

CIMA Objective Test examination success through question practice

In our student surveys, we ask our students to list the tactics they think were most helpful to pass their CIMA[®] examinations. Question practice always tops the list. On the other hand, our TPs around the world also confirm that the students who practice questions generally pass their CIMA examinations, the first time.

After watching this video, you will be able to:

- Understand the importance of question practice.
- Know when you should practice questions.
- Develop examination skills using the right tools and techniques.
- Plan and manage time in the examination.

Question practice – why is it so important? [watch from 2:00]

Question practice is the best examination preparation tactic for many reasons; here are a few benefits. Question practice:

- Provides an opportunity to test yourself whether you have understood what you have studied.
- Stimulates revision of what you have studied earlier and improves retention of information (memory).
- Can reduce test anxiety through time planning and gradually master all other examination techniques.
- Allows you to see the question styles and have a fair view of what the examination consists of (removes the mystique from your real examinations).

When should you start question practice? [watch from 4:50]

Many students think that they must have studied the syllabus completely before practicing questions. After learning each syllabus topic, you must aim to do at least a few questions relevant to that topic. This will provide you with useful feedback of not only your understanding of the topic but also improve the retention and recall of information. Once you complete learning all the topics in the syllabus, it will be enormously helpful if you practice questions to time across the entire syllabus.

How to get the best out of question practice? [watch from 6:32]

What is more important is not 'how many' questions you practice, but 'how' you practice questions. One of the main purposes of question practice is to self-assess your learning and progressively improve and prepare for the main CIMA examination. Therefore, first, identify all questions where you could not get the correct answers. For each question, ask yourself, what made your answer wrong? There are no failures, only feedback. Therefore, make question practice an integral part of learning. These are a few common reasons why your answer may be wrong and some suggestions to overcome them.

Transcript

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Feedback from my failure	My corrective action
I misunderstood or misinterpreted the question requirement or the answer choices.	Read questions carefully, perhaps read several times till you are you have understood the question and answer choices.
I could not recall the relevant theory that was essential to answer that question.	Revise that syllabus topic; prepare a short note or use any other memory recall technique.
I have not studied a syllabus topic at all or not deep enough for me to understand and answer the question.	Study that syllabus topic in line with the <i>learning outcome</i> of the syllabus and <i>representative task statement</i> in the examinations blueprint.
It was my ignorance or carelessness that led to a mistake in calculation or data interpretation.	Be more vigilant next time.

Best practices in handling multi-choice questions [watch from 9:44]

Multiple-choice questions may seem easy but remember, they are well-designed to test in-depth knowledge from a broad range of subject material. These are a few hints and tips that may help you to handle single or multi-choice questions.

- Read the entire question before glancing over the answer options.
- Eliminate answer options that you are 100% sure are incorrect.
- Read every answer option before choosing a final answer.
- Answer it in your mind before reviewing the answer options.
- Select the *best* answer, not just an answer that seems correct.
- Pay close attention to *not*, *sometimes*, *always* and *never*, *always*, *never*, etc.

Best practices in handling problem-based questions [watch from 14:26]

In these questions, you are required to read the information provided, do some calculations or think carefully to come out with an answer. These are a few practical hints and tips.

- Understand the problem – be very clear and determine what you are required to find, and what the unknown is.
- Determine a way to approach or solve the problem – writing down all key information, relevant formulas, etc. will be helpful.
- Sense-check your answer before entering. Is my answer what I thought it would be in my original estimate? Does it make sense?
- ‘Think on paper’ – this is a smart way of understanding a problem, recall, generate thoughts, etc.
- Carry out the calculations carefully in the correct order; write down the intermediary answers before moving onto the next step.
- Let yourself be stuck (make ‘stuck-muscle’ stronger!). Allow your brain to think, recall and come out with an approach to find the solution.

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CIMA Aptitude: our official online question bank [watch from 17:22]

Kaplan is our official publisher and offers CIMA Aptitude which simulates an actual CIMA examination.

You can use CIMA Aptitude either in practice mode or in timed-assessment mode. This question bank allows you to build your tests by selecting the number of questions and topic areas you want to cover. Therefore, you can attempt questions at your own pace and get instant feedback on your answers.

CIMA Objective Test Examination Readiness – Checklist [watch from 19:47]

We recommend you book your Objective Test Examination first and work towards the exam-date. There is a detailed 10-point CIMA Objective Test Examinations Readiness checklist you may download. We recommend that you incorporate these 10 points into your Revision Timetable so that you may maximise your learning and enhance the chance of examination success.

