

Timeline for new exam, new ETR and accreditation

Introduction

EMERGE intends to accomplish three key steps in relation to the exam:

1. Introduce a new structure – approved in principle in 2022, an implementation plan is needed
2. Ensure the exam reflects the new ETR, which is anticipated to be approved in spring 2024
3. Gain accreditation for the examination by CESMA which will demonstrate external assurance of the quality.

Given that the three elements are inter-dependent, and that sufficient time is required to ensure each step is of highest possible quality before the next step, the proposed timeline is as follows:

Date	Exam structure changes	ETR status	Accreditation
Autumn 2023	Move to 120 SBA MCQs Part B 4SCE and 4 SOE	2017 ETR	
Spring 2024	Move to two 100 SBA papers Part A Part B 4SCE and 4 SOE	ETR 2024 submitted for approval to UEMS 2017 ETR used for exam	
Autumn 2024	Two 100 SBA papers Part A Part B – 6 SOEs of 15 minutes	ETR “live” for training 2017 ETR used for exam	
Spring 2025	Two 100 SBA papers Part A Part B – 6 SOEs of 15 minutes	Formally use 2024 ETR	
Autumn 2025	Two 100 SBA papers Part A Part B – 6 SOEs of 15 minutes	2024 ETR	Accreditation planned

Rationale

The changes to both parts of the exam are not required to occur at one time

Additional time for candidates and for examiners to be used to the new mark sheet, new blueprint and focus on SOES is needed

Whilst the blueprints use the Overarching competences in the new ETR and the syllabus headings – these are not sufficiently different to the existing ETR to impact on trainees. However there are some additions in the syllabus that mean candidates need a minimum of 12 months to allow them to gain these competences, hence the delay in formally adopting the 2024 ETR for the exam until spring 2025.

Accreditation should be completed when the exam follows the existing ETR which has had time for candidates to gain access to learning opportunities AND when the new format has been introduced successfully. Therefore a delay is planned until autumn 2025 for accreditation.