

# New Accounting Apprenticeship Standards

From 2017, there will be wider opportunities for employers to train finance and accountancy apprentices, from technician through to professional levels.

## What are the 'New' Apprenticeships and Trailblazers?

Apprenticeships are changing.

From 2017 the government will replace existing Apprenticeship frameworks with employer-designed Trailblazer 'standards', based around specific job roles which detail the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours an Apprentice would have to demonstrate to prove competence in that role.

Eventually all existing frameworks will be replaced by these new Trailblazer standards.

## New Accounting Apprenticeship Standards

There are currently 3 Standards relating to the Accountancy sector:

- Level 3 – Assistant Accountant
- Level 4 – Professional Accounting/Tax Technician
- Level 7 – Professional Accountant

The Assistant Accountant and Professional Accounting/Tax Technician standards are ready for delivery now.

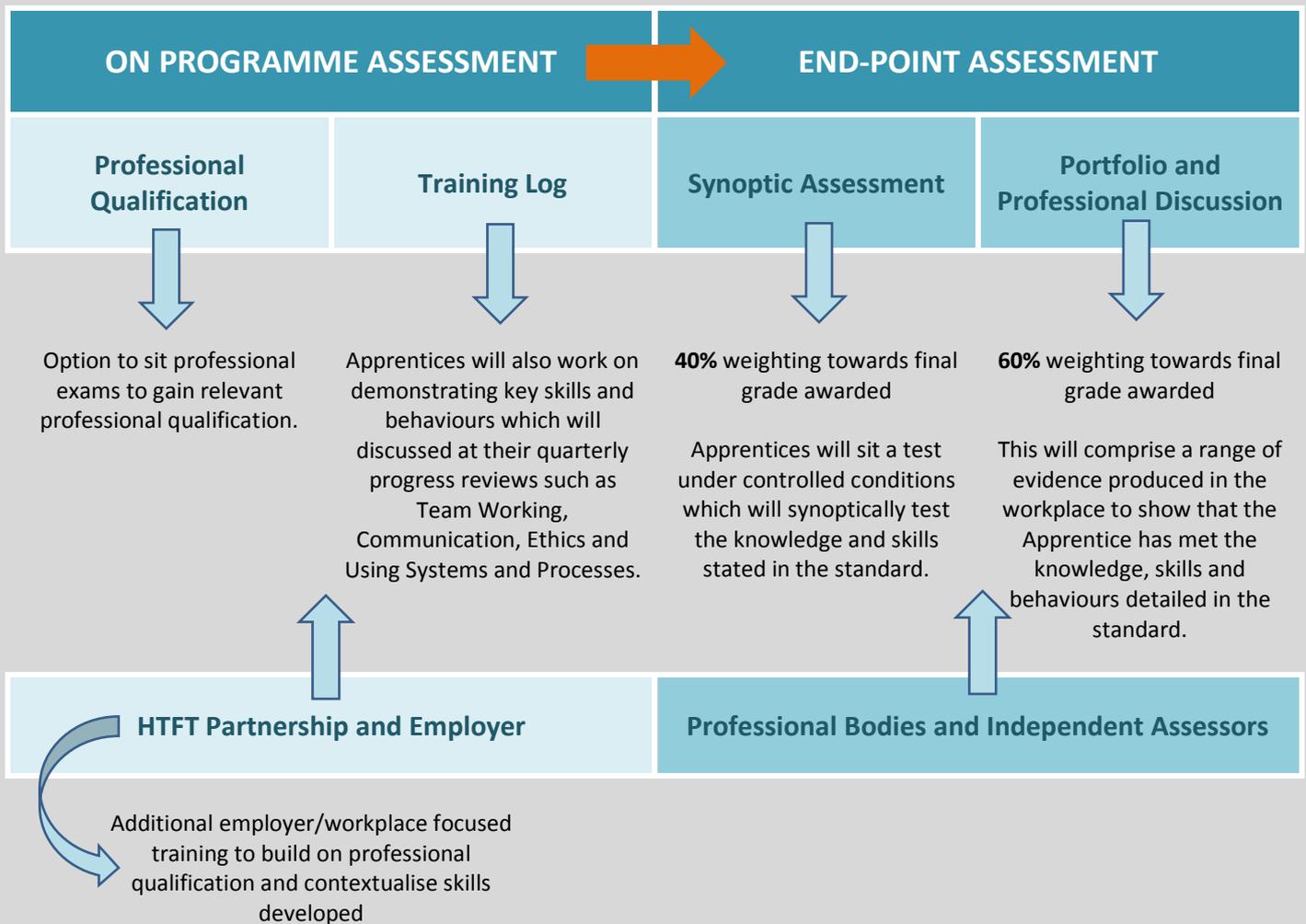
|   | Current Apprenticeship Frameworks                                       | New Apprenticeship Standards  |
|---|---|---|
| Professional qualification:   |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prescribed</li> </ul>          | ✓<br><br>Under current Frameworks, specific qualifications are required |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employer's choice</li> </ul>   |   | ✓<br><br>Under the new standards, employers can choose which professional qualification they want as part of the Apprenticeship |
| Additional employer focused training to further develop required skills | ✗   | ✓   |
| Portfolio creation  | ✗   | ✓   |
| Quarterly progress reviews  | ✓   | ✓   |
| End-testing (synoptic assessment)                                       | ✗   | ✓   |
| Grading   | ✗   | ✓   |

## What are the main differences?

Under the new Apprenticeship standards, employers and training providers work together to choose which professional qualification (AAT, ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW, etc) best fits the required Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours an Apprentice would have to demonstrate to prove competence in that role.

The assessment of the Apprenticeship has shifted from professional qualification exams to a combination of synoptic assessments, portfolios and professional discussions – all underpinned by training logs and skills developed.

## How are the Accounting Apprenticeship Standards delivered and assessed?



## What next?

We would advise for you to transition your programmes over to the new Apprenticeship standards from 2017 to coincide with the introduction of the Levy and the new funding reforms.

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