for dismissal in outline ○ Reasonableness and ACAS Code of Practice ○ Constructive dismissal ○ Procedure, time limits and remedies • Automatic Unfair Dismissal and key AUD grounds: ○ Pregnancy/maternity and other family reasons ○ Asserting a statutory right ○ Whistleblowing ○ Trade union activity ○ Health and safety ○ TUPE (but requires qualifying period). • Redundancy ○ Definition ○ Statutory redundancy payment ○ Consultation ○ Offer of alternative employment ○ Possibility of claim for unfair dismissal • Discrimination on termination of employment ○ Situations where termination is because of, or linked to, a protected characteristic e) Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) • Outline of when TUPE applies to a business transfer and service provision change and its effect. • Outline of the rights associated with dismissal because of a transfer and distinction from a redundancy due to economic, technical or organisational reasons. f) Settlement of employment disputes and compromise agreements
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