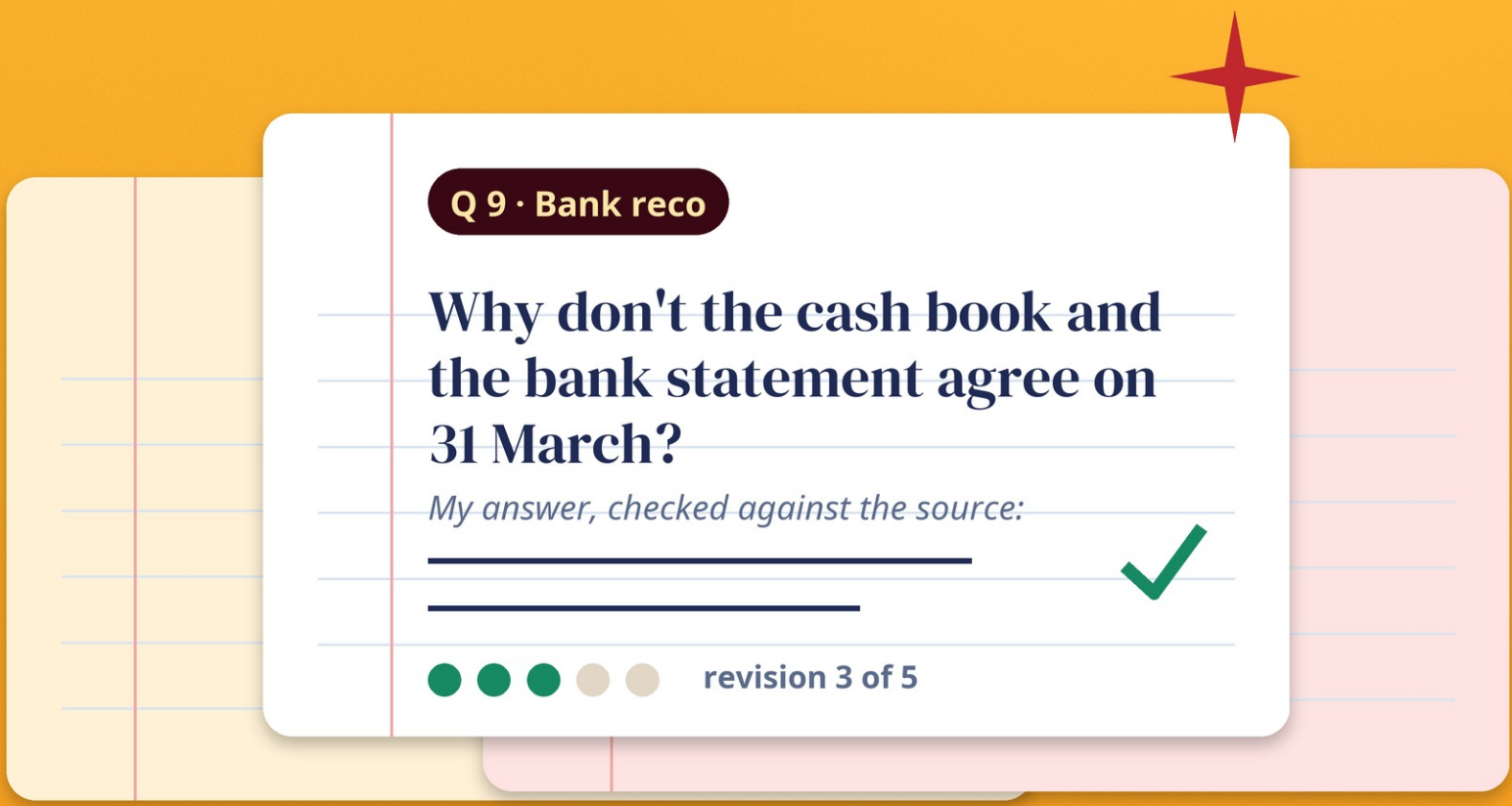
THE 'AI FOR' SERIES

CA-LED · AI-ASSISTED

FOR CA STUDENTS AND ARTICLED ASSISTANTS

AI for CA Students

Learn faster and shine in articleship with Claude Code, without cutting corners



CHANDAN GUPTA

90 READY PROMPTS

FOR CA STUDENTS IN INDIA

AI for CA Students

Use Claude Code to study smarter for CA Foundation, Inter and Final, and shine in articleship, without cutting corners

