Chartered Insurance Institute

R01

Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning

Unit 1 – Financial services, regulation and ethics

Based on the 2025/2026 syllabus
examined from 1 September 2025 until 31 August 2026

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The CII Qualifications accessibility and special circumstances policy and guidance document can be viewed on the CII Rules and Policies page **www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/assessment-information/before-the-exam/rules-and-policies/**

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Unit 1 – Financial services, regulation and ethics

Based on the 2025/2026 syllabus examined from 1 September 2025 until 31 August 2026

Introduction

This examination guide has been produced by the Examinations Department at the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) to assist students in their preparation for the R01 examination. It contains a specimen examination with answer key.

Ideally, students should have completed the majority of their studies before attempting the specimen examination. Students should allow themselves two hours to complete the examination. They should then review their performance to identify areas of weakness on which to concentrate the remainder of their study time.

Although the specimen examination in this guide is typical of a R01 examination, it should be noted that it is not possible to test every single aspect of the syllabus in any one particular examination. To prepare properly for the examination, candidates should make full use of the tuition options available and read as widely as possible to ensure that the whole syllabus has been covered. They should also endeavour to keep as up-to-date as possible with developments in the industry by reading the periodicals listed in the R01 reading list, which is located on the syllabus in this examination guide and on the CII website at **www.cii.co.uk.**

Background Information

CII examination questions undergo a rigorous writing and editing process before reaching an examination. The questions are written to strict guidelines by practitioners with relevant technical knowledge and experience. Questions are very carefully worded to ensure that all the information required to answer the question is provided in a clear and concise manner. They are then edited by an independent panel of experienced practitioners who have been specifically trained to ensure that questions are technically correct, clear and unambiguous. As a final check, each examination is scrutinised by the Senior Examiner and a CII assessment expert.

Occasionally a question will require amendment after the examination guide is first published. In such an event, the revised question will be published on the CII website:

1) Visit **www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/unit-financial-services-regulation-ethics-r01/**
2) Select 'exam guide update' on the right-hand side of the page

Candidates should also refer here for the latest information on changes to law and practice and when they will be examined.

Syllabus

The R01 syllabus is published on the CII website at **www.cii.co.uk. Candidates should note that the examination is based on the syllabus, rather than on any particular tuition material.** Of course, the CII tuition material will provide the vast majority of the information required to perform well in the examination, but the CII recommends that students consult other reference materials to supplement their studies.

Supporting information for the syllabus which contains a detailed overview of the areas covered can be found on the unit page. Select Supporting information for the 2025/2026 syllabus on the right-hand side of the page.

Skill Specification

The examination syllabus categorises R01 learning outcomes into attainment levels. Each learning outcome specifies the level of skill required of candidates and thus the level at which candidates may be tested.

The syllabus requires that candidates have the ability to *apply*, *understand* and *evaluate* the subject matter. Each learning outcome begins with one of these cognitive skills:

Understanding - Candidates must be able to link pieces of information together in cause and effect relationships. Typically questions may ask 'Why'. Questions set on an understand learning outcome can test either knowledge or understanding or both.

Application - To answer application questions, the candidate must be able to apply his/her knowledge and/or understanding to a given set of circumstances. Typically questions may ask 'Calculate' – for example, 'Calculate liability to Income Tax'. Questions set on a be able to apply learning outcome can test knowledge and/or understanding as well as application.

Evaluation - To answer questions requiring evaluation or critical evaluation, the candidate must be able to assess and judge information presented and reach a conclusion. Typically questions will relate to a given set of circumstances and behaviours and require the selection of the correct or best evaluation.

Examination Information

The method of assessment for the R01 examination is 100 multiple choice questions (MCQs): 87 standard format and 13 multiple response format. 2 hours are allowed for this examination.

The R01 syllabus provided in this examination guide will be examined from 1 September 2025 until 31 August 2026.

Candidates will be examined on the basis of English law and practice in the tax year 2025/2026 unless otherwise stated. It should be assumed that all individuals are domiciled, resident and ordinarily resident in the UK unless otherwise stated.

For areas of the syllabus that are focused on taxation, the general rule is that the new tax year and changes arising from the Finance Act will be examined from 1 September each year. Other changes, not related to the Finance Act, will not be examined earlier than 3 months after they come into effect.

R01 examinations test the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority rules and regulations.

When preparing for the examination, candidates should ensure that they are aware of what typically constitutes each type of product listed in the syllabus and ascertain whether the products with which they come into contact during the normal course of their work deviate from the norm, since questions in the examination test generic product knowledge.

Extracts from tax tables will be provided at each examination, an example of which can be found in this examination guide. Candidates may find it beneficial to familiarise themselves with this information in advance of the examination. Candidates may **not** take their own tax tables into the examination.

A standard format multiple choice question consists of a problem followed by four options, labelled A, B, C and D, from which the candidate is asked to choose the correct response. Each question will contain only one correct or best response to the problem posed. One mark is awarded for each correct response identified by the candidate. No mark is awarded if the candidate either chooses an incorrect response, chooses more than one response or fails to choose any response. No marks are deducted for candidates choosing an incorrect response.

A multiple response format question consists of a problem, followed by between four to six options. For each question more than one option is correct. Candidates must select **all** the correct options to gain the mark.

If you bring a calculator into the examination room, it must be a silent battery or solar-powered non-programmable calculator. The use of electronic equipment capable of being programmed to hold alphabetic or numerical data and/or formulae is prohibited. You may use a financial or scientific calculator, provided it meets these requirements.

Candidates are permitted to make rough notes. Candidates are not permitted, in any circumstances, to remove any papers relating to the examination from the examination room.

Examination Technique: Multiple Choice Questions

The best approach to multiple choice examinations is to work methodically through the questions.

The questions are worded very carefully to ensure that all the information required is presented in a concise and clear manner. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that understanding the precise meaning of the question is vital. If candidates miss a crucial point when reading the question it could result in choosing the wrong option. Candidates should read carefully through the question and all the options before attempting to answer.

Candidates should pay particular attention to any words in the question which are emphasised in bold type, for example, **maximum**, **minimum**, **main**, **most**, **normally** and **usually**. Negative wording is further emphasised by the use of capital letters, for example **NOT**, **CANNOT**.

Candidates should not spend too much time on any one question. If they cannot make up their mind, they should leave the question and come back to it later.

When all of the questions have been answered, it is prudent to use any remaining time to go through each question again, carefully, to double-check that nothing has been missed. Altering just one incorrect response to a correct response could make the difference between passing and failing.

Before the Examination

For sittings at exam centres and via remote invigilation please ensure you are aware of the layout of the examination by using the familiarisation test **www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/assessment-information/multiple-choice-question-exams-at-a-test-centre/exam-familiarisation/**

Remote invigilation
For remote invigilation sittings, you should check that the equipment you plan to use on your exam day is suitable. System requirements can be found here
www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/assessment-information/multiple-choice-question-exams-by-remote-invigilation/prepare-your-it-equipment/

Once you have booked your exam, you will be able to launch a Tutorial by going to the booking via your MyCII/MyPFS Dashboard. This tutorial can only be accessed three times, we suggest saving one attempt for 2-3 days prior to your exam date. The tutorial allows you to experience the launch of an exam as it will be on the day and covers some common FAQs. You will be unable to access the tutorial 2 hours and 30 minutes prior to your scheduled exam time.

