

Anglais	BTS Comptabilité et Gestion	Session 2019
---------	-----------------------------	--------------

Sujet n° 2

## The Future of Accounting: Will it Still Exist in 2040?

With the imminent rise of artificial intelligence, a wide variety of professions will be at risk of becoming obsolete within the next 20 years. With this in mind, many business owners and number crunchers<sup>1</sup> alike are asking themselves, “what is the future of accounting?”

5 One thing we know for sure is that technology is changing the future of accounting in business. Cloud accounting packages like Xero and QBO have made accounting software finally accessible from anywhere on any device. But they also present it in a way business owners can actually understand! Running Sage on a dusty computer in the corner of the office is now, for most, a thing of the past.

10 Buzzwords like ‘AI’ and ‘Machine Learning’ are increasingly bandied about, used by some to prophesy the extinction of accountants. But I still believe! The future of accounting is bright and here are just a few reasons why:

1. The role of the accountant is about giving business owners the peace of mind that they’re not making a horrible mistake somewhere and ending up with an unexpectedly large tax bill, fines, or even a prison sentence. Having an outside third party (human) perspective on how the books are being run is such a valuable asset that I can’t imagine that need will ever go away, no matter how automated things become.

2. Accounting is much like the legal profession, where interpretation is frequently needed around the application of tax law, especially for new laws. It’s difficult for a computer to do this kind of work effectively.

20 By coupling your experience and skills with great software tools to provide a better interpretation that is focused on key decisions, the role of trusted advisor is very much up for grabs<sup>2</sup>. And the future of the accounting profession looks bright.

Adapted from *Business*, 14 Feb 2018

(1) *Number crunchers* : bookkeeper

(2) *Up for grabs* : on offer