

Anglais	BTS Comptabilité et Gestion	Session 2019
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Sujet n°6

What does technology mean for the future of accountants?

It's hard to deny that finance is a changing industry, and accountants need to be adaptable to keep up. It seems that the days of punching numbers into calculators and scribbling down sums are a far-distant memory. Instead, we need a sound technological insight and a fast computer to keep us ahead of the game.

5 In recent years, technology has gifted us ways of making working practices more efficient than ever. From cloud-based accounting software to cryptocurrencies to the promise of Making Tax Digital, new innovations are shaking up our working practices. 2019 marks the beginning of Making Tax Digital, the government's initiative to streamline the tax return process for businesses. With this is expected to follow a
10 greater degree of automation – spreadsheets could be redundant, VAT returns will be digitised and all administration will instead need to be processed through cloud-based software.

As accountants, our greatest asset lies not only with our number skills, but our communication and ability to personally assess any situation presented to us by a
15 client. Fundamentally, accountancy is a profession and strengths often lie with the ability to build rapport with clients and develop a relationship based on trust. With the implementation of technology helping to streamline our processes, this does not make work less worthwhile, but saves us time on the things which we would otherwise have needed to do manually.

20 In addition, cloud and mobile-based accounting platforms could allow accountants the ability to work flexibly and assist the demands of clients more readily. The shift to cloud-based solutions also means having financial information on demand and presented to us in real-time which could present the opportunity for us to make better decisions.

Adapted from *www.accountancyage.com*, August 22, 2018