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July 2026

AF5: Financial planning process Practice Test 1

2026/2027 Revision Aid
Based on March 2021 examination

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Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning

☆ Important:

These revision questions have been put together by an experienced trainer to provide a prompt for exam practice. However, please ensure that you bear in mind any changes to law, tax and practice that may have taken place since publication or update.

Practice in answering the questions is highly desirable and should be considered a critical part of a properly planned programme of examination preparation.

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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Useful tips as you prepare for the AF5 exam

1. **Schedule sufficient revision time** to use your notes and learning and support materials to refresh your learning and consider how what you have learned applies to the case studies.
2. **Familiarise** yourself with the format and the navigation options navigation of an onscreen written exam:

Familiarisation Test

The familiarisation test:

- Allows you to experience using the assessment platform before your exam.
- Is for the purpose of familiarisation with the assessment platform only.
- Is designed to allow you to go through the end-to-end process from logging in to answering test questions, before the day of your exam.

Follow these instructions to take the Familiarisation Test.

- Click [here](#) to access the Familiarisation Test.
- Once the test is open, click 'start'.
- Explore the platform to practice navigation and general functionality.
- We strongly advise that you try the familiarisation test once you have received your login details and **well in advance of the actual exam day to help pre-empt any potential exam day technical issues.**

☆ Important:

If completing your exam via remote invigilation, you are strongly advised **NOT** to use a laptop provided by your employer.

- Laptops and IT equipment provided by your employer typically include security protocols that conflict with any remote invigilation software.
 - You should also **AVOID** using a corporate Wi-Fi or any other internet connection that may include firewalls that you cannot personally control.
3. **Visit the [Assessment Information - Before the exam](#)** area of the CII website, which has important further practical information and support.
 4. **Prepare exam technique** using the support of the Exam Guides on the AF5 unit page <https://www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/unit-AF5/> which include examiner guidance and time-saving tips such as abbreviations.

Unit AF5 – Financial planning process FACT-FIND

Practice Test 1

☆ Important:

The AF5 fact-find contains client information which will form the basis of the report you will be required to prepare in the exam. You will not be able to take a copy of the fact-find into the exam with you. The fact-find will be provided in the online exam. There will not be any new or different information contained within the fact-find.

AF5 - FINANCIAL PLANNING PROCESS

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FACT-FIND – Practice Test 1

You are a financial adviser authorised under the Financial Services and Markets (FSMA) Act 2000. You completed the following fact-find when you met Harry and Pauline Williams recently.

PART 1: BASIC DETAILS					
	Client 1	Client 2			
Surname	Williams	Williams			
First name(s)	Harry	Pauline			
Address	Warwick	Warwick			
Date of birth	14.10.1946	01.07.1947			
Domicile	UK	UK			
Residence	UK	UK			
Place of birth	London	Cardiff			
Marital status	Married	Married			
State of health	Poor	Good			
Family health	Good	Good			
Smoker	No	No			
Hobbies/Interests	Sport, walking	Swimming, walking			
Notes:					
<p>Harry and Pauline retired when Harry reached his 65th birthday and have always managed their finances themselves.</p> <p>Harry suffered a heart attack recently but is expected to make a good recovery. Harry wishes to review their finances to ensure that they are making best use of their assets. Harry and Pauline have appointed you to look at their financial affairs and provide advice on how they might improve their current financial position.</p>					
PART 2: FAMILY DETAILS					
Children and other dependants					
Name	Relationship	Age	Health	Occupation	Financially dependent?
Andrew	Son	48	Good	Researcher	No
Emily	Daughter	45	Good	Dentist	No
Notes:					
<p>Andrew and Emily are both married with three children each. Emily is currently separated from her husband and is considering a divorce within the next year.</p>					

PART 3: EMPLOYMENT DETAILS		
Employment	Client 1	Client 2
Occupation	Retired Engineer	Retired Training Manager
Job title		
Business name		
Business address		
Year business started		
Remuneration		
Salary		
State Pensions	£11,300	£9,400
Overtime		
Benefits		
Benefits-in-kind		
Pension Scheme		
Life cover		
Private Medical Insurance		
Income Protection Insurance		
Self-Employment		
Net relevant earnings		
Accounting date		
Partnership/Sole trader		
Other Earned Income		
Notes:		
Harry and Pauline retired when Harry reached his 65 th birthday.		
Previous Employment		
	Client 1	Client 2
Previous employer		
Job title		
Length of service		
Pension benefits	See Part 11	See Part 11
Notes:		

PART 4: OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS		
	Client 1	Client 2
Accountant	Fawsley & Co	Fawsley & Co
Bank	Access Bank	Access Bank
Doctor	Dr Knowles	Dr Knowles
Financial Adviser		
Solicitor	Henson Davies LLP	Henson Davies LLP
Stockbroker		
Other		
Notes:		

PART 5: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Client 1		Client 2		Joint	
	Monthly £	Annually £	Monthly £	Annually £	Monthly £	Annually £
State Pensions		11,300		9,400		
Pensions/Annuities	4,315		600			
Salary (gross)						
Benefits-in-kind						
Savings income (interest)		730		4,090		
Rental (gross)						
Dividends		12,200				

In addition to their State Pension income, Harry receives monthly income from his self-invested personal pension (SIPP) and his defined benefit pension. Pauline also receives income from her annuity.