To access your examination on the exam day, click on the “Launch Exam” link beside your scheduled exam, with the Bookings and Results area of your MyCII/MyPFS Dashboard. If you have any difficulty accessing your MyCII/MyPFS account you should contact CII customer service.

After the Examination

Rigorous checks are made to ensure the correctness of the results issued. A pre-defined quota of passes to be awarded does not exist. If all candidates achieve a score of at least the pass mark, then all candidates will be awarded a pass grade. Individual feedback on the candidate's examination performance is automatically provided and will indicate the result achieved and, for each syllabus learning outcome, the percentage of questions in the examination that were answered correctly.

Chartered Insurance Institute

Financial services, regulation and ethics

Purpose

At the end of this unit, candidates will have investigated the:

- purpose and structure of the UK financial services industry;
- how the retail customer is served by the financial services industry;
- regulatory framework, powers and responsibilities to protect the consumer;
- legal concepts and considerations relevant to financial advice;
- Code of Ethics and its impact on the business behaviours of individuals.

Summary of learning outcomes		Number of questions in the examination*
1.	Understand the UK financial services industry in its European and global context.	6 standard format
2.	Understand how the retail consumer is served by the financial services industry.	12 standard format
3.	Understand the legal concepts and considerations relevant to financial advice.	9 standard format
4.	Understand the regulation of financial services.	6 standard format
5.	Understand the financial regulators' responsibilities and approach to regulation.	29 standard format
6.	Apply the principles and rules as set out in the regulatory framework.	4 standard format/ 5 multiple response
7.	Apply the regulatory advice framework to ensure fair outcomes for the consumer.	5 standard format/ 8 multiple response
8.	Understand the range of skills required when advising clients.	4 standard format
9.	Understand the financial regulators' use of principles and outcomes based regulation to promote ethical and fair outcomes.	7 standard format
10.	Apply the Code of Ethics and professional standards to business behaviours of individuals.	2 standard format
11.	Critically evaluate the outcomes that distinguish between ethical and compliance driven behaviours.	3 standard format

* The test specification has an in-built element of flexibility. It is designed to be used as a guide for study and is not a statement of actual number of questions that will appear in every exam. However, the number of questions testing each learning outcome will generally be within the range plus or minus 2 of the number indicated.

Important notes

- Method of assessment: 100 questions: 87 standard format and 13 multiple response questions. 2 hours are allowed for this examination.
- This syllabus will be examined from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.
- Candidates will be examined on the basis of English law and practice in the tax year 2025/2026 unless otherwise stated.
- It should be assumed that all individuals have long-term UK residence status unless otherwise stated.
- This PDF document has been designed to be accessible with screen reader technology. If for accessibility reasons you require this document in an alternative format, please contact us on online.exams@cii.co.uk to discuss your needs.

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1. Understand the UK financial services industry in its European and global context.

1.1 Describe the role, structure and context of the UK and international financial services markets.

1.2 Explain the function and operation of financial services within the economy.

1.3 Describe the role of the Government on the UK financial services industry.

2. Understand how the retail consumer is served by the financial services industry.

2.1 Explain the obligations that the financial services industry has towards consumers.

2.2 Explain consumers' main financial needs and how these may be prioritised and met.

3. Understand the legal concepts and considerations relevant to financial advice.

3.1 Explain the concepts of legal persons, powers of attorney, law of contract and agency, and ownership of property.

3.2 Explain relevant laws governing insolvency and bankruptcy.

3.3 Explain relevant laws governing wills, intestacy and trusts.

4. Understand the regulation of financial services.

4.1 Examine the roles of the PRA, FCA, HM Treasury and the Bank of England in regulating the market.

4.2 Examine the role of other regulatory bodies and sources of additional oversight.

4.3 Examine the statutory framework of regulation including the impact of global regulation and key regulatory directives.

5. Understand the financial regulators' responsibilities and approach to regulation.

5.1 Explain the financial regulators' statutory objectives and how they are structured to achieve these objectives.

5.2 Explain the main principles and rules of the PRA and FCA.

5.3 Explain the approach to risk based supervision, discipline and enforcement, and sanctions to deal with criminal activities.

6. Apply the principles and rules as set out in the regulatory framework.

6.1 Apply the FCA's and PRA's regulatory principles and rules.

6.2 Apply current anti-money laundering, proceeds of crime and data protection obligations.

6.3 Apply the rules of relevant dispute resolution and compensation schemes.

7. Apply the regulatory advice framework to ensure fair outcomes for the consumer.

7.1 Apply adviser responsibilities in terms of client relationships, regulated advice standards, and positive customer outcomes.

7.2 Monitor and review client plans and circumstances.

8. Understand the range of skills required when advising clients.

8.1 Examine the range of skills required when advising clients.

9. Understand the financial regulators' use of principles and outcomes based regulation to promote ethical and fair outcomes.

9.1 Examine the Financial Conduct Authority's Principles for Businesses and the obligations these place on firms.

9.2 Examine the impact of corporate culture and leadership.

9.3 Examine the responsibilities of those under the Senior Managers and Certification Regime (SM&CR) and the need for integrity, competence and fair outcomes for clients.

10. Apply the Code of Ethics and professional standards to business behaviours of individuals.

10.1 Apply the professional principles and values of ethical, inclusive and sustainable advice.

10.2 Identify ethical dilemmas and apply the steps involved in managing ethical dilemmas.

11. Critically evaluate the outcomes that distinguish between ethical and compliance driven behaviours.

11.1 Evaluate the indicators of ethical behaviour and of limiting behaviour to compliance within the rules.

11.2 Critically evaluate the outcomes that distinguish between ethical and compliant behaviours.

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Additional Resources

The following resources may assist you with your studies.

Note: The examination will test the syllabus alone.

Supporting information for the syllabus can be found on the unit page via the CII website. The resources found here: *www.cii.co.uk/learning* will help you keep up-to-date with developments and provide a wider coverage of syllabus topics.

Additional reading material can also be found referenced throughout the study text.

Learning Support

Financial services, regulation and ethics. London: CII. Study text R01.

Audio Revision, E-Learn, Key Facts Booklet, Knowledge Checker and Revision Extra are included with Enrolment plus, or available at an additional cost. (delivered via RevisionMate)

Supporting exam documents

Tax tables which are provided in your exam can be found here: *www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/assessment-information/before-the-exam/supporting-exam-documents/*

Assessment information

Candidates should refer to the CII website for the latest information on changes to law and practice and when they will be examined:

1. Visit *www.cii.co.uk/qualifications*
2. Select the appropriate qualification
3. Select your unit from the list provided
4. Select qualification update on the right hand side of the page

Examination guide

The examination guide is available on the unit page via the CII website.

If you have a current study text enrolment, the current examination guide is included and is accessible via **RevisionMate** (*ciigroup.org/login*). Details of how to access RevisionMate are on the first page of your study text.

It is recommended that you study from the most recent versions of the examination guide.

Exam preparation

Exam preparation guidance and supporting exam documentation are available via the CII website. *www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/assessment-information*

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1. A bank has its own portfolio management team. This would indicate that it
A. outsources its compliance responsibilities.
B. specialises in wills and executorship.
C. owns a life assurance company.
D. provides a discretionary management service.

