

Student Webinar – 15th April 2020

Hosted by David Malthouse, Ben Bullman and Gareth John

Guest Speaker – Alex Leach (ACCA)

Update on Qualifications

AAT

- The AAT are continuing to explore remote proctoring options with their regulatory body OFQUAL.
- At the current time, no additional synoptic windows have been announced.
- The AAT have announced a free three-month extension to their membership terms for many of their students who have been unable to sit assessments due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

CIMA

- CIMA have sent an email to all students confirming that the booking window for exams using remote proctoring will open on the 22nd April.
- Objective Test exams will recommence from the 4th May
- Case Study Exams will be held as follows:
 - OCS from 13th to 15th May
 - MCS from 20th to 22nd May
 - SCS from 27th to 29th May
- There will be a short window available for students, with one Objective Test left to sit, to take this exam and then sit their Case Study. Students will be able to book their Case Study exam up to 24 hours before the Case Study sitting.
- FI will have late-starting online Case Study courses available for the May sitting and will also be offering a CIMA Virtual Summer School covering all OT papers and leading to the August Case Study exams <https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/fihub/virtual-cima-summer-school/>
- Those students wishing to sit a CIMA exam using remote proctoring are advised to download a test programme <https://home.pearsonvue.com/vue-test/onvue> to check the compatibility of their home IT and equipment. <https://www.cimaglobal.com/Studying/Student-Coronavirus-COVID-19-exam-FAQs/>

ICAEW

- The ICAEW have confirmed that Advanced Level exams originally planned for July will go ahead on the 24th, 25th and 26th of August. These will be available to book from the 15th of June.
- Professional Level exams have been cancelled for June, but the September sitting will go ahead as per the original dates (7th, 8th, 9th September). These will be available to book from the 29th of June.
- Certificate Level exams will be available via remote proctoring and this is likely to start around the end of April or early May.

ACCA

- Results from FI in East Anglia have been generally good but we are still waiting to hear back from some students.
- Alex Leach (ACCA) updated us on the global pass-rates and trends:
 - Fewer students sat in the March sitting due to cancellations in some parts of the world.
 - ATX – Overall pass-rate of 44% is higher than usually expected
 - SBL and SBR – both papers had higher than average pass rate at 47% and 51% respectively.
 - See link to global pass-rates at the bottom of this summary
- UK pass-rates are unfortunately not available due to privacy restrictions.
- The syllabus update planned for September will see minimal changes to most papers.
- The ACCA continue to explore remote exam options but are conscious that any plans need to maintain the global integrity of their exams.
- Some students have reported problems in booking exams for September. Alex Leach confirmed that the ACCA are looking to increase capacity and any venues currently showing no availability are not full. The ACCA are waiting for some venues to confirm availability and there have been delays in confirming school-based venues and others due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Students are encouraged to book exams as soon as they are able to, as this will help the ACCA to understand demand and put plans in place to accommodate this.
- With five months until the next exam sitting, Alex Leach and our team had the following advice for students:
 - Make the most of the opportunity to gain deeper knowledge of your chosen papers.
 - Spread study out over a longer period to maintain knowledge.
 - Add an additional paper if you are able to.
 - Work on your PER.
 - Complete the Ethics and Professional Skills Module.
 - Review examiner reports on your chosen papers to understand common mistakes and what examiners are looking for.
- For those picking up more than one paper, the following advice was given:
 - Look at good combinations (see below for blog article)
 - Be disciplined with your time and try not to focus on the paper that you feel most comfortable with.
 - Look at how many days this course would usually run for in the classroom. This will give you an indication of how much time you should spend on each paper.
 - Complete a couple of sessions on each paper and then switch to the other.
 - Use practice questions to check knowledge.
- During the discussion with Alex and our team, the following resources were discussed:

ACCA March 2020 Pass Rates

<https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/news/2020/april/ACCA-March2020-Exam-Sitting.html>

Study Support Resources

<https://www.accaglobal.com/hk/en/cam/coronavirus/study-support.html>

Covid-19 – Student Hub

<https://www.accaglobal.com/hk/en/cam/coronavirus/students.html>

Webinar -Keep on Track – Practical guidance and support for ACCA students

<https://www.accapolska.pl/92870-take-part-in-the-keep-on-track-webinar-on-friday-april-17>

Practical Experience Requirements (PER)

<https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/student/practical-experience-per.html#EPSM>

Further resources

<https://www.accaglobal.com/hk/en/student/ethics.html>

<https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/fihub/what-to-expect-from-a-virtual-classroom/>

<https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/fihub/studying-2-acca-papers-at-once>