

# Guidance for BTT students

## Introduction

The below guidance is issued with a view to assisting those students who have either previously enrolled on the Bar Transfer Test or wish to do so for the December 2020 sitting. It has been prepared in conjunction with the Bar Standards Board (“BSB”) and chimes with (where applicable) the guidance which the BSB has already issued in respect of the August centrally set assessments.

Please read the following guidance **very carefully** and identify which aspect(s) of the below detailed arrangements to be put in place governs your particular situation. Whichever category you fall into, please consider the **Timetable of offerings for December 2020/January 2021** set out below for information regarding when relevant events are taking place.

## Arrangements

### Track A

#### Who is on this Track?

Track A is a term which has already been used by the BSB in the guidance which has been circulated to BTT students. Accordingly, on this track is:

- any BTT student who sat the centrally set assessments in August 2020 and wants the opportunity to do that sitting of those assessments again; and
- any BTT student who deferred the August 2020 centrally set assessments to December 2020 but who now wants to do the centrally set assessments in October 2020.

## Details

As the BSB has already said, the October sitting of the centrally set assessments represents “a global mitigating action for anyone who wishes to avail themselves of it, regardless of whether they had technical issues or not.”

Students will not know the results of their August exams before either registering for or sitting the exams in October. Therefore, in effect August and October act as the same ‘sit’ of the centrally set assessments.

Students who have taken the centralised assessments in both August and October 2020 will be credited with whichever is the highest mark of the August and October 2020 sits. August/October 2020 marks will not be capped unless the student was already not on a first sit.

Students wishing to sit their assessments in October should contact BPP to register **by 5pm on Monday 21 September 2020**.

All of the results for the centrally set assessments taking place in October 2020 are released after the final date for registration for the sitting of the centrally set assessments in December 2020. A student who sits the centrally set assessments in October 2020 is therefore precluded from sitting the centrally set assessments in December 2020.

### Exam dates for the centrally set assessments in October 2020

The dates of the assessments are:

**Professional Ethics: Monday 5 October 2020, 2pm – 4.30pm**

**Civil Litigation: Wednesday 7 October 2020, 2pm – 5pm**

**Criminal Litigation: Monday 12 October 2020, 2pm – 5pm**

### Query

I am a BTT Track A student who failed one or more of the Advocacy exams for the BTT in July/August 2020 and I need to resit that exam/those exams. When is the next available opportunity for me to do that?

### Answer

Your next opportunity to resit any one or more of the Advocacy exams for the BTT will be in January 2021. Accordingly, therefore, a BTT student on Track A, who sits the centrally set assessments in October 2020 **will** be able, if they wish, to sit the exams for the Advocacy component of the BTT in January 2021 but **will not be** allowed to sit the centrally set assessments in December 2020. **Any student wishing to sit the exams for the Advocacy component of the BTT in January 2021 should register with BPP for this purpose as soon as possible, ideally no later than by 5pm on 11 November 2020 and in any event by 5pm on 13 November 2020. For the avoidance of doubt, the results of the July/August 2020 Advocacy exams will be released to students in the week commencing 5 October 2020 (which decision has been consciously taken so as to allow students to make an early and informed decision as to whether they need to register for the Advocacy examinations to be held in January 2021).**

## Track B

### Who is on this Track?

Track B is a term which has already been used by the BSB in the guidance which has been circulated to BTT students. Accordingly, on this track is:

- any BTT student who sat and failed the centrally set assessments in August 2020 and who does not sit the centrally set assessments in October 2020 (because, for instance, such student wishes to receive their results for the August 2020 centrally set assessments); and
- any BTT student who originally intended to defer until December 2020 and who maintains that intention.

### Details

As the BSB has already made clear, where a student is on Track B, the August 2020 sitting of the centrally set assessments is to be classed as a 'normal' sitting of those assessments. Accordingly, therefore, all the standard assessment regulations would apply to the August 2020 sitting of the centrally set assessments and a student therefore could apply for an appeal/ mitigating circumstances in relation to the August sitting of the centrally set assessments in the usual way. Should a student who sat and failed the centrally set assessments in August 2020 choose to sit the centrally set assessments again in December 2020, it will be the December result that counts irrespective of whether it is higher or lower than the August mark.

**Students intending to sit the centrally set assessments in December 2020 must inform BPP of their decision as soon as possible, ideally no later than by 5pm on 11 November 2020 and in any event by 5pm on 13 November 2020.**

Students who sit the centrally set assessments in December 2020 should know their results by the beginning of March 2021.

### Exam dates for the centrally set assessments in December 2020

The dates of the assessments are:

**BPTC Professional Ethics: Wednesday 2 December 2020, 2pm – 4.30pm**

**BPTC Criminal Litigation: Friday 4 December 2020, 2pm – 5pm**

**BPTC Civil Litigation: Monday 7 December 2020, 2pm – 5pm**

### Query

I am a BTT Track B student who failed one or more of the Advocacy exams for the BTT in July/August 2020 and I need to resit that exam/those exams. When is the next available opportunity for me to do that?

### Answer

Your next opportunity to resit any one or more of the Advocacy exams for the BTT will be in January 2021. Accordingly, therefore, a BTT student on Track B, who sits the centrally set assessments in December 2020 will be able, if they wish, to sit the exams for the Advocacy component of the BTT in January 2021. **Any student wishing to sit the exams for the Advocacy component of the BTT in January 2021 should register with BPP for this purpose as soon as possible, ideally no later than by 5pm on 11 November 2020 and in any event by 5pm on 13 November 2020. For the avoidance of doubt, the results of the July/August 2020 Advocacy exams will be released to students in the week commencing 5 October 2020 (which decision has been consciously taken so as to allow students to make an early and informed decision as to whether they need to register for the Advocacy examinations to be held in January 2021).**

## **Students who did not sit any aspect of the BTT in July/August 2020**

### **Who does this apply to?**

As indicated, this is for any student who did not sit any aspect of the BTT in July/August 2020. In order to complete the BTT, students have to pass the centrally set assessments and the Advocacy exams. The next opportunity for a student (who did not sit any aspect of the BTT in July/August 2020) to take the centrally set assessments will be in December 2020 (the dates of which are set out under the heading "Track B" above) and the next opportunity to sit the Advocacy exams will be in January 2021 (as detailed below). **Any student wishing to do the centrally set assessments in December 2020 and the Advocacy exams in January 2021 must register with BPP for these purposes by 30 October 2020.**

### **Timetable of offerings for December 2020/January 2021**

- Ethics revision day: 23 November 2020
- Crime revision day: 25 November 2020
- Civil revision day: 26 November 2020
- Ethics revision webinar: 30 November 2020
- Crime revision webinar: 3 December 2020
- Civil revision webinar: 5 December 2020
- Advocacy training weekend: 18 – 20 December 2020
- Civil Application Advocacy assessment: 16 January 2021
- Witness Handling Advocacy assessment: 17 January 2021.

All offerings except the revision webinars will be conducted online using Microsoft Teams. The revision webinars will be conducted using Adobe connect. Students will have a technical session on Friday 18 December 2020 to explain how the Advocacy training and assessments will run.