2. How are UK gilts issued and traded?
A. New issues and subsequent trading are both carried out on the London Stock Exchange.
B. New issues and subsequent trading are both done through the Debt Management Office.
C. New gilts are issued on the London Stock Exchange and subsequent trading is done through the Debt Management Office.
D. New gilts are issued by the Debt Management Office and subsequent trading is done on the London Stock Exchange.

3. Public companies **usually** raise long-term capital by issuing
A. bonds only.
B. debentures only.
C. shares only.
D. bonds and shares.

4. The rate of inflation has been steadily increasing in the UK over the last year. In an effort to control this position, the Bank of England has increased the Bank Rate by 0.5% and the Government have just announced a 2% increase to the basic rate of Income Tax. These actions are examples of changes in
A. monetary policy in both cases.
B. fiscal policy in both cases.
C. monetary and fiscal policy respectively.
D. fiscal and monetary policy respectively.

5. If a country's balance of payments is in surplus it suggests that
A. interest rates are currently higher than inflation.
B. more goods are being exported than imported.
C. more revenue is being generated from taxation than is being paid out in State benefits.
D. more trade is taking place internally within the country than externally with other countries.

6. Samuel met his financial adviser Charlotte to discuss his financial needs and concerns. Samuel refused to provide details of his income. How should Charlotte react?
A. Only arrange stakeholder products.
B. Only provide advice on an execution-only basis.
C. Record that Samuel refused to provide this detail on the fact-find.
D. Refuse to give any advice at all.

7. Albert, a widower aged 66, is reviewing his financial needs and priorities with his financial adviser. If his attention is particularly being drawn to tax planning issues, this would **most likely** be because he has
A. amended his will to include his grandchildren.
B. a current annual income of £30,000.
C. recently downsized his house to fund for long-term care.
D. total assets in excess of £1,100,000.

8. Matthew's financial adviser is considering recommending loan consolidation as a way of managing his debt situation and is satisfied with the affordability of the proposed arrangements. However, this **may NOT** help Matthew because he has
A. demonstrated a consistent history of overspending and taking credit.
B. an existing buy-to-let property investment.
C. offered his holiday flat as security, rather than his main residence.
D. recently cancelled his bank overdraft facility.

9. A financial adviser is conducting an analysis of the **likely** impact of the receipt of State benefits on the amount of insurance cover thought necessary for his client. This will be particularly useful before recommending
A. an income protection insurance policy.
B. an increasing term assurance policy.
C. a joint life, last survivor, whole of life assurance policy.
D. a unit-linked investment bond.

10. An insurance policy which includes accident and sickness cover would **most likely** be used in connection with which particular financial need?
A. Estate planning.
B. House purchase.
C. Tax planning.
D. Retirement planning.

11. Andrew, aged 27, is employed and Samantha, his wife, aged 26, is self-employed. They have just had their first child and are deciding who should stop work to look after the baby. They should be aware that

A. Samantha may receive Maternity Allowance for a maximum of 52 weeks.

B. Andrew may qualify for Statutory Paternity Pay for up to 2 weeks.

C. Samantha cannot claim for Statutory Maternity Pay but may elect for the entitlement to be transferred to Andrew.

D. Andrew cannot claim Statutory Paternity Pay but can take up to 4 weeks leave from work and claim Statutory Sick Pay.

12. Paul, aged 38, wishes to save £1,500 per month to build up a lump sum towards a special holiday for his 40th birthday. He is considering investing in either a cash ISA or a stocks and shares ISA and seeks advice on the best option. He should be aware that

A. the amount exceeds his annual ISA limit.

B. he may transfer funds between the two forms of an ISA if he wishes to do so.

C. the stocks and shares ISA is more suitable as pound cost averaging will protect the value of his investment.

D. the stocks and shares ISA will always produce higher returns albeit at greater risk.

13. Adam is married with three young children and following a financial review the need for additional life assurance was identified with the proceeds going to someone outside of his family. This was justified because he is

A. self-employed.

B. the trustee of a deceased estate.

C. one of three business partners.

D. a discharged bankrupt.

14. The life cover protection need for Ivor, aged 28, is of a reducing nature, tailing off by age 40. However, a decreasing term assurance was not considered to be suitable. What other product is **likely** to **best** address this need?

A. Convertible term assurance.

B. Family income benefit assurance.

C. Whole of life assurance.

D. Gift inter vivos term assurance.

15. Keith is considering using the conversion option under his convertible term assurance policy and can easily afford to increase his premiums. What factor is **most likely** to influence his choice of the two main options **typically** available under this facility?

A. The amount of disability cover he already has in place.
B. The degree of risk he is prepared to accept.
C. The duration of cover required.
D. The state of health of his wife.

16. William required £100,000 of stand-alone level critical illness cover, but was quoted a prohibitively expensive first year premium. How was he able to immediately reduce the premium whilst maintaining the same cover?

A. He increased the deferred period.
B. He increased the premium payment frequency.
C. He elected for a reviewable premium basis.
D. He acted on an execution-only basis.

17. James, aged 64, is planning to retire at age 65 and has a large retirement fund. Despite having considerable cash deposits the **most likely** reason for him to take his pension commencement lump sum is that

A. it will reduce his potential Inheritance Tax liability.
B. it will allow him to apply for State Pension Credit.
C. he plans to exercise his open market option.
D. it is tax efficient to do so.

18. Insurers impose an upper limit on the level of benefit payable under an income protection insurance policy because of

A. Government legislation.
B. HM Revenue & Customs guidelines.
C. mortality risk.
D. potential moral hazard.

19. Damian and Collette have been business partners for over 20 years and are reviewing their finances with Jack, their financial adviser. They are keen to mitigate against the risk of being personally responsible for any debts of the business and therefore Jack has advised them to consider

A. becoming a limited liability partnership.
B. becoming sole traders and employing each other.
C. taking out a reinsurance policy to ring-fence future profits.
D. taking out separate indemnity insurance policies and assigning them to the other partner.

20. Customer X is in liquidation and customer Y is in administration. This confirms that
A. customer X and customer Y are both subject to Individual Voluntary Arrangements.
B. customer X and customer Y are both companies.
C. only customer Y has debts in excess of £100,000.
D. only customer Y has previously been declared bankrupt.

21. Alfred died intestate aged 88 leaving a spouse and one sister. If his estate is valued at £500,000, how will it be distributed?
A. It will all go to his spouse.
B. His spouse and sister will each receive £250,000.
C. £270,000 will go to his spouse and £130,000 will go to his sister.
D. £322,000 will go to his spouse and £178,000 will go to his sister.

22. Peter applied to an insurer for a term assurance policy on his own life. The insurer was prepared to accept the risk subject to an increased premium as a result of the medical underwriting process. Peter agreed to the revised terms and submitted a direct debit from which premiums would be collected. Which statement regarding the requirements for establishing the contract is true?
A. Offer was satisfied by Peter submitting the direct debit mandate.
B. Consideration was satisfied by the insurer completing the underwriting process.
C. Consideration was satisfied by Peter submitting the proposal form.
D. The revised terms offered by the insurer represent a counter offer.

23. Claire and Charles are the ordinary unsecured creditors of a debtor in bankruptcy. They are respectively owed £1,000 and £2,000. If after all else is settled, £2,400 remains for their total combined settlement, they will respectively receive
A. £400 and £2,000.
B. £600 and £1,800.
C. £800 and £1,600.
D. £1,000 and £1,400.

