Skillshort

Self-Study Preparation Pack

CA INTERMEDIATE

Paper 3: Taxation

Important Topics, Weightage & Past-Paper Frequency

For January 2027 attempt · Analysis of 4 recent ICAI attempts: Sept 2025, Jan 2026, May 2026, Sept 2026

Official ICAI weightage | 4-attempt frequency map | Priority list | Theory question bank

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This subject pack has 6 parts

1 Chapter-wise notes

2 Important topics & weightage

3 Past papers: trends & links

4 Mock tests + solutions

5 Chapter practice questions

6 Last-week plan & strategy

Prepared by Skillshort for self-study. Original explanations and questions; not an official ICAI/ICMAI/ICSI publication. Items marked VERIFY should be checked against the latest official material.

1. Official ICAI section-wise weightage

ICAI's section-wise weightage for the new scheme (issued **26 October 2023**, ±5% deviation allowed). Section A – Income-tax law **50 marks**; Section B – GST **50 marks**.

Section	Unit	Chapters	Weightage	Approx. marks (of 50)
A – Income tax	I	Basic concepts; residential status and scope of total income	**10%–20%**	5–10
	II	Heads of income – salaries, house property, PGBP, capital gains, other sources	**25%–30%**	12–15
	III	Clubbing; set-off and carry forward of losses; deductions from GTI	**15%–20%**	7–10
	IV	Advance tax, TDS, TCS; return of income and self-assessment	**15%–20%**	7–10
	V	Computation of total income and tax payable by an individual under the **alternative tax regimes**	**20%–25%**	10–12
B – GST	I	GST in India – introduction, constitutional aspects	**0–5%**	0–2
	II	Levy and collection (supply, composite/mixed, charge, RCM, exemptions, composition); classification, **place of supply**, time and value of supply, **ITC**; computation of GST liability	**50%–80%**	25–40
	III	Registration; tax invoice, credit/debit notes, e-way bill; accounts and records; payment of tax; returns	**20%–45%**	10–22

Skill-wise weightage (ICAI): Income tax – Comprehension & knowledge **5%–20%**, Application **80%–95%**; GST – Comprehension & knowledge **15%–45%**, Application **55%–85%**. Income tax is a **numerical** subject; GST is about **half numerical, half provisions**.

> NOTE **How the weightage shows up in the paper**
>
> Each section = **15 MCQ marks** (case scenarios + independent MCQs) + **35 descriptive marks**. Section A: **Q1 (15 marks, compulsory)** is a full computation under **both regimes**; any 2 of Q2–Q4 (10 marks each, usually 6 + 4). Section B: **Q5 (15 marks, compulsory)** – a GST liability computation (10) + value/ITC problem (5); any 2 of Q6–Q8 (5 + 5). Q8 is usually **theory** (registration, returns, invoices, constitutional aspects).

2. Past-paper frequency map (Skillshort analysis)

Built from ICAI's suggested answers for Sept 2025, Jan 2026, May 2026 and Sept 2026. M = MCQ, D = descriptive.

Topic	Sep 25	Jan 26	May 26	Sep 26	Hits	Priority
Comprehensive computation – PGBP/salary + both regimes (Q1)	D	D	D	D	4/4	HIGH
Residential status and scope (individual, HUF, crew, citizens abroad)	D	M + D	D	D	4/4	HIGH
Salaries – perquisites, allowances, retirement benefits	D	D	D	D	4/4	HIGH
House property (multiple houses, SOP, arrears, pre-construction interest)	M×2	D	–	D	3/4	HIGH
Capital gains – land/building indexation option, bonus/rights, slump sale	D	M	M×2	M×4	4/4	HIGH
Other sources – gifts s. 56(2)(x), SDV on agreement date, s. 69A	–	M + D	D	M	3/4	HIGH
Clubbing – spouse salary, minor, gifted property	M	–	M×2	M	3/4	HIGH
Set-off and carry forward (GTI under both regimes)	D	D	D	D	4/4	HIGH
Deductions – 80C/80CCD/80D/80GGC	M + D	–	M	–	2/4	MED
TDS/TCS – 194Q, 194C, 194A, 194N, 194-I, 194J, 206C(1G)	D	M + D	M + D	D	4/4	HIGH

