



CTA Qualification Changes Guidance for Students

On 5th September 2017 the CIOT announced significant changes to the CTA Qualification, the key elements of which come into effect from 1st January 2019.

The key changes you need to be aware of will be detailed in this document and are as follows:

- 2017** Extension of the five sitting rule
- 2018** Merger of two Advisory Exams
- 2019** Removal of the Confirmation of Eligibility
- 2019** Introduction of a Principles of Accounting CBE (for both ATT & CTA students)
- 2019** Revised syllabus for the Law CBE
- 2019** Availability of an exemption from the Awareness paper
- 2019** Changes to the Advisory level Exams
- 2019** Requirement for all students to sit the new Application and Professional Skills paper



2017

Extension of the five sitting rule

Currently passes in the written exams are valid for five sittings following the sitting in which they were passed.

The CIOT are to now refer to these as credits and are to extend this to a 'seven sitting rule' **with immediate effect** for all existing valid credits. For example, an exam passed in November 2017 will be valid up to and including the May 2021 exam session.

What does it mean for you?

This increase to seven sittings applies to all students who have valid CTA written exam passes as at 1st November 2017 and thereafter. However it will not apply to students where the 5 sittings have already expired in relation to an earlier written exam pass as at 1st November 2017.

2018

Merger of two Advisory Exams

The two Advisory Exams, Taxation of Major Corporates (previously available only for students on the ACA-CTA Joint Programme) and Advanced Corporation Tax, will merge with effect from the May 2018 sitting, and will now be referred to as Taxation of Major Corporates (TOMC).

The newly merged exam has a revised syllabus to take account of the minor differences between these two papers.

What does it mean for you?

Kaplan will be running courses to May 2018 for the new Advisory TOMC exam as detailed in our CTA Timetables.

Any student wishing to enter for the renamed CTA Advisory TOMC exam from May 18 onwards will need to do so via the CIOT website by the exam entry closing dates (as for all other CTA exams). The CIOT has decided not to produce a sample examination paper for the newly merged paper due to the small number of changes involved.

2019

Removal of the Confirmation of Eligibility

From **1st January 2019** students will no longer need to hold a prior qualification in order to register as a CTA Student and sit the CTA Exams, opening up the CTA qualification to anyone.

However, do note that due to the high standard of the CTA examinations, the CIOT **strongly recommend** that any student who does not have a previous qualification in accounting or law register for the Tax Pathway route to qualification. More details on the Tax Pathway can be found at hub.tax.org.uk/pathway

2019

Introduction of a Principles of Accounting CBE

The ATT/CIOT are introducing a new Accounting CBE all students studying at 1st January 2019 must sit. The first Accounting CBE exams will be available from March 2019.

The Accounting CBE will be in the same format as the existing Law and Ethics CBEs: 50 questions in a mixture of multiple choice and multiple response formats and a pass mark of 30/50.

The related study manual covering the entire syllabus for this CBE, Essential Accounting for Tax Practitioners, will be revised and available from Autumn 2018.

What does it mean for you?

This new accounting CBE must be sat by any CTA students still studying towards their CTA qualification at 1st January 2019.

Do note that there will be exemptions available for students who have sat the Accounting CBE as part of their ATT studies or where students are exam qualified from one of the main UK Accountancy Bodies (to include AAT / ACCA / CIMA / CIPFA / ICAEW / ICAS).

2019

Revised syllabus for the Law CBE

The Law CBE syllabus is to be revised, to make the content more relevant for tax practitioners by presenting the law within the context of tax rules.

This will involve two new chapters being added to introduce students to reading case law and statutory interpretation, valuable skills for every tax practitioner.

The revised Law manual will be available to purchase from Autumn 2018.



2019

Availability of an exemption from the Awareness paper

CTA Students who are ATT exam qualified or are exam qualified with other UK Accountancy bodies (ACCA (must have passed P6), ICAEW, ICAS or ICAI (must have passed the Northern Ireland Tax paper), will be able to apply for an exemption from the Awareness examination. This exemption may be applied for from 1st January 2019 by any eligible student still studying towards the CTA Qualification at this date. This exemption must be applied for before a student sits the new Application and Professional Skills paper (see below).

Any student still required to sit the Awareness paper must do so before or at the same time as the Application and Professional Skills paper.

What does it mean for you?

The exemption can be applied for from 1st January 2019 by any student to whom this applies who is still studying towards the CTA Qualification at this date. If you have not passed all of your CTA Examinations by November 2018 and are eligible, you may apply for the Awareness exemption from 1st January 2019.