Free sample: the introduction and Chapter 1

CHANDAN GUPTA, CA, CIA

First edition, November 2026

AI for CA Students: Use Claude Code to study smarter for CA Foundation, Inter and Final, and shine in articleship, without cutting corners

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First edition, November 2026.

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Not professional or exam advice. This book is for education. Laws, rates, thresholds, due dates, standards, syllabi and exam rules change and are mentioned here only to illustrate how to use the tool. Always check the current law, the current study material and your institute's announcements, and follow your principal's instructions in articleship. The author accepts no liability for decisions made using this book.

All students, firms, clients, people and figures in the examples are made up. Any resemblance to real entities is coincidental.

How this book was made. The author produced it with the same AI-assisted workflow it teaches, and reviewed, edited and checked every chapter. Worked examples in Parts 1 to 3 are illustrative; the walkthroughs in Part 4 were run on the practice files supplied with the book, as each chapter's testing note describes.

Updates and corrections. If you find an error or something that no longer works, please tell the author (the contact is on the About the author page). Corrections go into the next update. Buyers of the PDF can download the latest version from the store page at no charge.

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BEFORE YOU START

How to Use This Book

AI can make you a faster learner and a sharper articled assistant, or it can quietly do your thinking for you. This book is about getting the first without the second.

> SCENARIO · SNEHA · ARTICLESHIP PLUS FINAL · ONE MONTH IN
>
> Sneha Patidar, second-year articled assistant at S. Agrawal & Co., Indore, works 9 to 7 and studies for CA Final after that. A free chat app answers every question she types, instantly and neatly. A month later, the answers are on her phone and not in her head, and she can't tell which ones were wrong.

Who this book is for

You are a CA student at Foundation, Inter or Final level, or an articled assistant at any stage of articleship. (CMA and CS students will find most of Part 2 works the same way for them.) You are short of two things: hours and feedback. Coaching gives you lectures; it rarely gives you someone to check your working at 10 pm. Articleship gives you real work; it rarely gives you time to learn the tools properly.

An AI tool can fill some of that gap. It can mark your attempt, quiz you on your own notes, explain a standard a second way, rebuild your study plan after a bad week, and at the office, with your principal's permission, take the grind out of cleaning, matching and listing. It can also make you weaker, by handing you answers you never worked for. The difference is entirely in how you use it.

Why Claude Code, and not just a chat app

Most students meet AI as a chat window. You type, it answers. That is fine for a quick explanation, and a few things in this book work in the free Claude app too.

Claude Code is different. It is Anthropic's tool that runs on your own laptop and works with the files in a folder you choose: your notes, your error log, your study plan, a practice workbook. It

can read them, write new files next to them, and run small programs to do things a chat window can't, like building a revision sheet for every chapter of your notes in one go, or matching two Excel files row by row. For a student, that means your study system lives in files you own, not in a chat history you will never scroll back through.

	Free Claude app (chat)	Claude Code
Cost	Free plan available, with limits	Needs a paid Claude plan (see below)
Works with	What you paste or attach	Files in a folder on your laptop
Good for	Quick explanations, one-off quizzes, short checks	Revision sheets from all your notes, error logs, study plans, Excel and Tally work, scripts
Remembers	Only what is in that chat	A `CLAUDE.md` file of your rules, read every session

What it costs, honestly

Claude Code is not free. When this book was written, Anthropic's Free plan did not include Claude Code; the paid individual plans (Pro and above) did. Prices, plan names and what each includes change, and rupee prices differ from dollar ones, so this book does not quote them. Check the current plans page at claude.com/pricing before you pay, and pay monthly first rather than for a year.

