

CASE STUDY:

AAT pilot success paves the way for more computer-based exams

In March this year, AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) successfully undertook the onscreen delivery of one of their live exams, utilising BTL's authoring and test delivery technology to develop and deliver the exam to their centres.

Using BTL to produce and deliver computer-based assessments means a great increase in flexibility for AAT when delivering exams to candidates; an exam can be taken virtually on demand. Other huge benefits include the quicker return of results to candidates, the potential to provide feedback for candidates, and the easier, more efficient administration for centres and AAT.

Before launching a full product, AAT wanted to try a pilot scheme to establish demand for an AAT run computer-based exam, and to test the system with a limited number of centres and candidates. A single exam from AAT's Diploma pathway was selected to be delivered during the pilot. The pilot comprised the exam (Certificate in Accounting: Introductory Accounting) being sat at 4 centres, by 54 candidates, on the 16th and 19th March 2007.

The pilot proved a great success, with the computer-based exam receiving praise from candidates and centres. A member of staff from one pilot centre declared "[I am] very enthusiastic about the whole thing. [It] All went very well and [I am] excited about introducing it."

Similarly, candidates found the exam a rewarding experience. One candidate commented, "The whole process is very user friendly." Another candidate explained, "It's a good experience, especially when we receive the results quicker."

In the wake of a successful pilot, Jane Scott Paul (AAT Chief Executive) was enthusiastic:

"We are delighted to be working with BTL on developing our computer based exams. The AAT's first pilot exam was a great success and I am pleased we will be developing onscreen exams further to increase choice and flexibility for our centres and students."

This excitement is mirrored at BTL, where Managing Director Keith Myers revealed the opportunities that this project presents:

"BTL really enjoys creating unique question types for our customers and working with AAT has given us the chance to really show what our system can do."

The success of this pilot scheme means that AAT and BTL can now move forward with further computer-based exams, and establish AAT's position at the forefront of assessment technology.

For further information about BTL and its product offering, please visit <http://www.btl.com>

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