Pauline's savings interest is derived from her cash accounts as well as from the income from her UK Corporate Bond fund ISA.

Harry's dividend income is derived from both his ISA and Non-ISA holdings.

	Client 1	Client 2
Income Tax	£	£
Personal allowances		
Taxable income		
Tax		
National Insurance		
Net Income		

Notes:

Expenditure

	Monthly £			Annually £		
	Client 1	Client 2	Joint	Client 1	Client 2	Joint
Household Expenditure						
Mortgage/Rent						
Council tax			325			
Buildings and contents insurance						360
Gas, water and electricity			185			
Telephone			60			
TV licence and satellite			85			
Property maintenance						2,000
Regular Outgoings						
Life assurance (see Part 8)			170			
Health insurance (see Part 9)						
Savings Plans (see Part 10)						
Car tax, insurance and maintenance				1,400	950	
Petrol and fares	200	120				
Loans						
School fees						
Childcare						
Further education						
Subscriptions						
Food, drink, general housekeeping			800			
Pension contributions (see Part 11)						
Other Expenditure						
Magazines and newspapers	40					
Entertainment			300			
Clubs and sport				600	600	
Spending money	400	400				
Clothes				1,000	1,000	
Other (Holidays)						2,000
Total Monthly Expenditure	640	520	1,925			
Total Annual Expenditure	7,680	6,240	23,100	3,000	2,550	4,360
Total Outgoings						46,930

Do you foresee any major/lump sum expenditure in the next two years?

Notes:

Harry and Pauline do not envisage any lump sum expenditure until Harry is fully recovered from his recent heart attack.

PART 6: ASSETS

	Assets	Client 1 £	Client 2 £	Joint £	Income (Gross) £
1.	Main residence			700,000	
2.	Contents/car			65,000	
3.	Current account			15,200	
4.	Fixed-Term Deposit Savings Account	16,000	16,000		320
5.	Cash ISA – Instant Access	95,000			570
6.	Cash ISA – Fixed Term		40,000		480
7.	National Savings and Investments Premium Bonds	50,000	50,000		
8.	Individual Shareholdings – UK shares (various)	240,000			6,000
9.	Investment Trust – Global Equity	120,000			2,400
10.	Stocks and shares ISAs – UK Corporate Bond fund		115,000		3,450
11.	Stocks and shares ISAs – UK & Global Tracker funds	190,000			3,800

Notes:

Harry and Pauline's home is mortgage-free and owned as joint tenants.

Harry and Pauline have used their ISA allowance for the current Tax Year.

Harry has built up a portfolio of individual equities over a number of years. Some of these equities are showing large capital gains. These are all held in certificated form and following his recent heart attack, Harry is now finding these difficult to manage from an administrative point of view. He has asked you to advise him on the ongoing suitability of these shareholdings and how they can be managed more efficiently. The equities are invested in a large number of both UK blue chip, mid cap and smaller companies. The dividend income is paid out to Harry from these shareholdings.

Harry also holds an Investment Trust which was originally purchased in 2001. This had an original purchase cost of £40,000. Harry has noticed that this Investment Trust is currently trading at a premium to Net Asset Value.

PART 7: LIABILITIES

Mortgage Details	Client 1	Client 2	Joint
Lender			
Type of mortgage			
Amount outstanding			
Start date			
Term/maturity			
Monthly payment			
Interest rate			
Life policies (see Part 8)			

Notes:

Harry and Pauline do not have a mortgage.

Other Loans	Client 1	Client 2	Joint
Lender			
Type of loan			
Amount outstanding			
Start date			
Term/maturity			
Monthly payment			
Interest rate			
Payment protection			

Notes:

Harry and Pauline do not have any loans.

Other Liabilities (e.g. tax)**Notes:**

Harry settles his tax bill via self-assessment each year.

PART 8: LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES

Life/Lives assured	Ownership	Sum assured £	Premium £	Term	Start date	In trust?	Surrender Values £
Joint	Joint	200,000	170 per month	WOL	2011	Yes	1,400

Notes:

Harry and Pauline have a Joint Life Last Survivor Whole of Life policy on a reviewable basis that was set up in 2011. This is due for a premium review in 2026 and they are aware that the premium is likely to increase significantly at this point.

They have asked you to advise them on the continuing suitability of this policy for their needs.

PART 9: HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES

Type	Life Covered	Current Sum Assured £	Start Date	Term/ Review	Deferred Period	Premium £

Notes:

Harry and Pauline do not have any Health Insurance policies.

PART 10: REGULAR SAVINGS

Type	Company	Ownership	Fund	Amount Saved £	Sum Assured	Maturity Date	Current Value £

Notes:

Harry and Pauline do not make any regular savings.

