

Information sheet for CBE students

TO BE HANDED TO ALL STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR CBE IN ADVANCE OF EACH CBE SESSION

This document must be read and understood in full, by each student, prior to sitting each computer-based exam.

ACCA offers computer-based exams for the first seven papers within the Foundations in Accountancy suite of awards and papers F1-F4 of the ACCA Qualification.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The exams are conducted at centres which are licensed by ACCA.

Centres register students for the computer-based exams via ACCA's online administration system. They download exams for each student, the exams are then sat offline and results uploaded to the ACCA server upon completion of the exams.

If you intend sitting ACCA's CBEs you must, in the first instance, be registered with ACCA. The centre will require the following personal information from you as well as proof that you are a registered and eligible student:

- your ACCA student registration number
- date of birth (in day, month, year format)
- full name and address
- the qualification for which you are studying
- email address
- telephone number
- gender.

This information will be used only for the purposes of registering you as a student for the exams and informing ACCA of your exam results. The centre is required to inform you of the use of these personal details and the purpose for which the information will be used under the terms of the UK Data Protection Act.

You should also be aware that ACCA is entitled to provide such information to the centre as it requires to do so from time to time. ACCA shall do so solely for the purposes of the administration of the exams and such information may be passed to a centre in a country where no Data Protection Rights exist.

To prove you are registered and eligible to sit the requested CBEs, you will be required to provide your registration number, date of birth and contact details to the centre. You must also provide a valid, and official, form of photographic identification, eg passport. Failure to provide an official form of photographic identification will mean you cannot be booked in for a CBE session.

The CBE centre will also require you to pay a fee directly to them to cover the administration, invigilation and exam fee costs.

It may be possible for special arrangements to be made during exams for students who have long-term or permanent disability, indisposition, are visually impaired or who have a specific learning disability that might affect the exams. If you fall into this category, you should contact the centre's examinations co-ordinator who will be able to tell you what assistance can be provided to you when you sit your exam. In order to assess how best to help you, it will be necessary for you to provide medical evidence in support of your request or other documentary evidence of your circumstances. This should be provided to the CBE centre at least three weeks in advance of the exam session. The CBE centre will then liaise directly with ACCA to make any special arrangements.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Once the centre has registered you for the exam you will be given a time and date for the exam by the centre's examination co-ordinator. On the day of the exam, you will be provided with a workstation where you will attempt the exam. Workstations have to conform to standards and specifications laid down by ACCA. These have to be quietly situated, with individual PCs separated from other students, free from glare and conform to current health and safety requirements. An invigilator will be on hand to assist you with any queries you may have at the time of sitting the exam.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXAM ITSELF?

For all exams you will be given:

- paper to do your rough workings
- on-screen instructions showing you how to navigate through the exam screens.

If you are sitting FMA/F2, Management Accounting you will be provided with a formulae sheet, present value table and annuity table on screen.

Prior to the exam start time the invigilator will read instructions to you. You will then be required to start the exam software which will prompt you to input your ACCA registration number and date of birth, to provide access to your exam. The invigilator will check the details on screen, your identity against your photographic ID and will ensure that you have been assigned the correct exam. You will then be permitted to start the exam.

CBE QUESTION TYPES

The types of questions contained in the exams are:

- Multiple choice – where you are required to choose one answer from a list of options by clicking on the appropriate 'radio button'.
- Multiple response – where you are required to select more than one response from the options provided by clicking the appropriate tick boxes.
- Multiple response matching – where you are required to select a response to a number of related statements by clicking on the 'radio button' which corresponds to the appropriate response for each statement.
- Number entry – where you are required to key in a numerical response to the question.

The Introductory and Intermediate Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting exams FA1, MA1, FA2 and MA2 exams will contain the Objective Test (OT) questions listed above – all two marks.

The Diploma in Accounting and Business (FAB, FMA & FFA) and ACCA Qualification exams will contain the OTs outlined above in Section A and Multi Task Questions (MTQs) in Section B. MTQs are a series of tasks to be completed which relate to one or more scenarios.

The following additional question types may also be present in MTQs:

- Gapfill – where you are required to enter answers into blank answer areas.
- Hotspot – where you are required to choose one or more answers by clicking on the appropriate hotspot area/areas on an image.

To allow you to become familiar with the question types above, and the operation of the CBE software, specimen exams are available for each paper on ACCA's website.

EXAM FORMAT

Foundations in Accountancy

Introductory Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting (FA1 and MA1)

Each exam:

- is of two hours' duration
- contains 50 questions
- is out of 100 marks
- has a pass mark of 50%
- contains two-mark objective test questions –multiple choice questions only.

Intermediate Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting (FA2 and MA2)

Each exam:

- is of two hours duration
- contains 50 questions
- is out of 100 marks
- has a pass mark of 50%
- contains the following objective test questions (OTs) -all worth two marks:
 - multiple choice questions
 - multiple response questions
 - multiple response matching questions
 - number entry questions.