24. Shirley and Grant are trustees of separate trusts, but Shirley's duties are much more straightforward than Grant's. This is **most likely** to be because
A. Grant is also the settlor of his trust.
B. they are trustees of an absolute trust and a discretionary trust respectively.
C. Shirley is also a beneficiary under her trust.
D. they are trustees of a discretionary trust and flexible trust respectively.

25. Sam, aged 12, has accidentally entered into an online contract whilst using the family computer. What is the legal position regarding this contract?
A. It is enforceable as Sam is over the age of 10.
B. It is enforceable as he was using a computer owned by his parents.
C. It is not enforceable as Sam does not have the capacity to contract.
D. It is not enforceable because it is against the rules of the Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013.

26. William and George are creating a trust. William is certain who his beneficiaries should be, but George is **NOT**. Which type of trust(s) should William and George each create?
A. Both William and George should create absolute trusts.
B. Both William and George should create discretionary trusts.
C. William should create a discretionary trust and George should create an absolute trust.
D. William should create an absolute trust and George should create a discretionary trust.

27. Tom and Bobby both run their own businesses but only Tom is personally liable for the debt of his business. This is because
A. Tom is self-employed and Bobby is a company director.
B. Bobby is self-employed and Tom is a company director.
C. Tom is in a limited liability partnership and Bobby is a company director.
D. Bobby is in a limited liability partnership and Tom is a company director.

28. David has taken out a critical illness policy. Subsequently a claim he made was rejected due to non-disclosure of material facts. This is **most likely** to be because
A. he deliberately withheld information.
B. he purchased the policy online.
C. the insurance company was already aware of the information.
D. the non-disclosure was inadvertent.

29. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has submitted a report to HM Treasury following an investigation into retail investment products. If the report requires remedial action to be taken, the **most likely** immediate outcome will be the
A. CMA and HM Treasury will apply the recommendations jointly.
B. CMA will issue new regulations.
C. Financial Conduct Authority will apply the recommendations unilaterally.
D. HM Treasury will provide direction to the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority.

30. A client has previously written to her former adviser opting out of any marketing activities from the firm or any third parties. However, she continues to receive direct investment offers from the firm. She should complain based on the firm **NOT** complying with which set of regulations?
A. Conduct of Business Rules.
B. Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013.
C. Data protection legislation.
D. Fair treatment of customers.

31. The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 regulates the provision of which type(s) of financial advice?
A. Advice to vulnerable individuals only.
B. Advice to all individuals.
C. Advice to all individuals unless they are elective professional clients.
D. Advice to all individuals unless they are per se professional clients.

32. The directors of an authorised firm have formally appointed an external compliance support company. Why does the authorised firm retain responsibility for its compliance with Financial Conduct Authority rules?
A. The authorised firm is not allowed to delegate their regulatory responsibilities.
B. The appointment of the compliance support company was not made on the basis of a binding contract.
C. The compliance support company does not have suitable professional indemnity cover.
D. The compliance support company is not an authorised firm.

33. The implementation of financial regulation across EU Member States is carried out under which overarching programme?
A. Financial Services Action Plan.
B. Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.
C. Markets in Financial Investments Directive II (MiFID II).
D. Insurance Distribution Directive.

34. Which individual or organisation is directly responsible for overseeing the activities of the Financial Conduct Authority?
A. The Governor of the Bank of England.
B. HM Treasury.
C. The Competition and Markets Authority.
D. The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England.

35. Which body, set up by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, ensures that the investigation and recommendation functions of the Financial Conduct Authority are carried out separately from the determining of any action and issuing of statutory notices?
A. Consumer panel.
B. Practitioner panel.
C. Regulatory Decisions Committee.
D. Upper Tribunal.

36. Gilbert, a financial adviser, has arranged a new investment bond for his client. According to the Conduct of Business Rules, what should Gilbert do on receipt of the policy document?
A. Ask the product provider to retain the document for safekeeping.
B. Retain the document until the next annual review.
C. Retain the document indefinitely.
D. Send out the document to his client as soon as is practically possible.

37. An authorised firm has successfully appealed to the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA's) Upper Tribunal. A possible consequence of this would be
A. additional regulated activity authorisation being granted.
B. an enforcement notice from the FCA.
C. guidance notes automatically being issued to the industry.
D. senior management functions being outsourced.

38. Carl, an independent financial adviser, has committed a market abuse offence. He has been fined and as a consequence
A. all of his clients must be notified.
B. all of his clients' investment contracts must be reviewed.
C. it may affect his future employment prospects.
D. he will automatically be prohibited from working in the financial services industry.

39. Jon and Carol are both employed by an authorised firm. The firm's record-keeping requirements for Jon's responsibilities are greater than for Carol's. This is because
A. Jon is a senior manager and Carol is a customer adviser.
B. Jon is the Compliance Officer and Carol is the Money Laundering Reporting Officer.
C. Jon undertakes a sales function and Carol undertakes a senior management function.
D. Jon was previously served with a prohibition order but Carol was not.

40. Keith is a financial adviser for firm X, which is an appointed representative of firm Y. Keith recently arranged a life policy for a client and the paperwork was checked by his supervisor, Mark. Who is deemed to be the principal in relation to this business?

A. Mark.
B. Keith.
C. Firm X.
D. Firm Y.

41. An authorised firm of financial advisers holds a client money bank account. The directors of the firm should be aware that

A. an annual client money audit and an annual report is required.
B. client money must be paid into the client money bank account on the day it is received.
C. interest earned on the account can always be retained by the firm.
D. reconciliation of the client money bank account must always be performed daily.

42. Ian and Paula were both financial advisers and were both subject to disciplinary sanctions. As a result, only Ian's offence warranted criminal prosecution because

A. Ian breached a prohibition order whereas Paula failed to properly deal with a complaint.
B. Paula lost adviser records whereas Ian failed to properly control his sales force.
C. only Paula was a senior manager.
D. only Ian provided advice on defined benefit pension transfers.

43. Freddie is being prosecuted for market abuse. If he is found guilty of a criminal offence, what is the **maximum** penalty that can be imposed on him?

A. A fine of £100,000 only.
B. An unlimited fine only.
C. A 10-year prison term only.
D. An unlimited fine or a 10-year prison term.

44. Sharon was arranging personal pension plans for her clients, leading them to believe they would be adequate for their retirement needs. A subsequent complaint has indicated that she has failed to meet the requirements of the principles of the fair treatment of customers because she

A. created unrealistic client expectations.
B. failed to predict a stock market crash.
C. failed to take into account possible future changes in State benefits.
D. did not take into account the costs of long-term care.

45. Tom is currently an adviser in an authorised firm. He is about to be promoted to undertake a senior manager's role. This means that he
A. must provide a personal guarantee to the firm.
B. will still be allowed to advise clients.
C. must become a director of the firm.
D. must accept ultimate responsibility for all of the firm's compliance issues.

46. An individual is acting in accordance with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, despite **NOT** being directly authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. This is because they are
A. providing advice on investment business only.
B. providing advice on pension business only.
C. the principal of an authorised firm.
D. an appointed representative.

47. Rachel works in the treasury department of a local authority. How is this activity viewed under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000?
A. She needs to be individually authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority.
B. She is exempt but the local authority must obtain authorisation.
C. Both Rachel and the local authority must be authorised.
D. Neither Rachel nor the local authority must be authorised.

