



Hong Kong Institute of  
**Accredited Accounting Technicians**  
香港財務會計協會

**Versatile AAT**  
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### **AAT qualification – your first step to management**

Accounting is the indispensable lifeblood of every industry. It has an important role to play in maintaining the smooth functioning of the packaging industry. This month's featured AAT, Joyce Lam, talks about her accounting experience in this special industry.

#### ***Tell us about your current position and duties.***

I have been with the Potential Packaging Co. for four years. The company's core business is to provide packaging services. I am currently serving as an accounts clerk, responsible for controlling the company's accounting flow, administration and daily operations.

#### ***Tell us about your academic background. What did you study before taking the AAT examinations? Did you qualify for any exemptions?***

After secondary school education, I took the Diploma in Accountancy at IVE – this was when I started developing an interest in this profession. Completing the diploma meant I had exemptions from five AAT examination papers. The three papers I needed to take were business law, advanced accounting and auditing.

#### ***Did having the AAT qualification bring a promotion or change in your job duties?***

Once I had the AAT qualification my boss was confident about giving me more challenging job assignments. At first I only did simple book-keeping tasks but now I am also in charge of the company's taxation and all accounting-related duties. I am often asked to prepare different reports, profit & loss accounts, and so on for my boss to read before he makes any decisions.



Having the qualification has increased by boss's trust in me. In the past my boss wanted to approve all documents I had prepared before they were sent.

But now I can handle and issue all quotations, invoices, etc. by myself. It may seem a small thing but my job satisfaction does not come only from my level of control at work, but how the company values me. I very much appreciate this.

***How do you apply knowledge gained from AAT qualification at work?***

Studying for the AAT examinations trained me in carrying out data-analysis tasks more systematically. As part of our studies, we were asked to analyse figures and come up with answers after calculation. This is pretty much what I encounter at work, where I have to digest figures and present analyses to management.

Law was certainly the most challenging subject for me, mainly because of the sheer amount of new terminology. Studying for the law exam helped me learn something new and highly relevant to the company's operation; it also trained up my analytical powers, logical thinking and reading speed. When you try to apply the knowledge in examination questions, you are gradually guided to think wisely and make convincing arguments. This is very useful for your development, whatever your career.

***How do you think AAT qualification can help you to achieve your goals?***

Everyone would like to excel and pave his or her way to management. The AAT qualification has given me just that opportunity and the fundamental skills required. After all, accounting is the backbone of every kind of business. With my specialised knowledge, I am confident that my road to becoming a manager will be much easier.

***Do you have any advice for AAT students?***

Some accounting practitioners perform better than others. The key to it is a very clear mindset: you cannot be confused by the complex figures you are exposed to every day. Having a clear mind is not enough though; you need to have a good analytical power to explain relationships between figures and present the results logically to your boss.

***What are your future career plans?***

I have already taken two papers in the PBE and will go on to QP if all goes well. I hope that my enhanced accounting knowledge can help me bring more insightful ideas to the company and improve our accounting system.