PART 11: PENSION DETAILS**Occupational pension scheme**

	Client 1	Client 2
Member of employer's scheme		
Type of scheme	Defined Benefit Scheme	
Date joined	1973	
Retirement age	65	
Pension benefits	£15,780 per annum (gross)	
Death benefits	None	
Dependant's benefits	Two-thirds spouse's pension	
Contracted-in/out	Contracted-in	
Contribution Level (employee)		
Contribution Level (employer)		
Fund type		
Fund value		

Notes:

Harry has an occupational pension from a former employer. This has been in payment since his 65th birthday and increases each year with RPI inflation. On Harry's death, Pauline would receive a spouse's pension of two-thirds of Harry's pension on the date of his death.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (including free standing additional voluntary contributions).

	Client 1	Client 2
Type		
Company		
Fund		
Contribution		
Retirement date		
Current value		
Date started		

Notes:

Harry and Pauline do not have any Additional Voluntary Contribution schemes.

Personal Pensions

	Client 1	Client 2
Type	Self-invested personal pension (SIPP)	
Company	Assure Life	
Fund	Global Equity/UK Equity/Fixed-Interest	
Contributions		
Retirement date		
Current value	£630,000	
Date started		

Notes:

Harry has a SIPP from which he draws a regular income of £3,000 (gross) per month via Flexi-Access Drawdown to supplement his and Pauline's retirement income needs. Harry is concerned about the long-term sustainability of the SIPP as the growth on the plan has been poor over the past few years. Harry would like to review his income options in respect of his SIPP.

Harry has completed a nomination of beneficiary for the SIPP in favour of Pauline.

Previous pension arrangements

	Client 1	Client 2
Employer		
Type of scheme		Annuity
Date joined scheme		
Date left		
Current Value		N/A

Notes:

Pauline has a lifetime annuity which was set up on her retirement from her former employer's Group Personal Pension plan. This pays a monthly income of £600 (gross) and is on a level basis. This does not provide any spouse's benefit for Harry on Pauline's death.

State Pension

	Client 1	Client 2
State Pension	£11,300	£9,400

Notes

Harry and Pauline have been receiving their State Pension for many years.

PART 12: INHERITANCES

Wills	Client 1	Client 2
Do you have a current Will?	Yes	Yes

Notes:

Harry and Pauline have Wills. These are mirror Wills leaving all assets to each other on first death and then to the children in equal shares on second death.

Trusts	Client 1	Client 2
Are you a beneficiary under a trust?	No	No
If yes, give details		
Are you a trustee?	No	No
If yes, give details		

Notes:

Gifts	Client 1	Client 2
Give details of gifts made and received	None	None

Notes:

Inheritances	Client 1	Client 2
Give details of any inheritances expected	None	None

Notes:

PART 13: ATTITUDE TO RISK

What level of risk are you prepared to take to achieve your financial objectives?

Notes:

Harry and Pauline have completed a full risk-profiling assessment. They have both been identified as medium-risk investors. Harry previously considered himself to be an adventurous investor, but he is no longer comfortable with very high levels of risk following his recent health problems.

Based on their assets and their guaranteed sources of income, Harry and Pauline have a high capacity for loss.

Harry and Pauline have advised you that they are not concerned about ethical investing.

PART 14: BUSINESS RECORDS**Compliance**

Date fact-find completed	28.01.21	
Client agreement issued	28.01.21	
Data Protection Act	28.01.21	
Money laundering	28.01.21	

Consultations

Dates of meetings	28.01.21	
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Marketing

Client source		
Referrals		

Documents

Client documents held		
Date returned		
Letters of authority requested		

Notes:

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PART 15: OTHER INFORMATION

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Unit AF5 – Financial planning process Practice Test 1

☆ Important:

All questions in this paper are based on English law and practice applicable in the tax year 2026/2027, unless stated otherwise and should be answered accordingly.

It should be assumed that all individuals have long-term UK residence status unless otherwise stated.

Instructions to candidates

Read the instructions below before answering any questions

- **Three hours** are allowed for this paper which carries a total of 160 marks as follows:
- You are strongly advised to attempt all questions to gain maximum possible marks. The number of marks allocated to each question part is given next to the question and you should spend your time in accordance with that allocation.
- **In this examination you should use the fresh copy of the fact-find provided. You are not allowed to bring into the examination the pre-released copy of the fact-find.**
- **Client objectives are provided overleaf, and you should read them carefully before attempting the tasks.**
- Read carefully all questions and information provided before starting to answer. Your answer will be marked strictly in accordance with the question set.
- It is important to show all steps in a calculation, even if you have used a calculator.
- 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.
- Tax tables are provided at the back of this question paper.

☆ Important:

Subject to providing sufficient detail you are advised to be as brief and concise as possible, using note format and short sentences on separate lines wherever possible.

CLIENTS' FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES

You have now been able to determine from the information in the fact-find that your clients have the following financial objectives:

Immediate objectives

- To review Harry and Pauline's current pension arrangements.
- To consider any financial implications resulting from Harry's recent heart attack.
- To review the suitability and tax-efficiency of their current financial arrangements.

