

## Feedback from AAT on the Proposed Revisions to IES Professional Competence, Exposure Draft 2018

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**Question 1: Do you support the proposed revisions to learning outcomes related to the areas of Information Communications & Technologies (“ICT”) and Professional Scepticism provided in Appendices A, B, C, and D? If not, what changes would you suggest?**

**Answer:**

Yes we support this the inclusion of learning objectives related to ICT and professional scepticism, with the following comments on specific LOs:

- A number of the LOs begin with the verb ‘explain’. The use of ‘explain’ is commonly used at lower levels of a performance framework and can be interpreted in a number of ways. It is often used to imply how the LO will be assessed, by a discussion of principles or facts, rather than application. Where the LOs are intended to relate to how an Accountant should act then they should be phrased differently, e.g. ‘demonstrate an awareness of..’, ‘demonstrate an understanding of..’, etc.
  - Appendix A para 7, l, ii), iv) - the use of ‘Explain’ and ‘Identify’ are problematic here in that they refer to very broad areas of content. Considering the rationale, these would be better phrased as: ii) ‘Advise on the business and organisational impact of ICT developments’; and iii) ‘Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of globalisation on multinationals and emerging markets’.
  - Appendix A para 7, h, iii) - the wording suggests it is the role of the Accountant to look across all processes within a business. This would be better phrased as ‘Demonstrate an understanding of how ICT can be applied to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of financial processes.’
  - Appendix A, para 7, k , iv) ‘Explain the processes that may be used to develop and implement the strategy of an organisation’. The rationale given for this change is to better reflect the expectations of professional accountants to contribute their ICT expertise in developing strategy. What is important is not the processes for developing the strategy per se but an understanding of the role of financial modelling within business planning and strategy development. Suggest changing to ‘Demonstrate an understanding of the important role of the accountant in business planning and strategy development’.
  - In Appendix C, para 11 i) and ii), we would suggest that ‘explain’ is replaced, as per previous points to ‘Demonstrate an understanding of ethical behaviour, within the context of social responsibility’ and ‘Demonstrate an understand of the importance of ethics in relation to business operations and good governance’. The use of business in the latter objective needs to be omitted or clarified by the addition of ‘operations’.
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**Question 2: Are there additional ICT and professional scepticism learning outcomes that you would expect from aspiring and professional accountants (See Appendix E)?**

**Answer:**

No, these seem comprehensive.

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**Question 3: Do you support the new definitions of Information and Communications Technologies, Intellectual Agility, and Professional Judgment added to the IAESB Glossary of Terms? If not, what changes would you suggest?**

**Answer:**

Yes we support these.

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**Question 4: Are there any terms within the new and revised learning outcomes of IESs 2, 3, 4, and 8, which require further clarification (See Appendix E)? If so, please explain the nature of the changes?**

**Answer:**

No, other than specific comments on LO's as stated in Question 1.

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