Current CTA Students who hold a credit for the Application and Interaction (“A&I”) paper (i.e. those who are ACA qualified or ACCA qualified (having passed P6)), applied for before 31st December 2017, will not be able to apply for an exemption from the Awareness paper, unless the A&I credit is forfeited.

2019

Changes to the Advisory level exams

The CIOT are abolishing the “indirect route” and are renaming the Indirect Tax papers as:

- Domestic Indirect Taxation and
- Cross-border Indirect Taxation

Kaplan do not currently run courses for these Indirect tax Advisory papers.

2019

Requirement for all students to sit the new Application and Professional Skills paper

The current Application and Interaction (A&I) exam is to be renamed as the Application and Professional Skills ("Application") exam.

The current ITE question will be split into two separate case study questions, comprising of:

- Taxation of Individuals and
- Inheritance Tax, Trusts & Estates

The other question specialisms remain unchanged as:

- Taxation of Owner Managed Businesses
- Taxation of Larger Companies and Groups
- Human Capital Taxes (*courses currently run via Tolleys*)
- VAT and other taxes (*courses not currently run at Kaplan*)

Students continue to choose the specific question they will answer at the point of exam entry.

This revised Application exam will involve the release of pre-seen information released to students two weeks ahead of the exam itself; to set the scene for the exam question paper, aligning this case study exam to the client situations students will face.

This exam will be competency based, where students will be required to demonstrate their ability to understand and address the issues detailed, exercise judgement and present a report demonstrating clear communication, correct technical advice, relevance, reasoning, commerciality and arriving at a proper conclusion. A minimum grade will be required in all of the competencies. In addition, the Awareness syllabus material relevant for each Application question will be defined by the CIOT.

From 1st January 2019, all students studying towards their CTA exams at this date will be required to sit the new Application paper, with the following two exceptions;

1. Any student currently eligible for the A&I credit who applies for this credit up to 31st December 2017 will obtain a credit for this paper which will remain valid up to the November 2020 Examination session.

2. Joint Programme students (ACA-CTA) will continue to have the choice in determining which second CTA exam they sit.

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2019

Requirement for all students to sit the new Application and Professional Skills paper

What does it mean for you?

If you are a current CTA Student who is eligible for the A&I credit and you apply for this credit **prior to 31st December 2017**, this credit will remain valid up to the **November 2020** Examination Session. This should provide you with sufficient time to complete the remainder of your CTA Exams before your credit lapses and you are required to sit the new Application exam.

If you register as a CTA student between 1/1/18 and 30/6/18 and are eligible for the A&I credit and apply for this credit during 2018, then you must complete all your remaining CTA Examinations to the **November 2018** sitting, otherwise this credit will lapse and you will be required to sit the new Application paper at the May 2019 sitting or later.

If you are not eligible for the A&I Credit, or if you register as a CTA student from July 2018 onwards, the old format A&I exam will only be available until November 2018. From May 2019 only the new style Application paper will be available. If you sit the A&I paper to November 2018 and do not pass this, you will be required to sit the new case study style Application paper at the May 2019 sitting or later.

