

Student Webinar – 27th May 2020

Hosted by David Malthouse and Ben Bullman

Qualification Update

AAT

- Earlier on today the 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 our 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 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.
- Extended synoptic windows in the summer months for levels 3 & 4
 - We will try our hardest to continue blocking out synoptic exam sittings as we would normally to ensure everyone has a chance to sit their exam and remind those who are due to sit their professional synoptic that this exam will be available to be sat online from August.
 - Those that were due to sit their level two synoptic and had passed the previous units (BTRN, BKCL and ELCO) before the 31st March and within a one year window will automatically be given an estimated grade by their training provider instead of having to sit the exam. This is because the synoptic is heavily based on the prior units of this level. Due to this there will not be any other foundation synoptic windows added.
- Demand will be very high for AAT exam centres
 - We are aware that many of you will want to start sitting your exams to progress as soon as possible. We along with other training providers and colleges ask for you to bear with us, we understand these exam slots will be incredibly in demand. However, we do feel that those students who were due to sit their exams in the period of lockdown should be allowed to sit their exams first. These students will be contacted by our customer services team shortly to arrange their new exam date.

For further details of last weeks exam announcements, please visit the AAT website below:

<https://www.aat.org.uk/aat-news/aat-assessments-available-from-june>

ACCA

There have been no further announcements from the ACCA.

- The first four applied skills 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, starting an online exam pilot in July for all the higher-level 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 no issue's 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.
- The ICAEW has also confirmed that all exam sittings later in the year will not be affected and will continue to be the same syllabus.
- For everyone due to sit their Case Study exams, the AI is still being released on the planned date of 8th June.
- For those who have now been delayed in sitting their last advanced exam or need to re-sit before moving to professional, we are awaiting on how flexible the ICAEW can be with booking professional exams whilst an advanced exam result is outstanding.

Remote Exams

Many or all the examining qualifications have either started remote proctoring exams or are due to start, with this many students are still confused or nervous regarding how these exams are set up and employers on how secure they are. This is what we have heard from students:

- You are required to be in the virtual exam room before the start time of your exam and have your webcam set up to show the environment matches requirements.
- When sitting the exam there is another person viewing your webcam invigilating and watching the screen to ensure all rules are being kept. Students can ask questions if any issues arise.
- Overall, the feedback we have received from students has been positive with many saying it has helped reduce stress on the day and some preferring the online tools.
- We have also received feedback from CIMA advising pass rates are still very strong and the ICAEW confirming the pass rates are near to the same they would see in the centre.

Yesterday we had near 100 attendees (which we think was a record) therefore decided to conduct a poll on exam methods and found that 45% of students said they were preferring the idea of online exams whereas 55% advised they still preferred the traditional in centre exams.

If you would like to watch last weeks recording you can find it here:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/wOxSaPb52zNIQdLsw0fYQKMNR7zHX6a81iQe-aFcyUfZTFCzej_IDGr3GGHH7fTL

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