

Employer Webinar 29.05

Industry Representatives:

Anthony Clarke & Zoe Smith: AAT

Fiona Hodgkin & Marc Jerrard: ICAEW

Updates:

ACCA:

There have been no further announcements from the ACCA.

- The first four on-demand exams will be available to sit online from June, we are still awaiting confirmation on a specific date.
- All other exams that were due to be sat to the June sitting have been cancelled, we and the ACCA are advising students to now aim for the September sitting.
- The ACCA is, however, running an online exam pilot in July for some of the session-based exams.

CIMA:

No further announcements have been made from CIMA.

- All exams are now available to be sat online, so far all feedback from students have been positive advising they have had minimal issues when booking or sitting the exam.
- Results also remain strong. With the case study exams just being sat we are now awaiting the results.

ICAEW:

There has been no further news from the ICAEW.

- Certificate exams can now be sat online.
- June Professional exams have been cancelled so all students due to sit their Professional exams should now be aiming for the September sitting.
- The Advanced July sitting has now been moved to August.
- All exam sittings later in the year will not be affected and will continue to be the same syllabus.
- The ICAEW are in talks with the FRC to gain approval to hold future Professional and Advanced level exams remotely.

AAT:

- AAT had confirmed that in-centre assessments will be available from the 29th June.
- The assessment booking system will not be switched on in until the 22nd June, therefore, we will only be able to book students in from this time.
- While it's fantastic news the AAT have announced they will be starting in centre assessments this does now bring up a considerable amount of logistical and safety challenges for all venues that will be opening. Student and staff safety is paramount.
- With all these challenges considered its more likely that First Intuition exam centres will start to open from some point in July.

- AAT are still working on remote invigilation for Level Three Advanced Bookkeeping, Final Accounts Preparation, Management Accounting: Costing and the Level Four Professional Synoptic to be available online from August.
- Currently, the AAT has not advised the price point of the new remote exams. The AAT will now be using their own invigilators whose fee is yet unknown meaning they cannot confirm the overall cost of the exams.
- The AAT are contacting training providers, colleges and external venues to ask the likelihood of their exam centres opening and when they will be able to accept students into the venue to sit assessments. The AAT will be keeping their “find an assessment centre” webpage up to date. (<https://www.aat.org.uk/assessment-venues/search>)
- Additional synoptic windows have been added in the summer months for levels 3 & 4
 - Level 3 Advanced Synoptic:
 - W/C – 13th July
 - W/C – 20th July
 - W/C – 17th August
 - W/C – 14th September
 - Level 4 Professional Synoptic:
 - W/C – 6th July
 - W/C – 13th July
 - W/C – 24th August
 - W/C – 21st September
- Overall, the AAT said they have had mixed messages concerning the news of switching on the in-centre exams. Some employers are happy and looking forward to students being able to start sitting in centre and progress again whereas other employers have advised that they have told all employees not to travel to any venues until further notice.
- Earlier today the AAT also announced that the introduction of the new qualification AQ2021 will now be moved to February 2022 due to interruptions caused by the current situation and other factors.