Longer-term objectives

- To ensure Harry and Pauline can continue to generate sufficient income to meet their long-term needs.
- To mitigate their potential Inheritance Tax liability and ensure that their assets are passed as tax-efficiently as possible to their children.
- To protect Emily's inheritance in the event that she gets divorced.

Attempt ALL tasks**Time: 3 hours**

1. (a) Identify the additional information that you would require in order to advise Harry and Pauline on the suitability of their current savings, pensions and investment holdings. **(13)**
- (b) Outline the key factors that should be taken into consideration when establishing if Harry and Pauline have sufficient funds to meet their long-term income requirements. **(13)**

2. (a) Explain, in detail, to Harry why he should carry out a review of his existing self-invested personal pension (SIPP) before he reaches age 75.* **(10)**
- (b) Explain to Harry why purchasing a lifetime annuity may not be suitable in their current circumstances. **(10)**

**Candidates should note that this question was based on legislation in force in March 2021.*

3. (a) Explain, in detail, to Harry why his portfolio of individual shares may no longer be suitable for him. **(8)**
- (b) Identify the key reasons why a range of collective investment funds might be more suitable for Harry and Pauline. **(11)**

4. Harry and Pauline are keen to ensure that they mitigate any future Inheritance Tax (IHT) liability whilst ensuring that they have sufficient funds for their own lifetimes.
- (a) Explain to Harry and Pauline the criteria that would have to be met for gifts out of income to be effective for IHT purposes, and the benefits of this strategy for them. **(9)**
- (b) Identify the steps that must be taken to wind up Harry and Pauline's estate, and explain how their assets will be treated for Inheritance Tax purposes on second death. *No calculations are required.* **(14)**

5. (a) Recommend and justify why Harry should consider reducing the current income withdrawals from his self-invested personal pension (SIPP). (11)

Candidates will be rewarded for supporting their recommendations with relevant evidence and demonstrating how their recommendations work holistically to meet their client's objectives.

- (b) Recommend and justify the actions that Harry and Pauline could take to protect Emily's inheritance as she is considering a divorce. (8)

Candidates will be rewarded for supporting their recommendations with relevant evidence and demonstrating how their recommendations work holistically to meet their client's objectives.

6. (a) Identify the key benefits for Harry and Pauline of investing some of their current cash holdings into a jointly held Onshore Investment Bond. (11)

- (b) State the key factors that Harry and Pauline should consider when deciding whether to renew their Whole of Life policy in 2026. (7)

7. Harry and Pauline are considering a range of different investment strategies for their investment portfolio.

- (a) Recommend and justify the actions that Harry and Pauline could take to manage and dispose of Harry's individual shareholdings in a tax-efficient manner over the next few years. (12)

Candidates will be rewarded for supporting their recommendations with relevant evidence and demonstrating how their recommendations work holistically to meet their client's objectives.

- (b) Identify the key factors that an adviser should consider before recommending the sale of Harry's Investment Trust. (9)

8. (a) Identify **six** events that would trigger an **immediate** review of Harry and Pauline's financial arrangements. (6)

- (b) Explain to Harry and Pauline why they should review their Wills and pension nominations on a regular basis. (8)

Model Answers

☆ Important:

The model answers given are those which would achieve maximum marks. However, there are alternative answers to some question parts which would also gain high marks. For the sake of clarity and brevity not all of these alternative answers are shown. An oblique (/) indicates an equally acceptable alternative answer.

Model answer for Question 1

- (a) *Candidates would have scored full marks for any thirteen of the following:*
- Emergency Fund requirements/they have excess cash.
 - Term of Fixed Deposit/loss of interest if they cash in early/penalty.
 - Base costs of individual shares.
 - Any dividends reinvested?
 - Have they used Capital Gains Tax (CGT) exemptions?/any losses carried forward?
 - Willingness to change ownership of assets for tax efficiency.
 - Amount of Premium to Net Asset Value (NAV) on Investment Trust?/gearing.
 - Percentage of SIPP crystallised/any remaining PCLS?
 - Percentage of Lifetime Allowance (LTA) used to date.*
 - Yield/growth on funds/SIPP capital erosion/performance.
 - Asset allocation/fund choice/switching options.
 - SIPP Costs/drawdown costs/charges.
 - Any Protections in place/Fixed Protection/Individual Protection/Defined Benefit Scheme funding position.
 - IHT planning/trusts/gifts/pension contributions.