Three honest suggestions if money is tight:

- Use the free Claude app first for the habits in Part 2. Most of the tutor-style prompts work there if you paste your own short notes instead of pointing at files.
- Move to a paid plan when you want what only Claude Code does: working across a whole folder of notes, keeping an error log file up to date, and the Excel and practice-file work in Parts 3 and 4.
- Some firms provide AI tools to their staff. If yours does, use the firm's account for firm work, on the firm's terms, and keep your own studies on your own.

How the book is organised

Part 1: Foundations
The tutor rule that keeps you honest, and a setup that fits a student's laptop.

Part 2: Learning
Study plans, revision from your own notes, checked practice, standards explained then tested, mock papers.

Part 3: Articleship
The client's data comes first. Then vouching, Excel and Tally, reconciliations, working papers, your toolkit.

Part 4: Try it yourself
Two walkthroughs on made-up practice files with planted traps and an answer key.

Read Chapters 1 and 2 first. After that, a student can go straight to Part 2 and an articled assistant to Part 3, but read Chapter 8 before you touch anything from a client.

Three promises to make before you start

1 **I attempt first**
I ask AI to check, hint or quiz, not to solve. The exam is mine, written alone, by hand.

2 **I check at the source**
Any section, rate, standard or figure it gives me is a lead I verify in my own study material or the bare Act.

3 **The client's data is not mine**
Nothing from a client goes into any AI tool without my principal's permission, and then only the way Chapter 8 shows.

How to read the prompts

Every prompt in a shaded box is meant to be typed or pasted as it is, then adapted. Words in square brackets, like [paste your answer], are for you to fill in. File names such as `my_notes.docx` are examples; use your own. Appendix A collects every prompt in one place, and the free bonus pack has them as a text file you can copy from.

The examples use made-up students, a made-up firm in Indore and made-up clients. The questions are written for this book; none is taken from ICAI's study material or papers. Worked examples show what Claude Code typically does; your screen will differ, because it does not give the same reply twice. The two walkthroughs in Part 4 were actually run, and the chapter says how.

> **Things change.** Claude Code, its plans and its settings change often, and so do tax laws, standards and exam rules. Where this book says "check", it means it. The official sources are listed in Appendix C.

CHAPTER

1

A Tutor, Not an Answer Machine

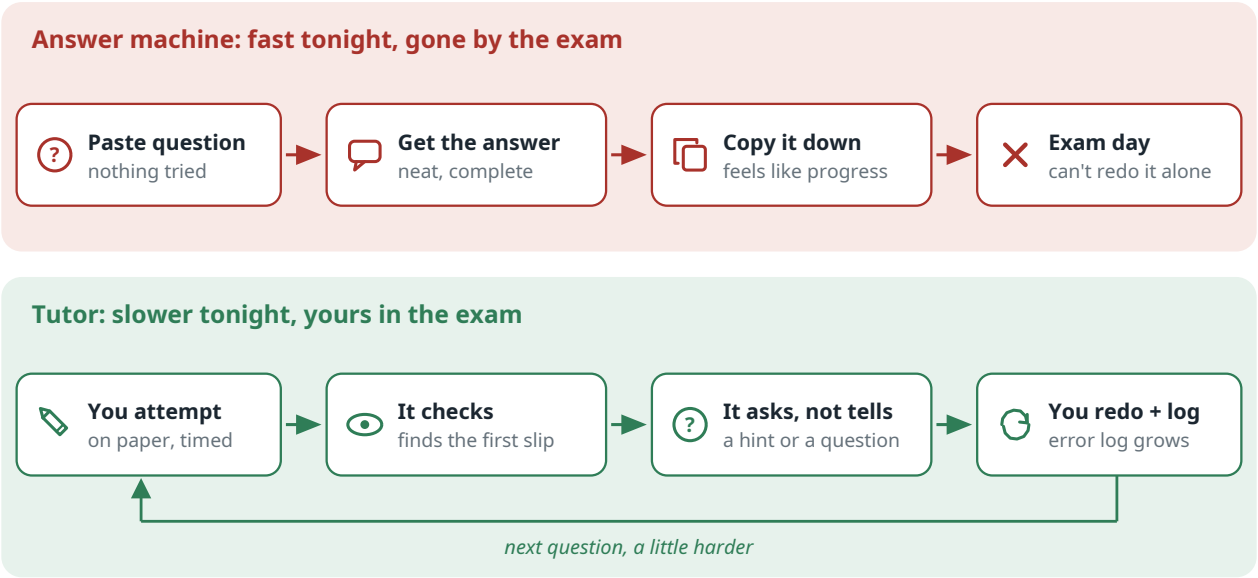
The single habit that decides whether AI makes you a better student or a weaker one, and the rules of honesty that go with it. Read this chapter even if you skip the rest.