Student Progression

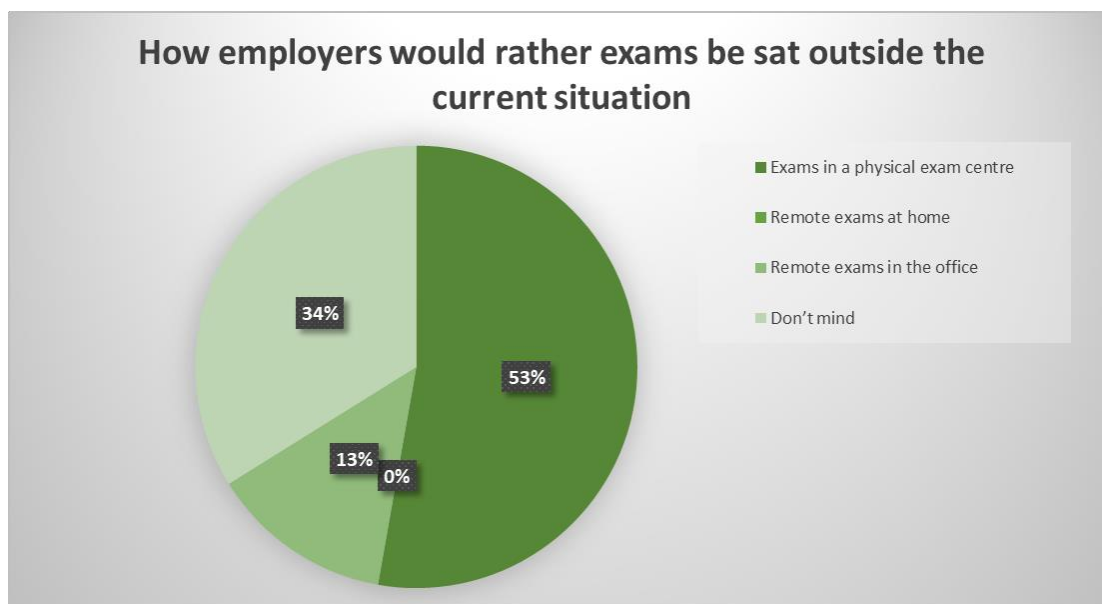
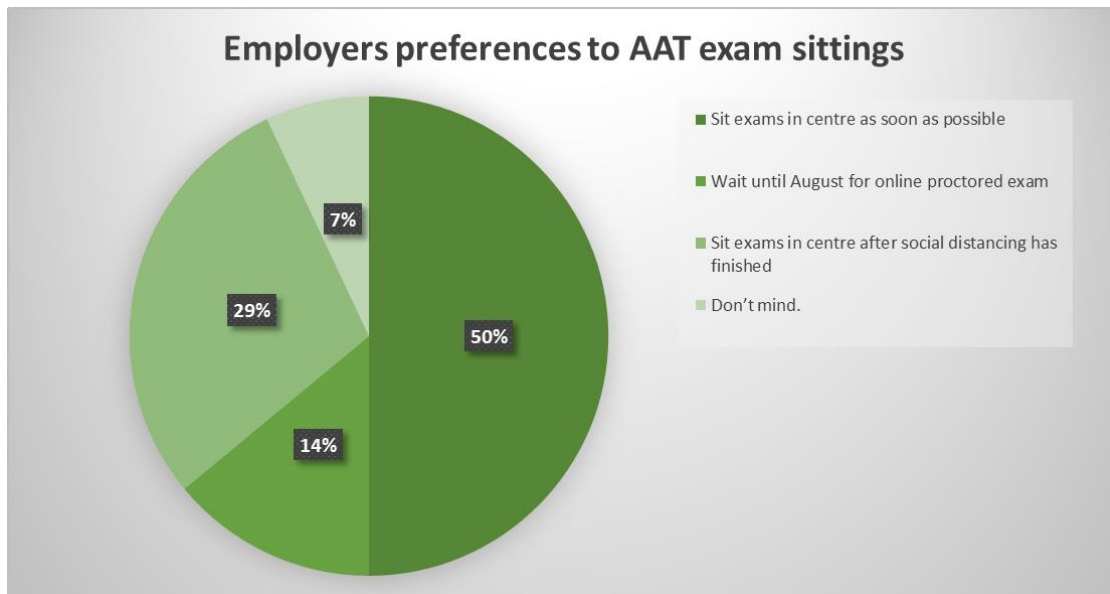
Now the AAT have confirmed in-centre assessments are returning, and online proctoring will be available for limited exams from August, this has given students studying AAT room to progress with the following options:

