



The Chartered  
Institute of  
Management  
Accountants®

May 06, 2020

Mr V Naidoo  
Chief Executive Officer  
QCTO  
VIA email  
Reuel MacPherson: Director: Quality Assurance ([Macpherson.R@qcto.org.za](mailto:Macpherson.R@qcto.org.za))

Dear Mr Naidoo,

### **Application for online, computer-based assessment**

Thank you for your memorandum of May 06, 2020 regarding the opening up of learning on the OQSF.

As per the excerpt below from your communication, we hereby apply to the QCTO to conduct our final assessments via computer-based assessments, online.

QAPs that have an urgent need to conduct final summative assessments, and have a robust methodology in place, may apply to the QCTO in writing for special permission to conduct final assessments; and ensure the qualification requirements have been complied with, and where deviations are required, permission for such deviations must be sought in writing from the QCTO.

CIMA has had a rapid response to the global lockdown and the inability of our students to take our computer-based exams at approved exam centres, many of which are managed by our local SDPs and some by our exam partner, Pearson Vue. We have moved our current computer-based assessment to an online assessment. Effective May 2020, students around the world are able to take their computer-based exam, online from the safety of their home.



To ensure the integrity of our online assessments, we have implemented the following safeguards:

Features	CIMA Objective tests = (QCTO recognition of this as a formative assessment towards the level of the part qualification)	Case study exams= (QCTO recognition of this as the summative/EISA exam towards the level of the part qualification)	Notes
AI ID capture and verification	✓	✓	Government issued photo ID checked against international database
AI candidate photo capture	✓	✓	Photo of candidate taken and stored
Video recording of exam	✓	✓	Video recording of duration of exam
Human invigilator / proctor	✓	✓	Human observer via webcam & audio
AI detection of unusual activity	✓	✓	Report generated for post exam review
Computer lock down	✓	✓	Prevention of cutting / pasting / browser etc
Multiple variants	✓	✓	Prevents collaboration
Updated terms and conditions	✓	✓	Formal agreement, breach of which might lead to a void result or disciplinary

We have already had 201 students in South Africa register to write their assessments online and expect that the number will increase over the coming weeks and months. We would anticipate offering online assessment for the duration of Levels 4 through to 1. If this is successful, we will consider offering students this option permanently.



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Please will you consider our application for the offer of online summative assessment in instances where the summative assessment is already fully computer based.

We are concerned that if online exams are not permitted by the QCTO in South Africa this would cause many students to stop their studies and not become qualified professionals who will help the South African economy thrive post this crisis. Qualified finance professionals will be needed to help ensure economic recovery and by stopping the next generation from taking their exams and qualifying this will hurt business and industry across all sectors.

Moreover, should the online exams not be permitted by the QCTO, it might result in discouraged students who would either discontinue with studies or prohibit new students from taking professional qualifications to reskill and learn to support themselves and their families, as well as add scarce accounting and finance skills to our economy.

I would be happy to discuss the matter further and share the excellent work that our assessment team have done to help students complete their qualifications as soon as they choose.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sara Bux  
Associate Director: Southern Africa  
[Sara.bux@aicpa-cima.com](mailto:Sara.bux@aicpa-cima.com)  
+2784 4790071