**Candidates should note that this question was based on legislation in force in March 2021.*

- (b)
- Emergency fund required/Income required/help for Emily/planned expenditure
 - Cost of future care/planned gifting.
 - Harry's health now/is this likely to deteriorate?/longevity.
 - High level of guaranteed income/State Pension/Defined Benefit/annuity.
 - Higher rate taxpayer (HRT) on excess SIPP withdrawals.
 - Inflation assumptions/no inflation protection on annuity/Defined Benefit and State Pensions are indexed.
 - Growth expectations based on current asset allocation/projections/poor returns from cash at present.
 - Safe withdrawal rate from SIPP/current annuity rates/willing to erode capital.
 - Downsize property/equity release.
 - Enhanced annuity based on Harry's health.
 - Market conditions/current dividend yields/outlook for future dividends.
 - They have no liabilities/no mortgage/they have a high capacity for loss/they have a medium attitude to risk.
 - Use other assets for tax-efficiency/willing to transfer assets to Pauline.

Model answer for Question 2

- (a)***
- Benefit Crystallisation Event (BCE5) at age 75/LTA test at age 75.
 - Growth in self-invested personal pension (SIPP)/uncrystallised SIPP may have LTA charge.
 - May wish to take additional income/reduce growth.
 - Calculate remaining LTA/tested against remaining LTA.
 - Pension taxable on beneficiary on death after age 75/tax free before 75.
 - Could take remaining pension commencement lump sum (PCLS) otherwise taxable on beneficiaries on death (after age 75).
 - Could avoid LTA charge/25%/55%.
 - Update nominations to include children/improve their benefit options on his death.
 - His attitude to risk has changed/capital erosion/high level of withdrawals/reducing IHT efficiency (under current regulations).
 - Can make £3,600 (gross)/£2,880 (net) contribution.

** Candidates should note that this question was based on legislation in force in March 2021. No further tax charges will be applied under the Lifetime Allowance following the Spring Budget of 2023 although the Lifetime Allowance checks must still be carried out until 6th April 2024. After 6th April 2024, pension benefits are tested under the Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) and Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA).*

- (b)**
- Enhancement may be limited due to joint life/Harry is recovering.
 - Pauline is in good health.
 - Not flexible/cannot adjust income/no Income Tax planning opportunities.
 - Reduces death benefits/purchase of annuity uses IHT-efficient pension fund (under current regulations).
 - Annuity rates are low/annuity rates may improve/poor value.*
 - Income taxed at Harry's marginal rate/subject to higher rate tax.
 - Annuity does not match attitude to risk.
 - No potential for investment growth.
 - Guarantees/index linking etc. are expensive.
 - Additional income is not needed/other assets available.

**Candidates should note that this question was based on market conditions in March 2021.*

Model answer for Question 3

- (a)**
- Medium risk/his attitude to risk has changed/does not match attitude to risk.
 - Adequate capital so no need to take high risk.
 - Regular monitoring/ongoing administration/need for simplification/need for tax reporting/certificated/harder to sell.
 - Recent reduction in dividend payments (UK economy)/current economic conditions/dividends are not guaranteed.
 - Lack of asset diversification/single companies/equities.
 - All UK based/lack of geographic diversification.
 - Exceeds Dividend Allowance/taxable at 35.75%.
 - Cost of selling/liquidity of small company shares.
- (b)**
- Diversification.
 - Reduces risk/volatility.
 - Professional management/expertise.
 - No CGT on internal fund changes (within OEIC).
 - Cost effective.
 - Funds can match attitude to risk.
 - Wide choice of funds/passives/active/Discretionary Fund Management/multi-asset.
 - More predictable income stream – can choose monthly/quarterly withdrawals.
 - Simple tax reporting/can calculate gains/use CGT exemption.
 - Less administration/can be held on platform/easier to sell/fund switch/rebalancing/easier to reinvest dividends.
 - Easier to use ISA/Bed & ISA.

Model answer for Question 4

- (a)**
- Gifts must be from excess income.
 - Cannot be funded from capital.
 - Immediately IHT exempt/no 7-year rule.
 - In addition to annual gifting exemptions.
 - Must show regular pattern of gifting.
 - Must not impact standard of living/can vary each year.
 - Accurate records must be kept.
 - Can be challenged by HM Revenue & Customs post death/not guaranteed.
 - Gift must be outright/no retained value/covers whole of life premiums/can see family enjoy the gifts.
- (b)** *Candidates would have scored full marks for any fourteen of the following:*
- Estate would be valued (on second death).
 - Two Nil-Rate bands (NRB) available.
 - Assets passed to spouse under Will/no IHT on first death.
 - Value all debts/liabilities/tax bill/identify all gifts in last 7 years.
 - Send death certificate/notify all relevant parties/banks etc.
 - Apply for probate/use transferable Nil Rate Band/Residence Nil Rate Band/IHT forms.
 - RNRB applies as home passes to children.
 - IHT at 40%.
 - IHT must be paid before estate can be distributed.
 - Net estate passes to beneficiaries.
 - Whole of Life policy is in Trust so not part of estate/can be used to pay IHT due on estate.
 - SIPP passes to nominated beneficiaries.
 - Pensions are not subject to IHT.
 - Identify any AIM shares/may be subject to reduced IHT
 - All other savings and investments liable to IHT/in estate.
 - State Pension/Defined Benefit pension/annuity ceases on death/no value.