> SCENARIO · ROHAN · INTER COSTING · THE ELEVENTH QUESTION
>
> Rohan Saxena, preparing for CA Inter, pastes ten costing questions into a free chat app one evening and copies out ten clean solutions. Two days later he tries an eleventh, similar question on his own, with a timer. He gets stuck at the second step and doesn't know why.

Nothing went wrong with the AI. It did exactly what Rohan asked: it answered. The problem is that an answer you read is not a skill you have. In the exam hall there is no app, no hint and no second chance at the method. There is you, a pen and the clock.

This book uses AI the other way round. You do the thinking first. The AI checks it, points to where it broke, and asks you the question a good teacher would ask. That is slower on the night and much faster over a month, because you are training the one thing the exam tests.

Two ways to use the same tool



The same AI, used two ways. The difference is who does the first attempt.

The answer-machine loop feels productive because pages fill up. The tutor loop feels uncomfortable because you keep meeting your own mistakes. That discomfort is the learning. Research on study habits has long pointed the same way: testing yourself and working out answers sticks far better than rereading. You don't need AI for that; AI just makes it easier to do every day.

So the rule for every learning chapter of this book is short:

> ✓ **The rule. Attempt first. Then ask it to check, not to solve.** If you have not written anything yet, the only thing to ask for is a hint.

Where it helps, and where it doesn't

Checking your working

Finds the first wrong step in your solution and tells you what kind of mistake it is, without redoing the whole thing.

Asking you questions

Turns a chapter of your own notes into questions, then marks your answers and asks follow-ups.

Explaining differently

When the study material's explanation doesn't click, it tries a second angle, an example or an analogy.

Planning time
Builds a study plan from your real hours and changes it when a week goes badly.

Articleship grunt work
With your principal's permission, writes scripts that clean, match and list, so you spend time on judgement.

Not a source of law
It can quote a section or a standard wrongly, confidently. The bare Act, the standard and your study material decide.

Why its answers can be wrong

Claude, like every AI model of its kind, writes the most likely next words given what it has seen. Most of the time that produces something correct and well explained. Sometimes it produces something that sounds just as correct and isn't: a section number that doesn't exist, a rate from an older year, a journal entry with the right total and the wrong side.

For a student this matters in a particular way. You are learning the subject, so you are the person least able to spot a confident mistake. Three habits protect you:

- **Make it show working, not just results.** A wrong step in visible working is easy to catch. A wrong final figure on its own is not.
- **Check law and standards at the source.** Treat any section, rate, threshold or paragraph number it gives you as a lead to look up in your own study material or the bare Act, never as the answer.
- **Know which year your syllabus follows.** Tax law changes every Finance Act, and your attempt is examined on the provisions your institute specifies. AI does not know which ones apply to your attempt unless you tell it, and even then it may mix years.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE · ILLUSTRATIVE

Turning "solve this" into "check this"

Rohan has a costing question on reconciliation of cost and financial profit, made up by his coaching teacher. He has written a full attempt by hand and photographed it, and his profit figure doesn't match the teacher's answer. He saves the question and his attempt as `recon_q.txt` and `my_attempt.jpg` in his study folder.

