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The Board of Studies, ICAI is pleased to present the study material for Foundation Course (Entry Level Exam to the Chartered Accountancy Course).

The study material conforms to the guidelines prescribed by the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). The purpose is to enable and empower the learners toward becoming well rounded, competent and globally competitive Accounting Professionals.

Like the curriculum and the study material, we have also aligned the assessments in accordance with the IAESB standards. Thus, our learners may expect a portfolio of subjective and objective examination pattern such that admission to the CA Course is an affirmation of your competence and confidence.

As part of the Foundation, the subject of the Business and Commercial Knowledge (BCK) has been introduced for the first time in the curriculum. For an accounting professional today it has become important to not only acquire knowledge in the core areas of the profession but also to remain well versed with the vast general knowledge related to business and commercial world. The knowledge so gained will be a step towards developing holistic professional acumen.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India envisaged this paper with an objective to familiarize the learners with the philosophies, lexicon and grammar of the world of business and commerce. It is also directed towards developing general aptitude to assimilate the key developments happening around them. The students of this subject are expected to have a keen eye on the day to day developments around them and accordingly they are expected to scan through various sources of knowledge and not limit themselves to this study material. The material is merely a stepping stone towards the business and commercial world.

The students are expected to read at least one financial newspaper and one business magazine on a regular basis. Be advised also to browse business channels to remain updated about the developments. Business is and must be socially instituted and environmentally sensitive. Its objective should not be pursuit of profits. Corporations are important constituents of the society and play a crucial role in its overall growth. Just as the corporations more so the accounting profession is entrusted with alignment of a community’s resources with the community’s interests.

The study material on Business and Commercial Knowledge traverses, albeit cursorily, the trajectories set forth here. Even after passing the Foundation level students need to continue their pursuit to acquire such knowledge of business and commercial world.

The study material has been designed keeping in mind the needs of home study and distance learning students. The main features of the study material are stated in Feature Box.
Study materials, teachers are generally believed to be best sources of knowledge. However, learning is a personal experience, a subjective journey. For professionals, learning does and must not cease with attainment of qualifications but a lifelong endeavour. The world of business and commerce is ever expanding and evolving. Its credibility paradoxically has been ever declining.

The professionals have to be much farther sighted to be able to foresee where the business can go wrong and astute enough to provide for checks and balances ex ante rather than ex post facto. Thus, be advised to maintain a lifelong journal entitled ‘My Journal of BCK perspectives.’

Happy Reading and Best Wishes!
Objective:
To develop an understanding of common business and commercial concepts and to keep abreast with developments in the business and commercial world.

Contents:

1. Business and Commercial Knowledge – An Introduction

2. Business Environment

3. Business Organizations
   Overview of selected Indian and Global Companies.

   Policies creating conducive business environment such as Liberalization, Privatization, Foreign Direct Investment.

5. Organizations Facilitating Business
   (i) Indian Regulatory Bodies - RBI, SEBI, CCI, IRDAI
   (ii) Indian Development Banks- NABARD

6. Common Business Terminologies
   (i) Finance, Stock & Commodity Markets Terminology.
   (ii) Marketing Terminology.
   (iii) Banking Terminology.
   (iv) Other Business Terminology.

Note: Students are expected to read at least one financial newspaper and one business magazine on a regular basis. They may also watch a business channel to remain updated about the developments related to commercial world.
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