Model answer for Question 5

- (a)** *Candidates would have scored full marks for any eleven of the following:*
- Harry does not need additional income.
 - If SIPP is not fully crystallised can take remaining Pension Commencement Lump Sum.
 - Currently paying Higher Rate Tax (HRT)/40% tax.
 - Could become Basic Rate Taxpayer/18% CGT/10.75% dividend tax/PSA £1,000.
 - IHT-free asset (under current regulations).
 - Other tax-efficient income sources available/cash available.
 - Recent SIPP performance has been poor.
 - Pound cost ravaging/sequencing risk/exceeds Safe Withdrawal Rate (SWR).
 - Flexible death benefits/No need for Probate.
 - Protected in event of Emily's divorce/controlled by Trustees.
 - Tax-free growth in SIPP/excess income in estate/taxable.
 - SIPP offers flexible income in future/can stop/start.
- (b)** *Candidates would have scored full marks for any eight of the following:*
- Review Will/current Will is not suitable.
 - Set up Discretionary Trust;
 - so Emily has no absolute right to monies/so protected from divorce.
 - Emily's share of estate to pass into Trust.
 - Nominate Trustees who understand their wishes/Emily can be a Trustee.
 - No gifting to Emily until divorce is complete.
 - Include Emily's children in Will.
 - Emily's husband can currently claim share of inheritance.
 - Pension nomination for Emily's children.

Model answer for Question 6

- (a)** *Candidates would have scored full marks for any eleven of the following:*
- They have excess cash holdings.
 - Tax-deferred income available of up to 5% per annum of original capital.
 - Cumulative withdrawals.
 - Equivalent of Basic Rate Tax deducted within Bond/top slicing/no tax due until chargeable event occurs.
 - Tax-efficient income for Harry as he is Higher Rate taxpayer.
 - Can assign to Pauline as she is a Basic Rate taxpayer/no further tax liability for Pauline.
 - Wide choice of investments/diversification/fund switches.
 - Growth potential/inflation protection.
 - Matches attitude to risk/cash does not match attitude to risk.
 - Jointly-held so Bond continues on first death/no tax on first death.
 - Can assign segments/can set up in Trust.
 - Not considered in long-term care assessments.
- (b)**
- Revised premium level/Is it affordable?
 - Options to amend sum assured (SA)/reduce SA to retain existing premium.
 - Estimate of IHT/SA is too low/Policy is in Trust so outside estate.
 - Any plans for gifting/spending to reduce estate/premium is treated as a gift out of normal expenditure.
 - State of health/no underwriting/guaranteed insurability.
 - Frequency of future reviews/is SA indexed?
 - Rebroke/more competitive premiums elsewhere/is alternative cover possible?

Model answer for Question 7

- (a)**
- Transfer to platform or nominee to simplify administration.
 - Transfer shares from Harry to Pauline.
 - Interspousal transfer/no Capital Gains Tax (CGT) implications/Pauline inherits his base cost.
 - Pauline has unused Dividend Allowance (DA)/use both DAs.
 - Dividend Tax is 10.75% (Basic Rate Tax) and 35.75% (Higher Rate Tax)/saves 25%.
 - Reduce Harry's taxable income from SIPP to become Basic rate taxpayer;
 - to reduce Harry's CGT/Dividend Tax/increases Personal Savings Allowance (PSA).
 - Use CGT exemption of £3,000.
 - Monitor gains on regular basis/values change daily.
 - Register CGT losses with HM Revenue & Customs.
 - Harry pays 24% CGT/Pauline pays 18% CGT.
 - Bed & ISA/reinvest in ISA for tax efficiency.
- (b)**
- Capital Gain chargeable at 24% CGT.
 - Availability of CGT exemption.
 - Any losses to carry forward/losses to offset.
 - Transfer to Pauline to use her allowances.
 - What is current Premium to Net Asset Value (NAV)?/Gearing/any warrants?
 - Does this indicate good growth prospects?/past performance/it has performed well to date/Why is it trading at a premium?
 - Does it match his attitude to risk?
 - Provides additional income/Dividend Yield.
 - Provides diversification.

Model answer for Question 8

- (a)
- Death/marriage/divorce/loss of mental capacity/change in health.
 - Need for income/capital/windfall.
 - Either of them going into long-term care.
 - Severe market turmoil/good market conditions/take profits.
 - Change in tax regulations/pension legislation/emergency budget/change in nominations required.
 - Age 75 pension review/Benefit Crystallisation Event (BCE).*

* Candidates should note that this question was based on legislation in force in March 2021. No further tax charges will be applied under the Lifetime Allowance following the Spring Budget of 2023 although the Lifetime Allowance checks must still be carried out until 6th April 2024. *After 6th April 2024, pension benefits are tested under the Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) and Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA).*

- (b)
- Harry is recovering from illness/any health issues?/both have mental capacity.
 - Ensures Trustees/executors are in place and able to act.
 - IHT efficiency/IHT planning/change in legislation.
 - Considers family circumstances/divorce/can change beneficiaries/new grandchildren/ensures wishes are reflected.
 - Ensures Residence Nil Rate Band (RNRB) can be used if left to direct descendants.
 - Can afford to leave more to children on first death/financial position may have changed.
 - Nominate children or grandchildren to improve SIPP benefit options.

