

FAQ – IAS

WHAT IS IAS?

IAS stands for Integrated Accounting Systems. This module was introduced in 2008 as a mandatory Second Year subject. IAS is an updated course that ran for fourteen years and was called “Computerised Accounting”. To date over 12,000 students have completed the programme.

I HAVE COMPLETED TAS/SAGE COURSE IN MY COLLEGE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. CAN I RECEIVE AN EXEMPTION FROM THE IAS MODULE?

Accounting Technicians Ireland can offer the exemption from IAS to students who completed Computerised Accounting programme (TAS course or Sage course) **after September 2005**.

If you completed TAS or Sage course before September 2005 you will need to register for the IAS module and sit the IAS exam.

I HAVE COMPLETED TAS/SAGE COURSE WITH OTHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND I HAVE OBTAINED A CERTIFICATE. WILL I BE GIVEN AN EXEMPTION FROM THE IAS MODULE?

No. Accounting Technicians Ireland do not give exemptions from Second Year subjects based on external qualifications.

WHAT THE IAS MODULE CONSIST OF?

This module consists of three sections:

1. Accounting Package (Tas Books 2 or Sage Line 50)
2. Payroll Package (Sage Quickpay or Sage Payroll UK)
3. Spreadsheet (MS Excel)

For more details please check the IAS syllabus available on the web site.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IAS TAS AND THE IAS SAGE PACKAGE?

When registering for the IAS module you have a choice between two packages: the IAS TAS (ROI version only) and the IAS Sage (ROI and NI version). These packages vary in the Accounting Package in use:

- IAS TAS ROI study package covers:
 1. Accounting software: TAS Books 2
 2. Payroll software: Sage Quickpay 2009
 3. MS Excel
- IAS SAGE ROI study package covers:
 1. Accounting software: Sage Line 50
 2. Payroll software: Sage Quickpay 2009

3. MS Excel
- IAS SAGE NI study package covers:
 1. Accounting software: Sage Line 50
 2. Payroll software: Sage Payroll UK 2009
 3. MS Excel

WHAT VERSION OF THE IS THE SOFTWARE IS BEING USED IN 2009-2010?

1. Accounting Package: TAS BOOKS 2 V. 8, SAGE LINE 50 V. 15
2. Payroll Package: SAGE QUICKPAY 2009 (ROI) , SAGE PAYROLL UK 2009 (NI)
3. MS Excel 2003

WHAT PACKAGE SHOULD I STUDY?

The last fifteen years of running TAS and Sage courses has showed that TAS software seems to be more popular among ROI companies and Sage software tends to be more used by Northern Ireland employers. Consequently ROI students often opt for TAS package and NI students for Sage package.

If you are a college student, please ask your tutor what package your college is teaching. If you have been using TAS or Sage package before (e.g. at work) and you have a preference, you can find the Accounting Technicians Ireland licensed college who runs the course of your choice and join their course.

If you are a correspondence student you have an option between the IAS TAS ROI and the IAS Sage ROI and the IAS Sage NI package.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE INFORMATION ON IAS COLLEGES' COURSES?

You can find a complete list of licensed colleges on Accounting Technicians Ireland web site, under Students section.

WHERE CAN I GET THE IAS SOFTWARE FOR THE COURSE?

If you are a college student you should be able to access the software installed on the PC in your college. If you would like to practice the IAS software at home you can download the trial version of the IAS 2009-2010 software from Accounting Technicians Ireland web site.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IN CASE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH INSTALLING THE IAS SOFTWARE?

In case of any software/technical difficulties you can contact the Sage Ireland telephone help line. You will be asked for a customer's account number and you can verify this with your college tutor. Alternatively, please contact Accounting Technicians Ireland.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I SIT THE IAS THE IAS EXAM?

The IAS exam takes place in your college during March 2010. To sit the exam, please submit the Examination form before 8th February 2010. You must check with your college to confirm the date and the time of the exam.

WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR THE IAS EXAM?

The IAS examination fee is €120.

WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR THE IAS REPEAT EXAM?

The IAS repeat examination fee is €70.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IN CASE OF ANY SOFTWARE INSTALLATION DIFFICULTIES?

In case of any installation difficulties (e.g. to confirm the IAS software serial number, activation key or company name) please contact your IAS tutor first. Tutors should be able to provide their students with the IAS software installation details.

You can also contact Sage Ireland Technical Support.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE IAS EXAM?

The IAS exam is a computer-based assessment. The duration of the IAS exam is 3 ½ hours. Printing can be carried out after the 3 ½ hour period, but no changes can be made to the students exam after that time. All printouts, the exam back-up and the exam paper are required to be given to the exam supervisor before the student exits the exam venue.

WHAT IS THE PASS MARK FOR THE IAS EXAM?

Students must obtain a 70% grade to pass the exam.

IS THE IAS EXAM AN OPEN BOOK EXAM?

No. Students can bring the following into the IAS exam: pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, correction fluid and calculator. No other material can be brought into the exam or used during the exam. This includes any notes, manuals, past assessments, etc. Mobile phones are specifically banned from the exam venue. It is permissible to use the 'help' function within Sage Quickpay (ROI), Sage 50 Payroll (NI), TAS Books 2, Sage Line 50 and MS Excel during the exam if required. No other software (e.g. training or tutorial software) can be used during the course of the exam.

WHEN CAN I RE-SIT THE IAS EXAM IF I FAIL IN MARCH?

Any student who obtains a grade of less than 70% is allowed to re-sit the exam. Second sitting of the IAS exam will take place in April 2010.

WHEN CAN I RE-SIT THE IAS EXAM IF I FAIL IN APRIL?

If you are unsuccessful in the April sitting, the next sitting will be March 2011.

CAN I COMPENSATE IAS?

No. You must achieve the pass mark of 70%.

CAN I STUDY THE IAS MODULE BY CORRESPONDENCE?

Yes. Accounting Technicians Ireland offers students the option of completing the IAS module by correspondence.

This module consists of three parts: Accounting package (Tas Books 2 or Sage Line 50), Payroll package – Sage Quickpay or Sage Payroll UK and MS Excel package. In this module you have a choice between two packages: the IAS TAS (ROI version) and the IAS Sage (ROI or NI version).

Correspondence students study at home with materials provided. Students can contact the IAS tutor in case of any questions during the course. We also offer IAS seminars in December 2009 or February 2010, and separate IAS Revision days in January and March 2010.

HOW MUCH DOES THE IAS DISTANCE LEARNING COST?

Correspondence package costs €300 and this fee includes:

- Two IAS Revision Days: the first of these will be held in late January 2010, the second will be held in March 2010.
- The IAS Manual
- The IAS Software(two CDs: accounting software and payroll software)
- Access to our dedicated IAS tutor
- Access to Sage Ireland Technical Support

The correspondence package does not include the IAS Exam fee of €120. To pay your IAS examination fee, please complete the examination booking form and forward this to us with the payment.

As a Special Offer, you will also be able to attend one of our IAS Seminars at no extra cost (normally €70). The IAS Seminar will be held this year in Dublin only. Seminar 1 is on 12th December and Seminar 2 is on 27th February. Both are identical, so can attend which ever one you wish.

IS THERE AN IAS MANUAL AVAILABLE?

We publish a manual for each subject. Our manual for IAS TAS and IAS SAGE is available to purchase on our web site. The IAS manual covers the entire IAS course comprehensively, incorporating Sage Quickpay (ROI), Sage Payroll UK (NI), TAS Books 2 or Sage Line 50 and MS Excel.

There are three versions of the IAS manual: IAS TAS ROI, IAS SAGE ROI and IAS SAGE NI. If you are not sure which manual to purchase please ask you college tutor.