TYPE THIS

Read recon_q.txt (the question) and my_attempt.jpg (my handwritten attempt).

Do NOT solve the question and do NOT tell me the correct final figure.

1. Go through my attempt line by line and tell me the FIRST line where I went wrong.

2. Say what kind of mistake it is (concept, arithmetic, copying a figure, wrong sign, format).

3. Ask me one question that would help me see it myself.

Stop there. I will redo it and show you again.

What Claude Code does

1 **Reads both files**
It reads the question text and the photo of the attempt. Handwriting that it can't read, it says so and asks rather than guessing.

2 **Walks your working**
It follows your figures line by line against the question.

3 **Stops at the first slip**
For example: "Line 4: you added the income that appears only in the financial accounts. Is it in the cost accounts at all?"

4 **Waits**
It does not give the final profit. When you post your redo, it checks again.

✓ BEFORE YOU RELY ON IT, CHECK

- [ ] The "first wrong line" really is wrong when you look again. If you disagree, say why; it can be mistaken too.
- [ ] Your redo reaches the teacher's figure by your own working.
- [ ] You add the mistake to your error log (Chapter 5) in one line, in your own words.

WORKED EXAMPLE · ILLUSTRATIVE

Getting a hint when you are truly stuck

Sneha, preparing for CA Final, has read a made-up question on deferred tax twice and has no idea how to start. She has written nothing yet. The temptation is to ask for the solution. Instead she asks for the smallest push that gets her moving.

TYPE THIS

I am stuck on the question in dt_question.txt and have not started.

Do not solve it. Give me hints one at a time, smallest first:

Hint 1: which concept or standard this question is really testing (no figures).

Wait for me to say "next" before each further hint.

Hint 2: what I should list or compute first.

Hint 3: the format of the working I should draw up.

If I ask for the full solution, remind me that I asked you not to, and give me Hint 3 instead.

What Claude Code does

1. **Gives the smallest hint**
   It names the idea being tested, for example temporary differences, without any numbers.

2. **Waits for you**
   It stops until you type “next”, so you can try after each hint.

3. **Holds the line**
   If you ask for the answer at 11 pm, it reminds you of your own rule, because you wrote that rule into the prompt.

✓ **BEFORE YOU RELY ON IT, CHECK**

- [ ] You wrote a full attempt after the hints, on paper.
- [ ] You then used the “check this” prompt above on that attempt.

Note. Instructions in a prompt guide it; they don’t lock it. If you push hard enough it may give in. The rule is really for you.

Honesty rules for the whole book

These are not extra. They are the reason a principal, a teacher or an examiner can trust what you do with AI.

1. **The exam is yours**
   You write every exam alone, by hand, under your institute’s rules. Nothing in this book is for use in or near an exam. Its job is the months before.

2. **Graded work is yours**
   Tests, assignments and any submission your institute or coaching marks as your own work must be your own. Use AI to study for them, not to produce them. When unsure, ask the person setting it.

3. **The study material is not yours to share**
   ICAI’s study material, RTPs, MTPs and past papers are copyrighted. Work from your own copy. Don’t upload whole modules, and never share or sell AI-made summaries of them. Your own notes are yours.

4. **The client’s data is not yours**
   In articleship, nothing from a client goes into any AI tool without your principal’s permission. Part 3 starts with this.

5. **The answer is checked**
   Anything you rely on, from a section number to a balance, is checked at the source before you use it.

Rules change. This book does not state what ICAI does or does not permit about AI tools, because rules and announcements change. For exams, read the current instructions to candidates. For articleship, ask your principal and check the current ICAI guidance.