Tax Tables

☆ Important:

The Tax Tables which follow are applicable to the examinations during September 2026 through to August 2027.

INCOME TAX

RATES OF TAX	2025/2026	2026/2027
Starting rate for savings*	0%	0%
Basic rate	20%	20%
Higher rate	40%	40%
Additional rate	45%	45%
Starting-rate limit	£5,000*	£5,000*
Threshold of taxable income above which higher rate applies	£37,700	£37,700
Threshold of taxable income above which additional rate applies	£125,140	£125,140
High income child benefit charge:	1% of benefit per £200 of adjusted net income between £60,000 – £80,000	
*Only applicable to savings income that falls within the first £5,000 of income in excess of the personal allowance.		
Personal savings allowance (for savings income):		
Basic rate taxpayers	£1,000	£1,000
Higher rate taxpayers	£500	£500
Additional rate taxpayers	Nil	Nil
Dividend allowance	£500	£500
Dividend tax rates		
Basic rate	8.75%	10.75%
Higher rate	33.75%	35.75%
Additional rate	39.35%	39.35%
Trusts		
Income exemption up to**	£500	£500
Rate applicable to trusts		
- dividends	39.35%	39.35%
- other income	45%	45%

** 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.

From 6 April 2026, carried interest is taxed as Income Tax, not Capital Gains Tax.

Qualifying carried interest is subject to a 72.5% multiplier before applying Income Tax rates.

Class 4 NICs may also apply.

MAIN PERSONAL ALLOWANCES AND RELIEFS

Income limit for Personal Allowance §	£100,000	£100,000
Personal Allowance (basic) §	£12,570	£12,570
Married/civil partners (minimum) at 10% †	£4,360	£4,530
Married/civil partners at 10% †	£11,270	£11,700
Marriage/civil partners' Allowance	£1,260	£1,260
Income limit for Married Couple's Allowance †	£37,700	£39,200
Rent a Room scheme	£7,500	£7,500
Blind Person's Allowance	£3,130	£3,250
Enterprise Investment Scheme relief limit on £2,000,000 max***	30%	30%
Seed Enterprise Investment relief limit on £200,000 max	50%	50%
Venture Capital Trust relief limit on £200,000 max	30%	20%

§ The Personal Allowance reduces by £1 for every £2 of income above the income limit irrespective of age (under the income threshold).

† where at least one spouse/civil partner was born before 6 April 1935. Married couple's/civil partners' allowance reduced by £1 for every £2 of adjusted net income over £39,200 (£37,700 for 25/26) until minimum reached.

*** Investment above £1,000,000 must be in knowledge-intensive companies.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Class 1 Employee	Weekly
Lower Earnings Limit (LEL)	£129
Primary threshold	£242
Upper Earnings Limit (UEL)	£967
Total earnings £ per week	CLASS 1 EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS
Up to 242.00*	Nil
242.00 – 967.00	8%
Above 967.00	2%

**This is the primary threshold below which no NI contributions are payable. However, the lower earnings limit is £129 per week. This £129 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.*

Total earnings £ per week	CLASS 1 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
Below £96.00**	Nil***
Over £96.00	15%

***Secondary threshold.*

****No employer NICs on the first £967 pw for employees generally under 21 years, apprentices under 25 years and veterans in first 12 months of civilian employment. No employer NICs on the first £481 pw for employees at freeports and investment zones in Great Britain in the first 36 months of employment*

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

CLASS 2 (self-employed) *	
Flat rate per week	£3.65
Small profits threshold per year	£7,105
Class 2 contributions are credited automatically where profits equal or exceed £7,105 per annum.	
Class 2 contributions can be made voluntarily where profits are below £7,105 per annum.	

Class 3 (voluntary)	Flat rate per week £18.40.
Class 4 (self-employed)	6% on profits between £12,570 and up to £50,270. 2% on profits above £50,270.

PENSIONS

TAX YEAR	LIFETIME ALLOWANCE
2012/2013 & 2013/2014	£1,500,000
2014/2015 & 2015/2016	£1,250,000
2016/2017 & 2017/2018	£1,000,000
2018/2019	£1,030,000
2019/2020	£1,055,000
2020/2021 – 2023/2024*	£1,073,100

*Lifetime allowance abolished from 6 April 2024.

	2025/2026	2026/2027
Lump sum and death benefit allowance (LSDBA)	£1,073,100	£1,073,100
Lump sum allowance (LSA)	£268,275	£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 (MPAA)	£10,000	£10,000
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ANNUAL ALLOWANCE	
TAX YEAR	ANNUAL ALLOWANCE
2014/2015 – 2022/2023	£40,000*
2023/2024	£60,000**
2024/2025	£60,000**
2025/2026	£60,000**
2026/2027	£60,000**

*Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 the annual allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 of 'adjusted income' over £150,000 to a minimum of £10,000 where 'threshold income' is over £110,000.