Diploma in Accounting and Business (FAB, FMA and FFA)

Each exam:

- is of two hours duration
- is out of 100 marks
- has a pass mark of 50%
- contains 2 sections:
 - section A contains objective test questions (OTs)
 - section B contains multi-task questions (MTQs).

ACCA Qualification (F1–F4)

Each exam:

- is of two hours duration
- is out of 100 marks
- has a pass mark of 50%
- contains 2 sections:
 - section A contains objective test questions (OTs)
 - section B contains multi-task questions (MTQs).

To allow you to become familiar with the question types above, and the operation of the CBE software, specimen exams are available for each paper on ACCA's website.

DURING THE EXAM

The screen is locked down to ensure that only the exam software runs.

You cannot use the on-screen calculator function.

The keyboard and mouse must only be used for the purpose of answering questions.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

During the exam you will be required to select or input your answer on-screen to the questions set. When you answer a question, your answer will automatically be saved.

You can revisit questions and change your answers at any time during the exam.

You can change your answer, move back or forward through the exam, skipping questions and returning to them at any time, provided that you do not quit from the program and that you do not exceed the time allocated overall for the exam.

You can navigate between questions by clicking the next or previous button. You can also move to any specific question by clicking on a question number from the Exam Progress Details panel.

The exam will automatically finish after the allocated time has been reached.

If you wish to finish the exam early, click on the 'Exit' button. You will be notified if there are any incomplete questions or any questions remaining flagged and asked if you wish to proceed. If you do proceed, you will not be able to return to the exam.

The instructions provided on the exam day will explain these steps in detail.

AT THE END OF THE EXAM

The % mark which you have achieved will be shown on screen together with confirmation of whether your attempt at the exam has been successful. Print two copies of the provisional result notification when instructed to do so. Please retain one copy and leave the other with the invigilator.

Your rough workings booklet and all instructions remain the property of ACCA, and will be collected by the invigilator and will not be returned to you.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The CBE centre is required to upload your exam results to ACCA's server within a specified period of time. ACCA will process your result and will update your student record to reflect your CBE result.

EXAM REGULATIONS

All students registered with ACCA are required to observe and comply with ACCA's exam regulations. The consequences of failing to do so can be very serious.

The regulations apply to all students sitting ACCA's exams, whether paper-based, internally-assessed courses, or CBE.

The exam regulations are reproduced below:

- 1 You are required to comply in all respects with any instructions issued by the exam supervisor/s, invigilator/s and any ACCA personnel before and during an exam.
- 2 You may not attempt to deceive the exam supervisor/s, invigilator/s and ACCA personnel by giving false or misleading information.
- 3 If you are given reading time at the beginning of the exam, you are not allowed to open or write in your candidate answer booklet during this time. You are, however, permitted to write on your question paper.

- 4 If you are given reading time at the beginning of the exam, the exam is considered to be in progress from the start of the reading time.
- 5 You are not allowed to take to your exam desk any books, notes or other materials except those outlined in the guidelines below. These are known as 'unauthorised materials'.
- 6 You are not allowed to possess any unauthorised materials while the exam is in progress (whether at your desk or otherwise).
- 7 You are not permitted to use a dictionary or an electronic translator of any kind or have on or at your desk a calculator which can store or display text. You are also not permitted to use or have on or at your desk a mobile phone, tablet, pager etc of any kind. Any kept in bags or briefcases must be switched off at all times in the examination hall.
- 8 You are not allowed to use, or attempt to use, or intend to use, any unauthorised materials while the exam is in progress.
- 9 If you breach exam regulation 5, 6, 7 or 8 and the unauthorised materials are relevant to the syllabus being examined, it will be assumed that you intended to use them to gain an unfair advantage in the exam. In any subsequent disciplinary proceedings, you will have to prove that you did not intend to use the unauthorised materials to gain an unfair advantage in the exam.
- 10 You may not assist, attempt to assist, obtain or attempt to obtain assistance by improper means from any other person during your exams.
- 11 You are required to adhere at all times to the Examination Guidelines, below.
- 12 You are required to comply with the ruling of supervisor/s, invigilator/s and any ACCA personnel. They are obliged to report any cases of irregularity or improper conduct to ACCA. They are also empowered to discontinue your exam if you are suspected of misconduct and to exclude you from the exam hall.
- 13 You may not engage in any other unprofessional conduct designed to assist you in your exam attempt.
- 14 You are not permitted to remove either your candidate answer booklet(s) or your question paper from the exam hall. All exam candidate answer booklets remain the property of ACCA.
- 15 Once the exam has started, you are not allowed to leave the exam hall permanently until the end of the session and then only when instructed by the supervisor.
- 16 If you attempt to gain an unfair advantage in the exam (whether by breaching an exam regulation or otherwise) you are likely to be removed from ACCA's student register following disciplinary proceedings.
- 17 Candidates must not talk to, or attempt to communicate with, other candidates during the exam under any circumstances.
- 18 You must not attempt to obtain and/or obtain your examination results prior to ACCA's official published results release date.