

HANDS-ON COURSE (HOC) ASSESSMENT DATA ANALYTICS AND FINTECH FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

1. What is the frequency at which Hands-on Course (HOC) assessment is conducted?

HOC assessment is conducted on a quarterly basis, in the month of January, April, July and October.

2. Can examinees appear in the HOC assessment in both center-based and remote proctoring environment?

Examinees residing in Pakistan must take the HOC assessment in a center-based environment.

However, those residing outside Pakistan may take the HOC assessment in a remote proctoring environment, provided they meet the specified requirements. These include submitting a scanned copy of their passport, visa, and immigration entry/exit stamp pages, beside meeting the software, hardware and environmental requirements defined for taking exams in a remote proctoring environment.

3. Is there any limitation on the number of attempts allowed for the HOC assessment?

There is no limitation on the number of attempts to pass the HOC assessment.

4. Can examinees bring and use their calculators during assessment?

Yes, they can use the calculators allowed by ICAP. For the list of permissible calculators, please visit the following link:

<https://icap.org.pk/students/examination/important-notice/permissible-calculators/>

5. Are the examinees required to have their own laptop for appearing in HOC assessment?

Examinees taking the HOC assessment in a center-based environment do not need to bring their own laptops. However, those appearing in a remote proctoring environment are required to arrange a laptop meeting the desired specification for taking their assessment.

6. What is the new assessment methodology for Data Analytics and FinTech, and when will it be applicable?

Effective from October 2024, the assessment methodology of the Hands-on Course (HOC) for Data Analytics and FinTech (DAF) will consist of two parts:

- Part One: Home-based Assignments (70% Weightage)
- Part Two: MCQs-based Assessment (30% Weightage)

7. Where can I find the link to model assignment and questions?

The model assignment and questions for the HOC along with the relevant guidelines can be accessed using the following link:

<https://icap.org.pk/students/study-resources/hands-on-courses/>

8. What will be the passing criteria according to the new HOC assessment methodology?

The passing criteria of HOC assessment of DAF is as follows:

- A minimum of 50% marks must be achieved in the MCQs-based assessment of DAF.
- An overall minimum of 50% marks must be achieved across both parts i.e., home-based assignment and MCQs-based assessment.

9. Will examinees be permitted to use application software like Python, MS Power BI, MS Excel, or similar tools during the MCQs-based HOC assessment of Data Analytics and FinTech.

From October 2024 onwards, examinees will not be allowed to use any application software during the assessment.

10. Will a paper sheet for rough work be provided during the HOC assessment?

No.

11. Whether the students who have passed the HOC assessment before October 2024 remain eligible to appear in the MSA examination?

Yes, those students remain eligible to appear in the MSA examination, provided they meet all other specified requirements for the MSA exam.

12. If some students enroll in the HOC assessment and the MSA examination simultaneously, fail in the HOC assessment then what would be the status of their fee paid for the MSA examination?

The MSA examination fee paid by them will be carried forward to the next attempt.