

THE FINANCIAL CONTROL AUDIT

A SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR FOUNDERS WHO WANT REAL OVERSIGHT



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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE FINANCIAL CONTROL AUDIT

This assessment is structured in five parts — each examining a core pillar of financial control inside your business.

Move through each section carefully.

Answer honestly.

Avoid assumptions.

This is not about whether your books are “done.” It’s about whether your financial infrastructure is strong enough to support scale.

At the end, your score will reflect your current level of control.

Clarity is the first step toward stability.

Let’s begin.



PART 1

FINANCIAL REPORTING INTEGRITY

ARE YOUR NUMBERS TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH TO LEAD FROM?

Y N

YES = 1 POINT | NO = 0 POINTS

My financial reports match my bank balances — consistently.

My books are reconciled monthly without delay

I can explain every major expense category

I trust my P&L enough to make hiring decisions from it.

My accountant does not “clean up” my books at year end.

Score: ___ / 5



PART 2

FINANCIAL VISIBILITY & SPEED

HOW QUICKLY CAN YOU ACCESS TRUTH?

Y N

I can provide a current P&L within 48 hours.

I can provide a balance sheet that I understand.

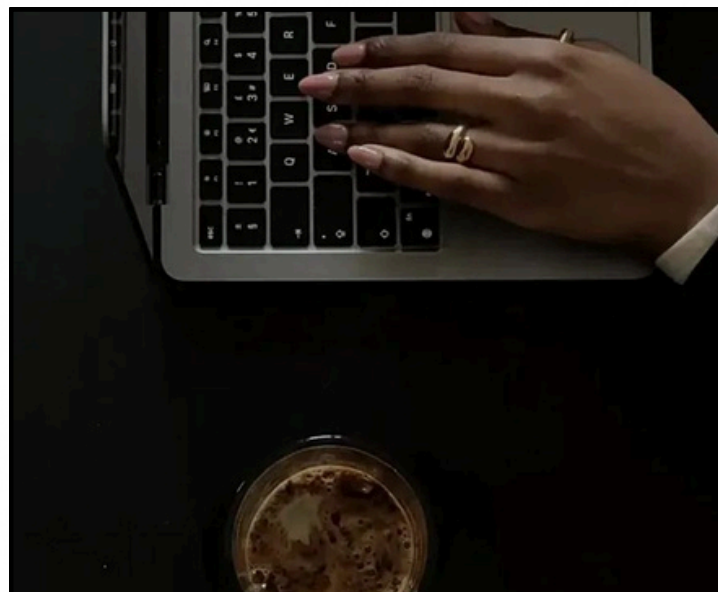
I know my current cash position (today).

I know my monthly burn rate.

I know my profit margin by service/product.

Score: ___ / 5

Running Score: ___ / 10



PART 3

STRATEGIC TAX POSITIONING

ARE YOU PLANNING — OR REACTING?

Y

N

I meet with a tax strategist before year-end.

I know what I will owe before filing.

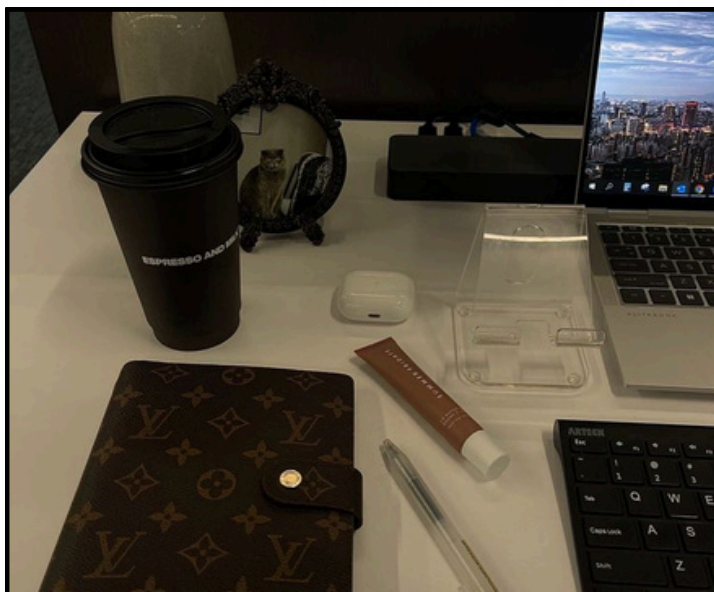
I understand how to legally minimize tax exposure.

My entity structure is intentional — not accidental.

My CPA does more than file paperwork.

Score: ___ / 5

Running Score: ___ / 15



PART 4

CASH FLOW OWNERSHIP & FORECASTING

IS YOUR GROWTH MODELED — OR GUESSED?

Y N

We operate with a 3–6 month forecast.