48. In what circumstances, if any, **must** the Financial Conduct Authority notify an adviser of a change in the scope of an ongoing investigation into his conduct?
A. There is no requirement to notify of a change of scope.
B. If absence of notification may prejudice the adviser.
C. If the change is more than six months after the commencement of the investigation.
D. If the investigation is likely to lead to criminal charges.

49. Caroline and Anne are both financial advisers but **only** Caroline is a senior manager. In accordance with the regulations, this means that
A. the requirement for Caroline to exercise due skill, care and diligence is broader.
B. the requirement for Caroline to observe proper market conduct standards lasts for a longer period of time.
C. only Anne can be personally fined for an offence.
D. only Anne can be imprisoned for an offence.

50. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is able to take action against an individual who is a manager performing a senior management role but is **NOT** authorised to give investment advice because of
A. his contract of employment with the employer.
B. the fact that he is regulated by the FCA and must adhere to their rules.
C. the provisions within the Senior Management Arrangements, Systems and Controls Sourcebook.
D. the wider overarching powers contained within the fair treatment of customers outcomes.

51. An authorised firm is moving offices and during the move discovers a file relating to a pension transfer made in 2014 for a former client. What **must** the firm do with this record?
A. Destroy it under data protection legislation as it relates to a former client.
B. Return it to the client.
C. Retain it for a further two years where after it may be destroyed.
D. Retain it indefinitely.

52. Stuart, an employee of an investment management company, is subject to an ongoing Fit and Proper test specifically because he
A. is an administration manager.
B. is a senior manager.
C. is the human resources manager.
D. does not require individual registration.

53. The Government seeks to meet its responsibilities under the UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing by
A. bringing together organisations and interested parties to improve the nation's knowledge and understanding of personal finance.
B. establishing the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) to promote workplace savings.
C. appointing the Financial Skills Partnership to set appropriate and relevant qualifications.
D. establishing a module in the national curriculum to deliver financial education in UK schools and colleges.

54. As a result of a recent investigation, the Practitioner Panel has made a recommendation to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Therefore, the FCA **must**
A. amend the appropriate FCA rules within six months.
B. consider the recommendation without any obligation to amend its rules.
C. issue a guidance note immediately.
D. refer the recommendation to HM Treasury.

55. An authorised firm's senior management functions **must**

A. be approved annually by the Financial Conduct Authority.

B. form part of the firm's initial disclosure documentation.

C. be reviewed regularly by the firm.

D. conform to accepted industry practice standards.

56. The Financial Capability Strategy for the UK is using a programme in schools which is designed to

A. embed a basic understanding of financial matters in young people.

B. reduce the cost of financial advice for parents with children.

C. increase the number of children who progress to careers in financial services.

D. shift responsibility for financial education in schools to the Money and Pensions Service.

57. Alan and Colin both work for a life office. Alan is a senior discretionary investment manager and Colin is a junior member of the compliance department. A **key** regulatory difference between them is that

A. only Alan will require prescribed supervision.

B. only Alan is carrying out a senior management role.

C. only Colin will be subject to a fit and proper test.

D. only Colin will need to be individually registered with the Financial Conduct Authority.

58. Firm A has been fined £100,000 by the Prudential Regulation Authority for insider dealing. Firm B has been fined £1,000,000 for market abuse. This indicates that

A. both firms have received the maximum fine.

B. only firm A has received the maximum fine.

C. neither firm have received the maximum fine.

D. only firm B has received the maximum fine.

59. An authorised firm disagrees with the enforcement action taken by the Financial Conduct Authority. To which body would it appeal?

A. The Upper Tribunal.

B. The Practitioner Panel.

C. The Regulatory Decisions Committee.

D. The Treasury Select Committee.

60. An authorised firm has discovered that they have breached one of the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA's) Principles for Businesses. What action **must** the firm take?

A. The firm has a maximum period of six months to notify the FCA and take remedial action.

B. The firm's compliance officer must notify the FCA immediately and implement remedial actions as soon as possible.

C. The firm's compliance officer must include details of the breach and remedy on the firm's next six-monthly return.

D. The breach must be remedied within seven days and the regulator need not be informed.

61. Under the Financial Conduct Authority's Consumer Duty rules, the Consumer Principle states that a firm **must**

A. act to deliver good outcomes for all clients excluding eligible counterparties.

B. act to deliver good outcomes for retail clients.

C. provide a sustainable outcome for all clients.

D. provide the lowest cost solution for retail clients.

62. When Lionel and Yvonne's bank was declared insolvent in May 2025, Lionel had £60,000 on deposit and Yvonne had investments worth £60,000 with the bank. How much in total would they be entitled to receive under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme?

A. £100,000

B. £108,000

C. £110,000

D. £120,000

63. David sent a letter of complaint to an authorised firm of independent financial advisers on 2 March, which was received on 4 March. The firm acknowledged receipt of the complaint on 7 March. On 1 April a holding response was sent to David to update him on progress of the complaint. What is the latest date on which the firm **must** provide David with its final decision and right to refer the complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service?

March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A. 4 April.

B. 27 April.

C. 29 April.

D. 2 May.

64. A client referred his complaint about the investment advice received from his adviser to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) in January 2025. The FOS has ruled that the advice was unsuitable and has recommended an award of £125,000 plus £2,500 costs. How much is the **maximum** amount of compensation that the adviser firm will be obliged to pay?

A. £100,000
B. £102,500
C. £125,000
D. £127,500

65. Jonas is an independent mortgage and financial adviser. He has **NOT** passed long-term care or equity release examinations to enable him to transact business in those areas. Which of the following transactions will Jonas be able to undertake?

i)	A new term assurance with critical illness cover
ii)	A remortgage for a 40 year-old applicant
iii)	An immediate needs annuity
iv)	A home reversion plan
v)	A compulsory purchase annuity for a 65-year-old applicant

A. i and ii only.
B. i, ii and v only.
C. ii, iii and iv only.
D. iii and iv only.

66. An authorised firm recommends a discretionary model portfolio service within a range of collective funds. This model portfolio services is specifically designed around the firm's approach to investment and risk. Under the Financial Conduct Authority's Consumer Duty rules, the authorised firm is categorised as a

A. co-manufacturer and distributor only.
B. co-manufacturer and manufacturer only.
C. distributor only.
D. manufacturer only.

67. Diane and Martin have two children, aged 16 and 18. The entire family intend to open their first ISA accounts and invest the **maximum** available amounts. They only wish to consider stocks and shares ISAs and **NOT** any other form of ISAs. What is the total amount they would be allowed to invest in the tax year 2025/2026?

A. £40,000
B. £45,720
C. £60,000
D. £80,000

68. From the table, which of these organisations are per se eligible counterparties?

i)	A government of an EU member state.
ii)	A central bank in an EU member state.
iii)	A credit institution.
iv)	A UK pension fund.

A. i only.
B. i, and ii only.
C. i, ii and iii only.
D. i, ii, iii and iv.

69. Various parties to a discretionary trust are set out in the table below.

David	Trustee
Simon	Sole-named beneficiary
Amanda	Beneficiary's spouse

A fiduciary duty exists between
A. David and Amanda only.
B. David and Simon only.
C. Simon and Amanda only.
D. David, Simon and Amanda.