Topic	Sep 25	Jan 26	May 26	Sep 26	Hits	Priority
Advance tax and interest 234A/B/C	D (OR)	D (OR)	M	D (OR)	4/4	HIGH
Return filing – due dates, revised/updated return, verification (s. 140), who must file	D (OR)	D	D	M + D	4/4	HIGH
Presumptive taxation (44AD/44ADA)	–	–	–	M	1/4	MED
GST liability computation (Q5 – value, RCM, exemptions, ITC, utilisation)	D	D	D	D	4/4	HIGH
Value of supply – s. 15 inclusions, discounts, subsidies	D	D	–	D	3/4	HIGH
ITC – blocked credits, 180-day rule, s. 18 on composition exit	D	M×3 + D	M + D	D	4/4	HIGH
Time of supply (RCM goods/services, GTA, associated enterprises)	–	D	M	M + D	3/4	HIGH
Place of supply (transport, immovable property, events)	D	–	M + D	M	3/4	HIGH
Supply – Schedules I/II/III, specified actionable claims, import of services	–	D	M + D	D	3/4	HIGH
Exemptions (accommodation ≤ ₹20,000 p.m., charitable, GTA, health care, education)	D	D	D	–	3/4	HIGH
Registration – aggregate turnover, compulsory registration, Rule 14A, Aadhaar, ECO sellers, effective date	D	D	M	D	4/4	HIGH
Composition levy	–	M×2	M×2	–	2/4	MED
Tax invoice, revised invoice, credit notes, e-invoicing	M	D	M + D	M	4/4	HIGH
E-way bill (validity, bill-to-ship-to, acceptance)	D	M	–	M + D	3/4	HIGH
Payment – interest (s. 50, Rule 88B), Rule 86B; TDS u/s 51	D	M + D	M + D	M	4/4	HIGH
Returns – GSTR-1 restrictions, annual return exemption, records retention	D	M	D	M + D	4/4	HIGH
Constitutional aspects / seamless credit	–	D	–	D	2/4	MED

TREND What the four papers tell us

- **Q1 is always a 15-mark computation under both regimes** with an advice line. Depreciation (additional depreciation, half-rate), s. 43B, s. 40A(3) and capital gains on depreciable assets decide the marks.
- **Set-off and carry forward (Q4(a))** appears every attempt – the trap is the **default regime** (no SOP interest, no HP inter-head set-off).
- **TDS/TCS** is asked every attempt as a 4-mark multi-case question – learn the **Finance Act 2025 thresholds** (194A ₹50,000/₹1 lakh; 194-I ₹50,000 p.m.; 194J ₹50,000; 194T for partners).
- In GST, **Q5 always combines value + RCM + exemptions + blocked credits + utilisation** – practise one full computation every day.
- Theory in GST rotates around **registration, returns, invoices/credit notes, e-way bill, records** – reproduce the provision with section/rule numbers.
- **Circulars of 2025** (post-sale discounts – Circular 251/08/2025) and **new rules** (Rule 14A simplified registration) were tested within one attempt of issue – read the **statutory update** for Jan 2027.

3. Priority list for January 2027

Priority	Topics	Why
A – must master	Default vs optional regime computation; PGBP (depreciation, 40(a), 40A, 43B, 44AD); salaries; capital gains; set-off; TDS/TCS; return filing; GST value of supply; ITC and blocked credits; RCM; exemptions; registration; time of supply	4/4 attempts; together ≈ 75% of marks
B – high yield	Residential status; HP; IFOS/gifts; clubbing; advance tax and interest; place of supply; composition; e-way bill; invoices and credit notes; payment and interest	Asked in 3/4 attempts
C – do not skip	Deductions (80D, 80CCD, 80G, 80TTA/80TTB); agricultural income; s. 115BBE; GST constitutional aspects; classification; accounts and records; ECO provisions	MCQs and theory parts

4. Theory question bank (4–5 mark answers to prepare)

1. Persons not required to pay advance tax; interest u/s 234B and 234C.
2. Due dates for filing return, belated, revised and updated returns; conditions where an updated return cannot be filed.
3. Who verifies the return (s. 140) for an individual, HUF, company, firm, LLP.
4. Persons required to file a return even if income is below the basic exemption limit (seventh proviso to s. 139(1)).
5. Conditions of s. 44AD/44ADA and the consequences of opting out.
6. GST: constitutional pillars (Articles 246A, 269A, 279A, 366(12A)); seamless flow of credit.
7. GST: Schedule I (supply without consideration) and Schedule III (neither goods nor services) with examples.
8. GST: persons liable for compulsory registration (s. 24); persons not liable (s. 23); Rule 14A simplified registration.
9. GST: situations requiring a credit note and its time limit; revised tax invoice; e-invoicing applicability and exempt entities.
10. GST: e-way bill – when required, validity, bill-to-ship-to, cases where not required.
11. GST: Rule 86B restriction and its exceptions; order of utilisation of ITC (s. 49, 49A, 49B).
12. GST: restrictions on filing GSTR-1; annual return exemption (s. 44); period of retention of records (s. 36).