*Between 2020/21 and 2022/23 the annual allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 of 'adjusted income' over £240,000 to a minimum of £4,000 if 'threshold income' is also over £200,000.

**From 2023/24 the annual allowance is 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.

ANNUAL ALLOWANCE CHARGE

20% – 45% determined by the member's taxable income and the amount of total pension input in excess of the annual allowance or money purchase annual allowance.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

ANNUAL EXEMPTIONS	2025/2026	2026/2027
Individuals, estates etc	£3,000	£3,000
Trusts generally	£1,500	£1,500
Chattels proceeds (restricted to five thirds of proceeds exceeding limit)	£6,000	£6,000
TAX RATES	2025/2026	2026/2027
Individuals:		
Up to basic rate limit	18%	18%
Above basic rate limit	24%	24%
Higher Rate	n/a	n/a
Trustees and Personal Representatives:		
Residential property	24%	24%
Other chargeable assets	24%	24%
Business Asset Disposal Relief*	14%	18%
Lifetime limit	£1,000,000	£1,000,000

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

*** For 25/26, rate for carried interest for all tax bands is 32%*

For 26/27, rate for carried interest for all tax bands is 34.075%

INHERITANCE TAX

RATES OF TAX ON TRANSFERS	2025/2026	2026/2027
Transfers made on death		
- Up to £325,000 (nil-rate band)	Nil	Nil
- Excess over £325,000	40%	40%
- Reduced rate (where appropriate charitable contributions are made)	36%	36%
Transfers		
- Lifetime transfers to and from certain trusts	20%	20%
MAIN EXEMPTION		
Transfers to		
- Long-term UK resident spouse/civil partner	No limit	No limit
- Spouse/civil partner who is not a long-term UK resident (from long-term UK resident spouse/ civil partner)	£325,000	£325,000
- UK-registered charities	No limit	No limit
- Residence nil rate band*	£175,000	£175,000

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

Gifts from surplus income are immediately exempt, as long as they are made from income, are made regularly and do not impact donor's standard of living.

Wedding/civil partnership gifts by

- parent	£5,000	£5,000
- grandparent/bride and/or groom	£2,500	£2,500
- other person	£1,000	£1,000

100% relief: businesses, unlisted/AIM companies, certain farmland/building

100% relief on first £2.5m* of combined qualifying agricultural property relief and business property relief assets.

50% relief on qualifying assets exceeding £2.5m

AIM listed shares generally restricted to 50% relief regardless of value

* The £2.5m allowance is frozen until April 2031.

50% relief: certain other business assets

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

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

Quick succession relief:

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

MAIN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

		2025/2026	2026/2027
		£ (per week)	£ (per week)
Child Benefit	First child	26.05	27.05
	Subsequent children	17.25	17.90
	Guardian's allowance	22.10	22.95
Employment and Support Allowance	Assessment Phase	Up to 72.90	75.65
	Age 16 - 24		
	Aged 25 or over	Up to 92.05	95.55
	Main Phase		
	Work-related Activity Group	Up to 128.60	Up to 133.50
	Support Group	Up to 140.55	Up to 145.90
Attendance Allowance	Lower rate	73.90	76.70
	Higher rate	110.40	114.60
Basic State Pension	Category A full rate	176.45	184.90
	Category B (lower) full rate	105.70	110.75
New State Pension	Full rate	230.25	241.30
Pension Credit	Standard minimum guarantee - single	227.10	238.00
	Standard minimum guarantee - couple	346.60	363.25
	Maximum savings ignored in calculating income	10,000.00	10,000.00
Bereavement Support Payment	Higher rate – First payment	3,500.00	3,500.00
	Higher rate – monthly payment	350.00	350.00
	Lower rate – First payment	2,500.00	2,500.00
	Lower rate – monthly payment	100.00	100.00
Jobseeker's Allowance	Age 18 - 24	72.90	75.65
	Age 25 or over	92.05	95.55
Statutory Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Neonatal Care, Shared Parental and Parental Bereavement Pay		187.18	194.32

CORPORATION TAX

	2025/2026	2026/2027
Small profit rate - for taxable profits below £50,000	19%	19%
Main rate - for taxable profits above £250,000	25%	25%
Companies with profits between £50,000 and £250,000 will pay tax at the effective rate of 26.5%.		
This provides a gradual increase in the effective Corporation Tax rate.		

VALUE ADDED TAX

	2025/2026	2026/2027
Standard rate	20%	20%
Annual registration threshold	£90,000	£90,000
Deregistration threshold	£88,000	£88,000

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 apply as follows:

- *First-time buyers benefit from SDLT relief on first £300,000 for properties 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 residential and all corporate residential properties £40,000 or more – add 5% to SDLT rates, 8% to LBTT. LTT has separate higher rate bands.*
- *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.*
- *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.*

	Non residential
Value up to £150,000	0%
£150,001 and £250,000	2%
£250,001 and over	5%

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