- Sitting in-centre exams with AAT restarting assessments from 29/6
- Sitting remote assessments in August
 - Level 3 AVBK, FAPR, MACC
 - Level 4 PDSY (w/c 24 August – results in w/c 5 October)
- Sit other qualifications via remote exams gaining up to 3 AAT exemptions (see slides linked below)
 - ICAEW, CIMA, ACCA
- Claim recognition of Prior Learning
 - i.e. Xero Certification RPL against UACS

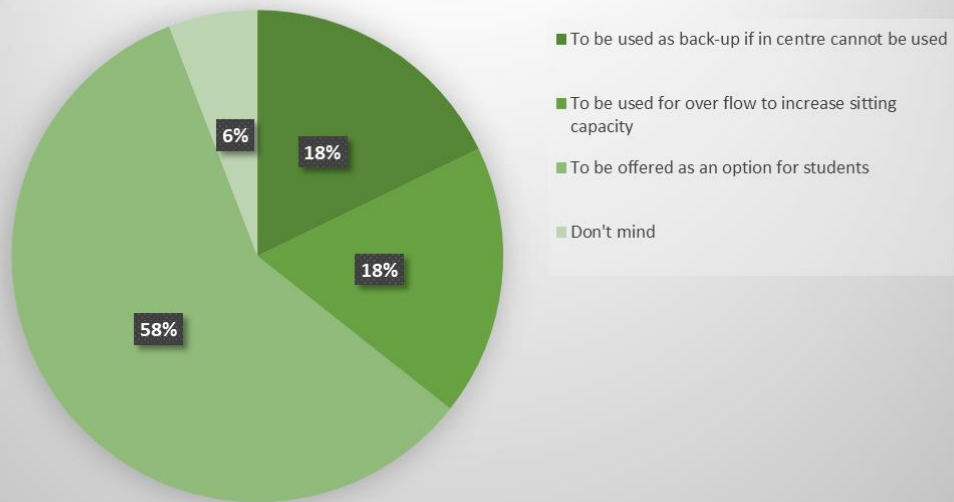
See slides [here](#) giving further details.

Exam Options

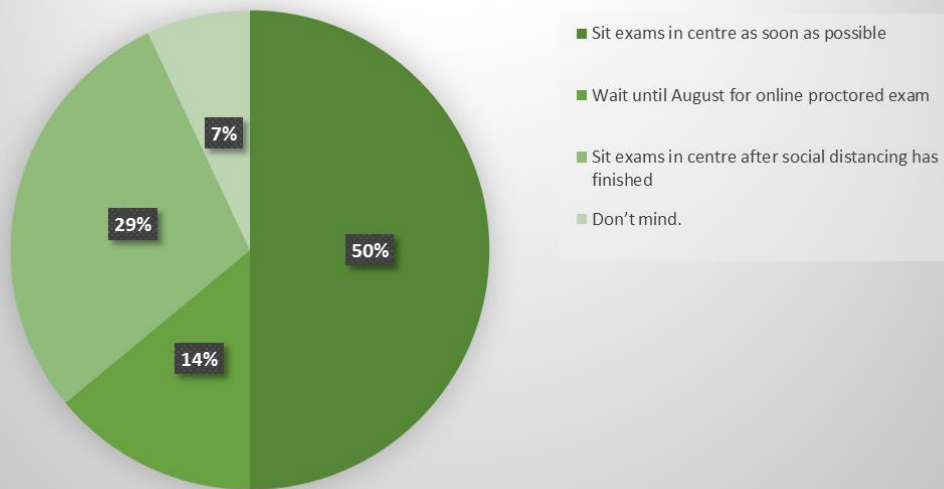
Given the amount of news that has been circulating around exams the past weeks, we decided to conduct the following polls in this week's webinar to see if there was a consensus on how employers are feeling regarding the different exam options:



What would employers expect if ACCA/ICAEW had remote exam facilities for September



Employers preferences to AAT exam sittings



To round of the session, we decided to conduct another poll on what the employers attending were most concerned about shortly so we can continue to support and keep these webinars as beneficial as possible.

What are the biggest HR/Learning & Development issues employers are worried about dealing with in June and July

