

Student Guidance Notes

Guide 7

Student guidance notes for students planning to sit the P6 Management Accounting Business Strategy examination of the 2005 syllabus

This guide outlines the issues relating to transition from the Management Accounting – Business Strategy (FLBS) paper of the 2000 syllabus to the P6 Management Accounting – Business Strategy paper of the 2005 CIMA syllabus.

The first section of this guide compares the two syllabuses, highlighting the differences between them.

The second part of this guide focuses on the issues for students who have studied the 'old' syllabus, but must sit the 'new' exam.

The third part of this guide contains a series of frequently asked questions relating to this paper, some of which were asked at the recent lecturer's conference.

If you have any further queries relating to this guide, please contact CIMA Student Services department on + 44 (0)208 849 2404, or email your query to cima.contact@cimaglobal.com

Syllabus Comparison

New syllabus	Old syllabus	Comparison and Comments
<p>P6 - Management Accounting – Business Strategy</p> <p>A. Assessing the Competitive Environment - 20%</p> <p>B. Interacting with the Competitive Environment - 20%</p> <p>C. Evaluation of Options, Planning and Appraisal - 30%</p> <p>D. Implementation of Strategic Plans - 30%</p>	<p>12 - Management Accounting – Business Strategy (FLBS)</p> <p>12(ii) Appraising the environment - 25%</p> <p>12(iv) Evaluating strategic options - 25%</p> <p>12(v) Implementing and controlling plans - 15%</p> <p>12(i) Setting objectives - 10%</p> <p>12(iii) Position appraisal and analysis - 25%</p>	<p>These two sections include the material previously contained in 12(ii), but also several topics previously covered by the paper 14 (FLIS) syllabus. Additional learning outcomes are listed in the next section of this guide.</p> <p>This section covers similar topic areas, but the learning outcomes have been substantially re-written.</p> <p>Similar to the previous syllabus, but with learning outcomes added from the old paper 14 (FLIS). Additional learning outcomes are listed in the next section of this guide.</p> <p>These topics are now partly covered by paper P5 Integrated Management (see guide S6) and partly within section C of this syllabus.</p>

Transition Issues

Assessment

The format of this exam paper will be:

Section A - 50% compulsory scenario questions (maximum of 4 questions based on a common scenario)

Section B - 50% Short scenario questions (choice of 2 from 4)

Additional learning outcomes

The following learning outcomes were not included in the corresponding 'old' syllabus:

- ◆ identify relevant stakeholders in respect of an organisation;
- ◆ evaluate the impact of regulatory regimes on strategic planning and implementation;
- ◆ evaluate the nature of competitive environments, distinguishing between simple and complicated competitive environments;
- ◆ distinguish the difference between static and dynamic competitive environments;
- ◆ evaluate strategies for response to competition.
- ◆ evaluate the impact and influence of the external environment on an organisation and its strategy;
- ◆ describe pro-active and reactive approaches to business/government relations and to relations with civil society;
- ◆ discuss how stakeholder groups work and how they affect the organisation;
- ◆ discuss how suppliers and customers influence the strategy process and explain how to interact with them;
- ◆ evaluate the impact of electronic commerce on the way business is conducted and recommend an appropriate strategy;
- ◆ evaluate the strategic and competitive benefits of IS/IT and advise on the development of appropriate strategies.
- ◆ evaluate the importance of process innovation and re-engineering.
- ◆ discuss and apply both qualitative and quantitative techniques in the support of the strategic decision making function;
- ◆ discuss the role and responsibilities of directors in the strategy development process.
- ◆ evaluate and advise managers on the development of strategies for knowledge management, IM, IS and IT that support the organisation's strategic requirements;
- ◆ identify and evaluate IS/IT systems appropriate to the organisation's strategic requirements, and recommend changes where necessary;
- ◆ discuss the role of change management in a strategic context.

FAQs

Question 1: Will there be a pilot paper for the new exam, so I can see the differences between the new paper and the old one?	Answer: Yes. Pilot papers are available on the website at www.cimaglobal.com/professionalqualifications .
Question 2: Where can I find the detailed syllabus for this paper?	Answer: www.cimaglobal.com/professionalqualifications .
Question 3: I have passed (or been granted an exemption from) the old FLBS paper. What work should I do on this syllabus?	Answer: You should read the P6 syllabus carefully, and selectively study those areas of the syllabus with which you are unfamiliar. Any of the topics covered by this syllabus could be relevant to the situation encountered in the TOPCIMA.
Question 4: I have taken, and failed, the old FLBS exam and must resit paper P6. How much work is likely to be involved?	Answer: Because the learning outcomes for this syllabus have been so significantly re-written, the safest approach would be to start again. You should find that you have some of the knowledge, but many of the learning outcomes require additional preparation.