70. In which of the following situations is a referral to another adviser appropriate?

i)	A restricted adviser who does not have a suitable product in his company's range refers to a restricted adviser within another firm.
ii)	A restricted adviser who does not have a suitable product in his company's range refers to an independent financial adviser.
iii)	A restricted adviser who knows a similar product can be obtained cheaper from another provider refers to an adviser of that firm.
iv)	An independent financial adviser is not deemed competent to provide pension transfer advice refers to another independent financial adviser who is suitably qualified and holds the appropriate Financial Conduct Authority permissions.

A. i only.
B. ii and iv only.
C. ii, iii and iv only.
D. iv only.

71. An authorised firm has arranged the following products on 1 June. All products were based on recommendations made to retail clients on a face to face basis. For all products arranged the clients received cancellation notices on the same date.

i)	A cash ISA
ii)	A level term assurance
iii)	An Enterprise Investment Scheme
iv)	A personal pension plan
v)	A Junior ISA

Which of the products is still within its cancellation period on 25 June?

A. i and iii only.

B. ii and iv only.

C. iii and iv only.

D. i, ii and v only.

72. During the course of the fact-finding process, a financial adviser decided to ask a number of open-ended questions. The **primary** purpose of this approach was to

A. instill a sense of commitment from the client.

B. obtain the client's views and opinions.

C. quantify the client's assets and liabilities.

D. secure the client's trust.

73. Susan and Nicola both have lump sums to invest and both intend to use life office managed funds. Why are the opportunities for Susan to benefit from diversification more limited than Nicola's?

A. Susan has decided to adopt a socially responsible approach to investment.

B. Nicola has less to invest than Susan.

C. Susan is significantly younger than Nicola.

D. Nicola is in significantly better health than Susan.

74. Following the completion of a fact-find, a financial adviser has recommended a unit trust and an investment bond to a retail client. In addition, the client has requested a personal pension be arranged on an execution-only basis. The disadvantages of which product(s) **must** be included within the suitability report?

A. Personal pension only.

B. Unit trust and investment bond only.

C. Personal pension and unit trust only.

D. Personal pension, unit trust and investment bond.

75. In considering a number of pension products, Jenny's adviser has pointed out that the reduction in yield figures are important in helping her understand the
A. financial strength of the providers.
B. impact of charges.
C. impact of inflation on the fund values.
D. volatility of investment performance.

76. Julian, a financial adviser, has been praised for the quality of his recent professional conduct. This would **most likely** indicate that he has
A. achieved his annual sales target.
B. acted with appropriate integrity.
C. been influenced by colleagues.
D. maintained up-to-date continuing professional development records.

77. How should an authorised firm react in the event of a conflict of interest arising from a couple's divorce where both parties are clients of the firm?
A. By recommending an independent arbitrator.
B. By referring the couple to another authorised firm.
C. By seeking to maintain strict neutrality.
D. By supporting the client who provides most business.

78. An investment provider has announced new charges for switching between its funds. If these charges are **likely** to be deemed excessive, this would
A. be regarded as a breach of the financial regulators' Principles for Businesses.
B. lead to an investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority.
C. require the investment provider to reapply to the Financial Conduct Authority for relevant permissions.
D. trigger the immediate imposition of a Prudential Regulation Authority approved default charging structure.

79. In order to adhere to the Financial Prudence principle of the Financial Conduct Authority's Principles for Businesses, an authorised firm should
A. ensure that its customers do not take on more debt than they can afford.
B. aim to increase its customers' understanding of day-to-day money management.
C. have adequate financial resources to meet its obligations.
D. not market financial products with excessive investment risk.

80. To what degree, if any, **must** an authorised firm adhere to the Financial Conduct Authority's Principles for Businesses?

A. They must adhere to them but they have discretion as to how they comply with their obligations.

B. They can ignore them provided they follow the rules within the relevant sourcebooks.

C. They can elect to become exempt from them subject to holding prescribed levels of capital resources.

D. They can elect to be exempt from them provided they are a member of a recognised trade association.

81. The compliance officer of an authorised firm has discovered that one of the firm's senior managers has been declared bankrupt. What action **must** the authorised firm take?

A. Terminate the managers employment.

B. Ensure that all the manager's future recommendations are checked by his supervisor.

C. Notify the Financial Conduct Authority in the firm's next 6-monthly return.

D. Notify the Financial Conduct Authority immediately.

82. An individual has applied to an authorised firm for the role of compliance manager. In accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA's) fit and proper requirements, how will she be treated as a result of a previous conviction for dangerous driving seven years ago?

A. The individual will not be deemed fit and proper.

B. The FCA will only consider the issue if it relates to the ability to carry out her role.

C. The FCA will require a further period of three years to elapse before approving the application.

D. The individual will not be allowed to perform a senior management role.

83. William, an independent financial adviser, is advising Emily, a self-employed designer. Emily has an income protection insurance policy which has a **maximum** benefit level of £30,000 per annum, but her earnings have recently fallen to £25,000 per annum. Considering **only** the Financial Conduct Authority's Statements of Principle and ethical standards, what should William do, if anything?

A. Nothing as Emily's earnings may improve in the future.

B. Inform Emily that she may be paying for cover on which she cannot claim.

C. Advise cancellation of the product and replace it with a cheaper one with a lower maximum benefit.

D. Refer Emily to the product provider for guidance.

84. Belinda, a financial adviser, is advising Harriet, a homemaker. Harriet is paying £500 per month into her personal pension, although she has no earnings for the last three years. Considering only ethical requirements, what should Belinda do, if anything?

A. Nothing, as Harriet's earnings are likely to improve in the future.

B. Recommend that Harriet reduces her current contribution level as it appears to exceed her income level.

C. Report her concerns to HM Revenue & Customs.

D. Inform the product provider that contributions to Harriet's plan must cease immediately as her contributions now exceed her income level.

85. In reviewing its management information, an authorised firm has identified a high number of pure protection policies being cancelled immediately after the end of the commission earnings period. What kind of behaviour is this **likely** to indicate?

A. Unethical behaviour by advisers through churning of policies.

B. Unethical behaviour by advisers through over-committing customers' budgets.

C. Non-compliant behaviour by sales staff made on a direct offer basis.

D. Non-compliant behaviour by sales staff made using the simplified advice process.

86. According to the Financial Conduct Authority's High Level Standards, an individual holding a senior manager role in an authorised firm **must**

A. be qualified to at least the same level as the advisers he supervises.

B. provide the same level of client service offering to all clients.

C. review all client files at least annually.

D. uphold the highest personal and professional standards at all times.

87. How may an authorised firm demonstrate that they have **successfully** considered ethical outcomes?

A. High persistency levels.

B. An increase in execution-only business levels.

C. Low persistency levels.

D. Reduced client referrals.

For Questions 88-100 more than 1 option is correct. You must select <u>all</u> the correct options to gain the mark.

88. Barry and Caroline are restricted advisers and Paul is an independent financial adviser. In respect of their current authorisations, they should each be aware that
A. Barry can only advise on a single product.
B. Caroline can be tied to different providers for different products.
C. Barry and Caroline can both introduce clients to Paul.
D. only Caroline can receive commission from more than one provider.

