

The Level 2 Certificate in Accounting – a choice of either AAT or Edexcel as Awarding Body

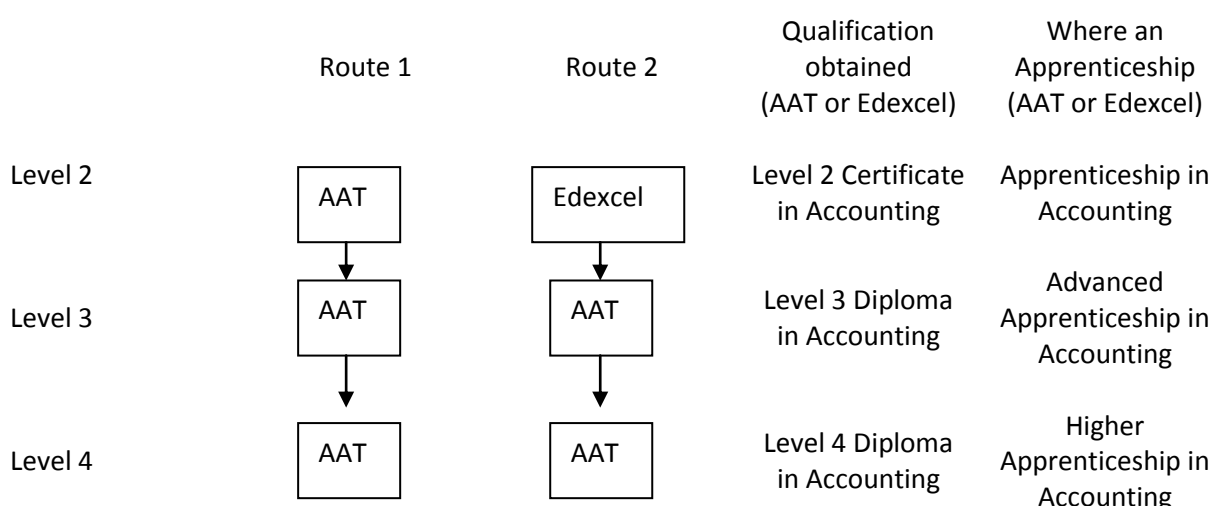
Under the new Qualification Curriculum Framework (QCF) a new syllabus has been introduced for the Level 2 Certificate in Accounting (and also at level 3 and 4). This qualification can be achieved under a number of Awarding Bodies, including AAT and Edexcel.

The nature of the QCF means that the actual subject matter / performance criteria of each of these two qualifications is identical. What is different however is the assessment methodology and cost. The AAT have opted for the use of computer based assessments for the bulk of the qualification. Edexcel still allow centres to use a variety of assessment methods including workbased evidence, simulations, oral/written questioning and professional discussion.

The nature of our learners varies widely, as well as the level of financial support available to them and also their ability to attend an exam centre during working hours. As we want to support our clients as best we can, we will in future be offering both qualification routes – providing a choice of either the AAT Level 2 or the Edexcel Level 2.

We will be teaching the same skills with the same teaching and home study material for both AAT and Edexcel. It is only the assessment that will be different.

Choice of qualification route



Cost implications of each choice at Level 2

(ignoring A+ course fee)

	AAT	Edexcel
Initial one off registration	£36.00	-
Registration fee for Level 2	-	£100.00
Annual membership	£80.00	-
Exam fees - £43 x 6 exams	£258.00	-
Total	£374.00	£100.00
Cost of resits	£43 per exam	

The main difference is the exam fees. The AAT initial registration fees will still need to be paid when learners progress to Level 3.

Distance learners not able to access A+ as a CBA exam centre, will need to sit their exams at another CBA centre, elsewhere in the country. The AAT issue us a list of these centres and we are able to advise learners accordingly. These centres are likely to charge an administration/invigilation fee for this and the AAT suggest that a fee in the region of £20 to £25 per exam would be reasonable. This therefore adds a minimum of £100 to the above costs of the AAT route. A+ will of course not charge this additional fee to our own learners sitting their exams at our CBA centres.

We would like to re-iterate our overall support of the AAT qualification, which we have been promoting since we started training in 1992. The majority of our learners progress from Level 2 to 3 to 4 and we encourage subsequent application for membership of the AAT as a professional body. Our concerns are that the current AAT assessment system combined with the significant increase in cost will be a barrier to this – especially for those learners having to pay for the course themselves.

If you have any queries on which option would be most suitable for you please do not hesitate to contact us. As explained above, the skills training we will be providing will be identical for both routes.

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Managing Director