I know upcoming large cash obligations in advance.

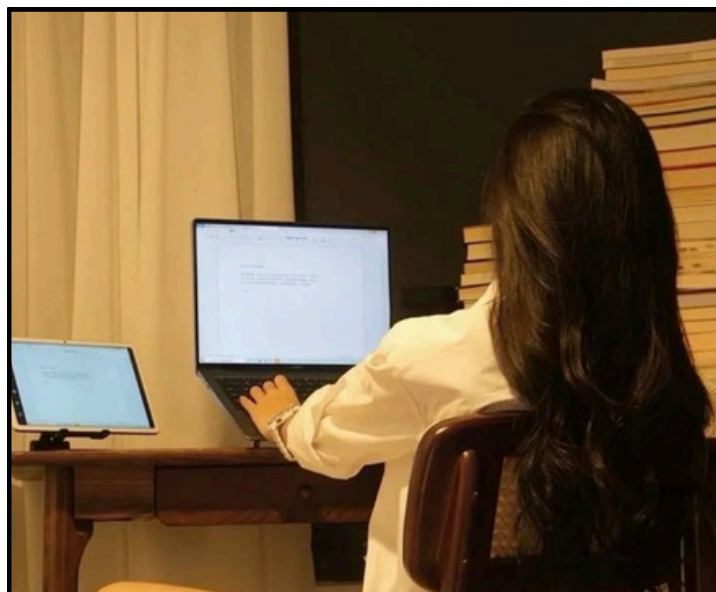
We model hiring decisions before making them.

Revenue projections are reviewed monthly.

Someone is accountable for financial oversight.

Score: ___ / 5

Running Score: ___ / 20



PART 5

OPERATIONAL RISK & CONTROL SYSTEMS

WHAT BREAKS IF ONE PERSON LEAVES?

Y N

Documentation is organized and centralized.

There are written SOPs for financial processes.

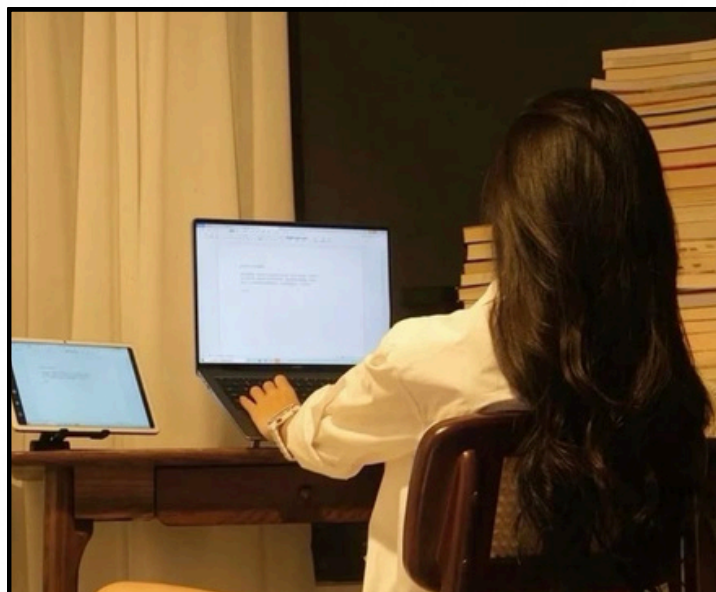
Multiple people understand the systems.

Access to accounts is controlled and secure.

Oversight exists beyond data entry.

Score: ___ / 5

Running Score: ___ / 25



SCORING PAGE

22–25 POINTS

Your financial foundation is structured and controlled.

Maintain strategic oversight.

16–21 POINTS

You have bookkeeping.

You likely lack executive-level financial control.

0–15 POINTS

Your business is operating without true financial infrastructure.

This creates risk – whether you see it yet or not.

- If you scored below 22, your business does not have full financial control.
- If you scored below 16, oversight is no longer optional.

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WHAT YOUR SCORE REVEALS

This audit was designed to test one thing: Does your financial infrastructure support your growth?

Many businesses have bookkeeping. Far fewer have **true financial control**.

Control means:

- Reliable reporting
- Strategic tax planning
- Cash flow visibility
- Clear financial ownership
- Systems that don't break under pressure

If this audit exposed gaps, that isn't failure. **It's clarity.**

WHERE ALIGN COMES IN

Align Accounting provides financial oversight for growing businesses that need more than compliance.

We help founders build:

- Reliable financial reporting
- Strategic tax coordination
- Cash flow forecasting
- Internal financial controls
- Executive-level visibility

We don't just record numbers. **We protect your business.**

THE NEXT STEP

If you're ready for real financial control, we're here.

Schedule a Financial Control Consultation. Serious businesses require serious oversight.

— Align Accounting

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