More prompts to try

SET TUTOR MODE FOR A SESSION

For the rest of this conversation, act as my tutor for CA Inter. Never give a final answer before I have attempted. When I share an attempt, find the first mistake, name the type, and ask me one question. Keep replies under 120 words.

FIND OUT IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND

I think I understand the difference between a provision and a contingent liability. Ask me five questions, one at a time, from easy to hard, to find out if I really do. Don't tell me the answer to a question until I have replied.

REVIEW A THEORY ANSWER WITHOUT REWRITING IT

Here is my answer to a 4-mark theory question, written in 6 minutes: [paste]. Do not rewrite it. Tell me which key point is missing, which sentence wastes words, and how an examiner might mark the structure.

MAKE IT SAY WHAT TO VERIFY

Before you answer my next question, tell me how confident you are and what I should check in my study material or the bare Act to confirm it. Name the chapter or the section to look up, not a paragraph you are guessing.

Where to be careful

Watch out. If it gives you a section number, a rate, a threshold or a paragraph of a standard, treat it as a lead, not a fact. Look it up in your own study material or the bare Act before you write it in a note you will revise from. A wrong fact learnt well is worse than a gap.

Don't. Don’t paste or upload whole chapters of ICAI study material, RTPs or past papers into any AI tool, and never post AI-made versions of them in groups. Work from your own notes; quote a short line only when you need to ask about it.

Key takeaways

- An answer you read is not a skill you have. Attempt first, then ask it to check.
- Ask for the first wrong step, a hint, or a question, not a solution.
- Any section, rate or standard it quotes is a lead to check at the source.
- Exams and graded work are yours alone; study material and client data are not yours to share.

Chapter 2 sets Claude Code up on your own laptop, with a study folder that holds this rule in writing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chandan Gupta

CA, CIA. Once an articled assistant with a stack of vouchers; now an auditor who builds his own tools.

Chandan is a Chartered Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor (The Institute of Internal Auditors), with experience in statutory audit, internal audit, internal financial controls and tax audit reporting.

I wrote this book for the version of me who sat at the junior's desk in articleship, ticking and vouching, studying in the evenings, and wishing someone would check my working instead of just giving me the answer.

Since 2022 I have worked in audit and assurance full time, and I build my own tools for it: programs that check a year's books for completeness, run tests on every voucher, and turn messy exports into something a reviewer can follow. Almost all of them run offline, because I am not comfortable with client data leaving the machines it belongs on. Claude Code is how I build them, and the habits in this book are the ones that made that work careful.

The idea I most want you to take away is simple. AI is a superb tutor and a tireless junior, and a poor substitute for your own understanding. Use it to get more practice, more feedback and fewer wasted hours. Keep the thinking, the exam and the client's trust for yourself.

If this book helps you, or falls short somewhere, I'd like to hear about it, along with what you would want in the next edition. I'm on LinkedIn:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/chandan-gupta-b8a108192

What next

Once you qualify, the same habits carry into practice, on real client work, at a larger scale. This book is part of the "AI for..." series; its companion, **AI for CAs**, covers using Claude Code across tax, GST, audit, internal audit, reporting, advisory and compliance work for qualified Chartered Accountants. Pass first. It will keep.

Get the full book

This sample has the introduction and Chapter 1. The full **AI for CA Students** adds setup on a student budget; five chapters on learning (study plans, revision sheets and self-tests from your own notes, practice where it checks your working, standards explained and then tested, mock papers); six chapters on articleship (client data, vouching and ledger scrutiny, Excel and Tally, reconciliations, working papers and partner review, your prompt library and placements); two tested walkthroughs on downloadable practice files; and an appendix of every prompt in the book.

> ✓ **Get it.** The full book is a PDF at https://topmate.io/chandan_gupta31, where the bonus pack (every prompt plus the practice files) is a free download. Also on Amazon Kindle.