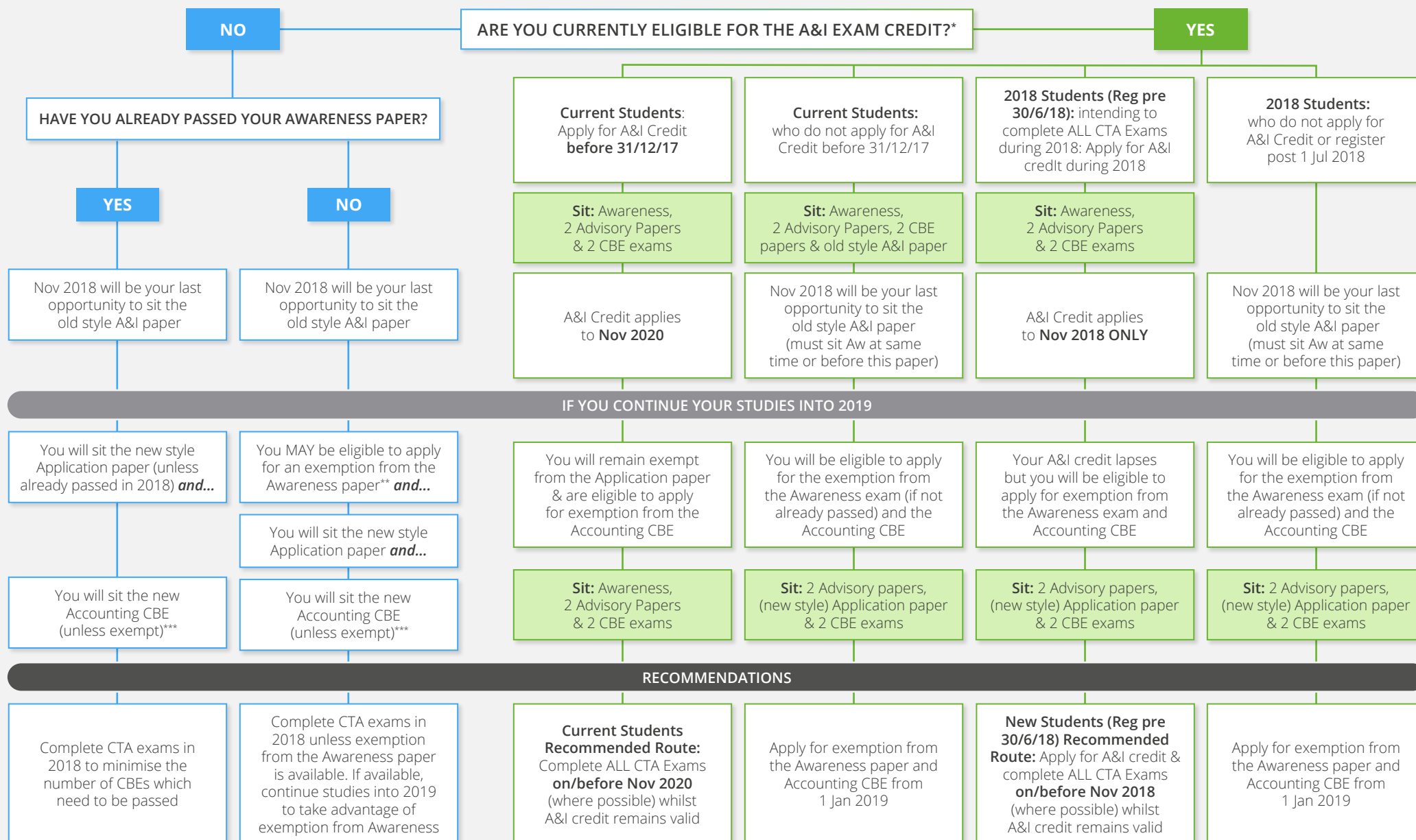
N.B. If you are an ACA-CTA Joint Programme Student, you will continue to have the choice in determining the second CTA exam you will sit. If your studies continue into 2019, you will have the option of whether or not to sit the new style Application Exam.

Our **key transitional recommendations** are:

- **If you are a CTA student currently studying towards your CTA exams** and you are currently eligible for a credit from the A&I paper, then you should **apply for this credit before 31st December 2017**. The credit for this paper is then likely to cover the remainder of your CTA Studies, providing you pass all the required exams by November 2020.
- **If you register as a CTA student between 1/1/18 and 30/6/18** and you are eligible for the A&I credit and you envisage being able to complete your CTA exams during 2018, then you should apply for the A&I credit and take advantage of this credit available for the Application exam. However, if you do not anticipate being able to complete all of the required exams in 2018, then do be aware that you will be eligible to apply for the exemption from the Awareness paper from 1st January 2019.
- **If you are a current CTA student and are not currently eligible for the A&I credit** but have not yet sat the Awareness paper, you may consider extending your studies into 2019 to take advantage of the new exemption from the Awareness paper being available. However, do note that from 1st January 2019 you will be required to sit the new style Application paper, and you will also likely be required to sit the new Accounting CBE, resulting in one additional exam to sit.

CTA 2019: TRANSITIONAL GUIDANCE

Students who are part way through their CTA Studies or are about to embark on their CTA Studies have a number of choices available to them based on the transitional rules in place ahead of the changes to the CTA Examinations for 2019. This guidance provides you with the necessary information to help make those decisions.



*Current Application and Interaction credit: available to those who are a member of the ICAEW, ACCA (having passed p6), ICAS or ICAI (see prospectus at www.tax.org.uk for full details). **Exemption from Awareness paper from 1 Jan 2019 if ATT exam qualified or a member of the ICAEW, ACCA (having passed P6), ICAS or ICAI (having passed Northern Ireland Tax Paper) – apply before registering for the new Application exam. ***Exemption from Accounting CBE from 1 Jan 2019 if previously sat at ATT or if a member of the AAT, ICAEW, ACCA, CIMA, ICAS or ICAI – apply before registering for final written exam. **N.B. ACA-CTA Joint Programme Students will continue to have the choice of the 2nd CTA exam they sit and so, if their studies continue into 2019, they will have the option of whether or not to sit the new style Application Exam.**