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Why Getting CA Qualified Still Matters — Even When AI Can Do the Maths

By Mahesh Ramanujam, FCA · March 31, 2026 · promptedgrad.com/ca-qualification-ai-era/

Key Points

1

AI can process invoices, draft financial statements, and run tax calculations — but it cannot take professional responsibility.

2

The CA qualification builds professional scepticism, ethical judgment, client management, and regulatory navigation — skills AI cannot replicate.

3

Three tech waves (computerisation, Tally, cloud) all predicted CA was finished. Each time, qualified professionals who adapted thrived.

4

AI eliminates the mechanical bottleneck of articleship — graduates now reach advisory-level work 2-3 years earlier than before.

5

The most valuable CA in 2026 is one who combines domain expertise with AI capability — not one who avoids AI or one who blindly trusts it.

6

ICAI qualification plus AI literacy is a combination that no amount of AI deployment alone can replace.

Key Takeaway

AI does the processing. The CA provides the judgment, the accountability, and the signature.

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