



10 questions to ask an accountant

There are so many different types and styles of accountant so how do you make a choice which meets your's and your business' needs? After all, they could be your most important business adviser. What factors might you want to take into account when deciding who is best to support and help you at this stage of your business?

Here are 10 questions with the answers I would give:

1. **Is your initial consultation free of Charge?** YES!
2. **How long is your initial consultation and what should I expect from it?** As long as you want and you should expect business and tax advice to implement straightaway
3. **Will you agree all fees up front (in writing) and on a fixed fee basis?** YES!
4. **Do you get FREE telephone/email support?** YES!
5. **Can I pay my bills in set monthly amounts?** YES!
6. **Will you keep me informed of monies paid on account and refund any unused portion if we part company?** YES!
7. **How much do you charge for my personal tax return?** £165+ VAT upwards depending on the complexity but always agreed in advance.
8. **Do you help me to mitigate me tax liability as a standard part of the service?** YES!
9. **How can you help me to grow and develop my business through your expertise or contacts?** I'll teach you how to network effectively, offer to take you networking and introduce you to contacts and clients which could benefit your business (oh and I won't take any commission for those introductions!)
10. **How else can you help me?** We run monthly training events which are free to clients and social evenings. We also offer an accounts review meeting which focusses on helping you identify what you want from your business for the next 12 months and how we can help you get there!

These are just a few of the questions you may have when looking for an accountant. I hope it's helpful. Feel free to add your own thoughts and questions prior to meeting any accountant. I genuinely want you to find and work with the accountant who is best suited to helping you with your business. It might not be us and that's perfectly ok. I'd be delighted to chat over the criteria which you feel are important to you to help you make an informed choice, irrespective of who you choose to support you. That's why we call it "Caring Accounting".



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