89. Which roles within authorised firms would **automatically** be senior management functions?
A. Compliance manager.
B. Financial adviser.
C. IT manager.
D. Money Laundering Reporting Officer.

90. Simon has experience of dealing with retail clients and is now training to be able to give advice on pension transfers. As a consequence, Simon should be aware that
A. he must have at least 3 years' experience as an adviser before his training can commence.
B. his firm is allowed to impose a time limit on completion of the qualification.
C. once qualified, CPD requirements are waived for 12 months.
D. all records of his training and CPD must be maintained indefinitely.

91. Which of the following constitute 'close links' for the purposes of Threshold Conditions (COND), where party X is seeking authorisation and Y is the other party?
A. Y is a parent undertaking of X.
B. X has a director in common with Y.
C. Y shares premises with X.
D. Y owns or controls 20% or more of the voting rights or capital of X.

92. Several clients held long-term deposits and investment contracts with a UK bank that became insolvent and ceased trading due to insolvency in June 2025. Under the terms of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), which clients will be fully reimbursed by the FSCS to cover their losses?
A. James, who has £100,000 on deposit.
B. Moira, who has a stocks and shares ISA investment of £80,000.
C. Paolo and Kyla, who jointly hold £150,000 in their savings account.
D. Lola, who has an onshore investment bond with a surrender value of £60,000.

93. When considering the preparation of client suitability reports in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's rules, a financial adviser should be aware that
A. suitability should be the consequence of proper adherence to the know your customer rule.
B. when arranging a regulated mortgage contract, a suitability report is not required.
C. suitability reports are always required for both pension transfers and friendly society policies.
D. suitability reports are required for increases to regular premium life assurance contracts, but not for single premium contract top-ups.

94. Firms X and Y are both authorised firms providing financial advice. Firm X is paid by commission only, firm Y is paid by fee only. When comparing their disclosure obligations to retail customers, the firms should be aware that
A. both firms must disclose details of what they can expect to receive.
B. both firms must confirm their regulatory status.
C. only firm X must give full disclosure of its regulatory status.
D. only firm Y must give full disclosure of loans and ownership.

95. Fiona, a financial adviser, is reviewing her client's circumstances. When looking into the client's current assets, Fiona should be aware that
A. it is always acceptable to cancel and replace a life policy.
B. the amount of accessible funds held on deposit will impact on investment decisions.
C. opting out of an occupational pension scheme must never be recommended.
D. the consequences of any recommendation to surrender a long-term contract must be explained.

96. An authorised firm transacts business with a new professional client on 1 February. In respect of the firm's client agreement between the two parties
A. the firm must have provided the agreement by 31 January.
B. risk warnings need only be included where the client has elective professional status.
C. the agreement must include details of the firm's complaints procedures.
D. the agreement must be retained indefinitely where pensions transfer business is conducted.

97. When considering cancellation rights in respect of regulated products

A. notice can be served other than by post, so long as the provider has stated the alternative method is acceptable.

B. sending a notice one day before the deadline is acceptable even if it is not received until after the deadline.

C. investment shortfall deduction only applies to unit trusts and open-ended investment companies.

D. investment shortfall deduction only applies to regular premium contracts.

E. the duration for which cancellation records must be retained varies according to the product involved.

98. A financial adviser is working in collaboration with a client's accountant and solicitor in respect of the client's divorce. In relation to the financial advice provided, the financial adviser should be aware that

A. the financial adviser cannot give generic information on matrimonial law.

B. the financial adviser can give generic information in relation to taxation issues.

C. all three parties share equal responsibility for the financial advice given.

D. the financial adviser is solely responsible for the financial advice given.

E. if the financial adviser instigated the referral to the solicitor, he may share the client's details without their prior consent.

99. A financial adviser in an authorised firm is discussing areas of advice with a client for which he is authorised but does **NOT** feel confident and lacks experience in this area. What should he do?

A. Suggest a joint meeting with another adviser within the firm who has greater experience.

B. Cease dealing with the client immediately and transfer him to another adviser within the firm.

C. Persuade the client that they do not need to consider the areas on which he is not experienced.

D. Rearrange the meeting to such time that he has researched the areas to gain greater knowledge.

100. When considering client categorisation according to the rules stated in the Conduct of Business Sourcebook, a financial adviser should be aware that

A. a professional client can choose to become an elective eligible counterparty.

B. a UK pension fund may be categorised as a per se eligible counterparty.

C. all clients who are neither professional clients nor eligible counterparties are categorised as retail clients.

D. a local authority is always classed as an eligible counterparty.

INCOME TAX

RATES OF TAX	2025/2026
Starting rate of 0% on savings income up to*	£5,000
Personal Savings Allowance	
Basic rate	£1,000
Higher rate	£500
Additional rate	Nil
Basic rate of 20%	£0 to £37,700
Higher rate of 40%	£37,701 to £125,140
Additional rate of 45%	£125,141 and over

**For non-savings income less than £17,570 only. The starting rate for savings applies for up to a maximum of £5,000 of savings income.*

Dividend Allowance	£500
Dividend tax rates	
Basic rate	8.75%
Higher rate	33.75%
Additional rate	39.35%

Trusts	
Income exemption up to**	£500
Rate applicable to accumulation or discretionary trusts	
- Dividends	39.35%
- other income	45%
Rate applicable to interest in possession trusts	
- Dividends	8.75%
- other income	20%

*** Where net income exceeds £500, the full amount is subject to Income Tax. Further, the £500 may need to be divided between other trusts in existence.*

MAIN PERSONAL ALLOWANCES AND RELIEFS

Income limit for Personal Allowance §	£100,000
Personal Allowance (basic) §	£12,570
Marriage Allowance	£1,260
Rent-a-room scheme - tax-free income allowance	£7,500

§ *Reduced allowance of £1 for every £2 of adjusted net income over and above £100,000*

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Class 1 Employee	per week
Lower Earnings Limit (LEL)	£125
Primary Threshold	£242
Upper Earnings Limit (UEL)	£967

Class 1	Employee	Employer
NICs rate	8%	15%
No NICs on the first (per week)*	£242	£96**
NICs rate charged up to (per week)	£967	No limit***
NICs rate on earnings over UEL	2%	n/a

** This is the Primary Threshold below which no NI contributions are payable. However, the lower earnings limit is £125 per week. This £125 to £242 band is a zero-rate band introduced in order to protect lower earners' rights to contributory State benefits e.g. the new State Pension.*
*** Secondary Threshold.*

Employment allowance £10,500 per business – not available if sole employee is a director

Class 2 (self-employed)	
Flat rate per week	£3.50
Small profits threshold per year	£6,845

Class 2 contributions are credited automatically where profits equal or exceed £6,845 per annum.
Class 2 contributions can be made voluntarily where profits are below £6,845 per annum.

Class 3 (voluntary)	Flat rate per week £17.75.
Class 4 (self-employed)	6% on profits between £12,570 and £50,270. 2% on profits above £50,270.

PENSIONS

	2025/2026
Annual Allowance*	£60,000
Lump sum and death benefit allowance (LSDBA)	£1,073, 100
Lump sum allowance (LSA)	£268,275

LSA and LSDBA may be higher if transitional protections are available.
Where pension benefits were crystallised prior to 6 April 2024 the LSA and LSDBA may be reduced.

