



A prosperous future for the financial services industry

with computer-based testing

From accountancy to insurance, knowledge assessments within the financial services industry are an important and effective measure for safeguarding and benchmarking professional standards. Test owners around the world have embraced computer-based testing (CBT) in a significant shift towards new methods to better meet the changing needs of both employers and high-stakes exam candidates.

More than ever, employers now require professional assessment to be more relevant to the tasks required for real-life jobs. Assessment must be more agile, reflecting the evolution of financial practice, standards, and competencies — changes that the 2,000-year-old pen-and-paper testing method struggles to support.

The key to candidate convenience

CBT allows you to create sophisticated digital test papers, send prompt result notifications, and provide candidates with greater access and convenience. Candidates can book tests on-demand at any one of thousands of highly secure testing centres around the world, eliminating the need for long-distance travel on a single day, thereby maximising chances of test success.

With benefits like this, it is clear why major financial institutions – including the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), CPA Australia and the ICAEW – have transitioned their exams to computer-based testing.



Neil Wilkinson

Content developer

CIMA and ICAEW: Computer-based testing in action

Our measurement scientists at Pearson VUE worked with subject matter experts at (CIMA) to transform their whole syllabus to CBT, including long-answer questions that put the candidate in real-life situations to test how they will later perform in the workplace. The exams are now completely computerised, and the rigour of the assessment has been maintained.

The exams are delivered via our network of more than 5,000 test centres in 180 countries.

ICAEW has delivered ACA exams via CBT since 2007, developing a suite of scenario-based, multiple response and numeric entry questions that reflect real-life, practical and work-based situations.

Computerised testing has facilitated sophisticated assessments with advanced problem-solving requirements and marking schemes, combined with the flexibility of on-demand assessment and next-day results. The evolution of technology has enabled ICAEW to move all exams to computer without changing the structure or rigour of the ACA, a globally-recognised qualification.

“By harnessing the strengths of modern assessment technology, ICAEW has been able to implement innovative question types and bring the challenges of the workplace into our assessments. We have ensured that the ACA qualification continues to equip and test the knowledge, skills and experience essential to becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.”

Mark Protherough,

Executive Director, Learning & Professional Development at ICAEW

Test security you can count on

Test integrity begins with robust test design and highly secure exam content. Our content development team is experienced in creating and maintaining large-scale question banks, assisting programme transition to CBT, and implementing testing methods that minimise item exposure and deter exam theft and cheating. These include adaptive and on-the-fly delivery models, item randomisation and masking, and innovative item types that reduce the effectiveness of memorisation strategies.



The Pearson VUE testing system maximises the value of such investments by providing robust, layered security protections. This includes secure test publishing, end-to-end encryption of exams and test results, real-time authorisation of each exam delivery, secure Internet-based delivery options, item-at-a-time presentation, and a comprehensive electronic audit trail of exam delivery events.

Our test centres offer security measures, such as a detailed candidate check-in process, which includes ID checks, live proctors, and CCTV.

“Computer-based testing is making the most of new technologies by offering a wide range of assessment methods and evaluating a variety of skills and competencies through a highly secure system. Combined with more flexibility and choice in where and when examinations are taken across the globe, this creates the best possible candidate experience for students. With computer-based testing, we can also ensure that CIMA qualifications are always up-to-date, rigorously examined and support the development of skills and competencies required to succeed in the modern business world.”

Andrew Harding,

FCMA, CGMA, Chief Executive – Management Accounting at the Association of International Professional Certified Accountants, the unified voice of CIMA and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA)

About Pearson VUE

Pearson VUE (www.pearsonvue.com) is the global leader in computer-based testing for high-stakes certification and licensure exams in the healthcare, finance, information technology, academic and admissions markets. We offer a full suite of services to develop, manage, deliver and grow test programmes for over 450 clients via the world's most comprehensive network of highly secure test centres in 180 countries, and through online solutions. Pearson VUE owns Certiport, the global leader in foundational IT certification solutions, and is a business of the world's leading learning company Pearson (NYSE: PSO; LSE: PSON).

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