Money Purchase Annual Allowance	£10,000

** Reduced by £1 for every £2 of 'adjusted income' over £260,000 to a minimum of £10,000 if 'threshold income' is also over £200,000.*

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

TAX RATES	2025/2026
Individuals:	
Basic rate	18%
Higher rate	24%
Surcharge for carried interest gains up to basic rate limit	14%
Surcharge for carried interest gains above basic rate limit*	8%
Trustees and Personal Representatives:	
Residential property	24%
Other chargeable assets	24%
Business Asset Disposal Relief*	14%
Lifetime limit	£1,000,000

**For trading businesses and companies (minimum 5% employee or director shareholding) held for at least two years.*

ANNUAL EXEMPTIONS	
Individuals, estates etc	£3,000
Trusts generally	£1,500
Chattels proceeds (restricted to five thirds of proceeds exceeding limit)	£6,000

STAMP DUTY LAND TAX

	Residential
Value up to £125,000	0%
£125,001 – £250,000	2%
£250,001 - £925,000	5%
£925,001 - £1,500,000	10%
£1,500,001 and over	12%

Additional Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) rules still apply as below.

- *First-time buyers benefit from SDLT relief on purchases up to £500,000 when purchasing their main residence. On purchases up to £300,000, no SDLT is payable. On purchases between £300,001 and £500,000, a flat rate of 5% is charged on the balance above £300,000.*
- *Additional SDLT of 5% may apply to the purchase of additional residential properties purchased for £40,000 or greater.*
- *Additional SDLT of 2% may apply to purchases by non-UK residents over £40,000.*
- *SDLT may be charged at 17% on interests in residential properties costing more than £500,000 purchased by certain corporate bodies or non-natural persons in some circumstances.*
- *SDLT is payable in England and Northern Ireland only. Land Transaction Tax (LTT) is payable in Wales and Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) is payable in Scotland. The rates for LTT and LBTT are different to the rates shown above.*
- *Additional rates of LBTT and LTT apply in Scotland and Wales respectively for the purchase of additional residential properties. First-time buyers benefit from LBTT relief in Scotland. There is no LTT relief for first-time buyers in Wales.*

INHERITANCE TAX

RATES OF TAX ON TRANSFERS	2025/2026
Transfers made on death	
- Up to £325,000	Nil
- Excess over £325,000	40%
- Reduced rate (where appropriate charitable contributions are made)	36%
Chargeable lifetime transfers to trusts	20%

MAIN EXEMPTIONS

Transfers to

- Long-term UK resident spouse/civil partner	No limit
- Non-long-term UK resident spouse/civil partner (from long-term UK resident spouse)	£325,000
- main residence nil-rate band*	£175,000
- UK-registered charities	No limit

** Available for estates up to £2,000,000 and then tapered at the rate of £1 for every £2 in excess until fully extinguished.*

Lifetime transfers

- Annual exemption per donor	£3,000
- Annual small gifts exemption per donee	£250

Wedding/civil partnership gifts by

- Parent	£5,000
- Grandparent/bride or groom	£2,500
- other person	£1,000

100% relief: businesses, unlisted/AIM companies, certain farmland/building
50% relief: certain other business assets

Reduced tax charge on gifts made in excess of the nil rate band within 7 years of death:

- Years before death	0-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7
- Inheritance Tax payable	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%

Quick succession relief:

- Years since IHT paid	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
- Inheritance Tax relief	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%

CORPORATION TAX

	2025/2026
Small profits rate - for taxable profits below £50,000	19%
Main rate - for taxable profits above £250,000	25%

Companies with profits between £50,000 and £250,000 will pay tax at the main rate, reduced by a marginal relief. This provides a gradual increase in the effective Corporation Tax rate.

VALUE ADDED TAX

	2025/2026
Standard rate	20%
Registration threshold	£90,000
Deregistration threshold	£88,000

MAIN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

		2025/2026 per week
Child Benefit	First child	£26.05
	Subsequent children	£17.25
	Guardian's Allowance	£22.10
Basic State Pension	Category A & B full rate	£176.45
	Category B (lower) full rate	£105.70
New State Pension	Full rate	£230.25
Pension Credit	Standard minimum guarantee - single	£227.10
	Standard minimum guarantee - couple	£346.60
Bereavement Support Payment	Higher rate - lump sum	£3,500
	Higher rate - monthly payment	£350
	Standard rate – lump sum	£2,500
	Standard rate – monthly payment	£100

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Specimen Examination Answers and Learning Outcomes Covered

Question	Answer	Learning Outcome	Question	Answer	Learning Outcome	Question	Answer	Learning Outcome	Question	Answer	Learning Outcome
Standard Format									**Multiple Response Format**		
Learning Outcome 1			**Learning Outcome 5**			**Learning Outcome 8**			**Learning Outcome 6 & 7**		
1	D	1.02	35	C	5.01	71	B	8.01	88	B, C	6.01
2	D	1.01	36	D	5.02	72	B	8.01	89	A, D	6.01
3	D	1.02	37	A	5.03	73	A	8.01	90	B, D	6.01
4	C	1.03	38	C	5.03	74	B	8.01	91	A, D	6.01
5	B	1.03	39	A	5.02	75	B	8.01	92	B, C, D	6.03
5 Questions			40	D	5.02	**4 Questions**			93	A, B	7.01
			41	A	5.02				94	A, B	7.01
Learning Outcome 2			42	A	5.03	**Learning Outcome 9**			95	B, D	7.02
6	C	2.01	43	D	5.03	76	B	9.02	96	C, D	7.01
7	D	2.02	44	A	5.02	77	C	9.03	97	A, B, E	7.01
8	A	2.02	45	B	5.02	78	A	9.01	98	B, D	7.01
9	A	2.02	46	D	5.02	79	C	9.01	99	A, D	7.01
10	B	2.02	47	D	5.02	80	A	9.01	100	A, B, C	7.01
11	B	2.02	48	B	5.03	81	D	9.03	**13 Questions**		
12	B	2.02	49	A	5.02	82	B	9.01			
13	C	2.02	50	B	5.02	**8 Questions**					
14	B	2.02	51	D	5.02						
15	C	2.02	52	B	5.02	Learning Outcome 10					
16	C	2.02	53	A	5.01	83	B	10.02			
17	D	2.02	54	B	5.01	84	B	10.01			
18	D	2.02	55	C	5.02	**2 Questions**					
13 Questions			56	A	5.01						
			57	B	5.02	**Learning Outcome 11**					
Learning Outcome 3			58	C	5.03	85	A	11.02			
19	A	3.01	59	A	5.03	86	D	11.01			
20	B	3.02	60	B	5.02	87	A	11.02			
21	A	3.03	61	B	5.03	**3 Questions**					
22	D	3.01	**27 Questions**								
23	C	3.02									
24	B	3.03	**Learning Outcome 6**								
25	C	3.01	62	D	6.03						
26	D	3.03	63	C	6.02						
27	A	3.01	64	D	6.03						
28	A	3.01	65	B	6.01						
9 Questions			66	A	6.01						
			5 Questions								
Learning Outcome 4											
29	D	4.02	**Learning Outcome 7**								
30	C	4.02	67	C	7.02						
31	B	4.03	68	D	7.01						
32	A	4.02	69	B	7.01						
33	A	4.03	70	B	7.01						
34	B	4.01	71	B	7.01						
6 Questions			**5 Questions**								