



Technical Pensions (Administration) Pathway

Specification

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About the Pensions Management Institute (PMI)

Founded in 1976, the Pensions Management Institute (PMI) is the UK's largest and most recognisable professional body for employee benefit and retirement savings professionals, supporting over 6,500 members.

PMI's members, represented throughout the UK, are responsible for managing and advising some of the largest institutions in the world accounting for £1.3 trillion invested in pensions. We promote excellence through a range of services for the benefit of members, the wider economy and with over six million now saving as a result of automatic enrolment, society as a whole.

The purpose of the Institute is "To set and promote standards of excellence and lifelong learning for employee benefits and retirement savings professionals and trustees through qualifications, membership and ongoing support services".

To achieve this, the PMI:

- Promotes and embeds professional standards, setting the benchmarks for best practice in the employee benefits and retirement savings industry
- Produces qualifications that have a reputation for excellence and ensure that employee benefits and retirement savings professionals, whether they are scheme managers, consultants, administrators or trustees, are educated to the very highest standards and the latest legislation
- Provides continued lifelong learning designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of employee benefit and retirement savings practitioners in performing to the best of their ability
- Plays a pivotal role shaping the industry, working with government and collaborating with other bodies on research and thought leadership on key issues
- Presents an annual conference and a wide range of technical seminars from entry-level to those for highly experienced professionals
- Provides industry-leading insight, including PMI News, PMI TV, newsletters and blogs to keep practitioners abreast of the very latest developments in a rapidly changing industry
- Proactively has a voice in mainstream and social media with a presence on Twitter and LinkedIn

PMI Qualifications

The PMI is the UK's leading professional body for those working in the field of employee benefits and retirement savings. It supports and develops the experts who are responsible for running the UK's pensions industry and is acknowledged as the body for establishing, maintaining and improving professional standards in every area of pension scheme management, consultancy and trusteeship.

PMI qualifications are recognised for both their depth and their standing within the industry. If you choose a single unit, standalone qualification, or a multi-unit qualification over a number of years, it is recognised by the Pensions Industry as having the depth and rigour to demonstrate the knowledge and expertise of those taking them.

Syllabuses

Each syllabus area is presented in a form which is intended to give an indication of the depth and breadth of knowledge which is required. Each syllabus area is divided into sections with an initial statement, or learning outcome, indicating what is expected of learners. These learning outcomes are expressed through command verbs relevant to the level of study undertaken.

Command verbs themselves are broken down into those that are knowledge driven and those that require application. For all PMI assessments, your command verbs will be mainly made of the following (this list is just a guide):

Knowledge (up to Level 4) (Core Units)

Command Verb	Explanation
Define	State or describe the nature or scope of something
Describe	Express, fully and clearly, the details/facts of (e.g. "Describe the benefits payable under a term assurance policy")
Draw	Produce a representation of...a diagram, graph, chart etc. (e.g. "Draw a diagram to illustrate the profit-maximising price")
Identify	Point out or choose the right one or give a list of the main features
Label	Attach a name to unidentified terms ...on a graph, chart, diagram, table (e.g. "Label the axes")
List	Make a list of (e.g. "List the Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council")
State	Express the details/facts of... without elaboration (e.g. "State the principles of investment")
Understand	To know the meaning of something
Use	Apply the information provided or apply prior learning/To put into service or action. Employ for a given purpose
Write Down	Provide exactly what has been asked for, without explanation or elaboration

Command Verb	Explanation
Calculate	Ascertain or reckon mathematically
Construct	Produce what has been asked for, with appropriate structure (e.g. "Construct a table showing...")
Demonstrate	Prove with certainty or exhibit by practical means
Derive	Develop a result from first principles (or from the given starting point)
Describe	Express, fully and clearly, the details/facts of (e.g. "Describe the risks arising" under a specific given scenario)
Determine	Find the solution by argument or calculation, making clear your reasoning (e.g. "Determine the type of event that has occurred, based on the data provided")
Draft	Produce a document in the specified format (e.g. report, letter, etc.)
Explain	Make clear the meaning or purpose or details of, or the justification for
Express	Write down the result in the specified terms
Give	Write down what has been asked for, without elaboration (e.g. "Give an example of...")
List	Make a list of (e.g. "List the assumptions/rating factors that would be required to price this product")
Outline	Describe briefly without elaboration or explanation
Prepare	Make or get ready for use
Prove	Demonstrate the truth of what is indicated, through mathematical argument
Show	1. Demonstrate that the given result is correct 2. Display the output of a specific part of a computer package item
Solve	Find a mathematical answer to
State	Express the details/facts of... without elaboration (e.g. "State whether the investor should take a long or short position on the option in this situation")
Verify	Demonstrate to be true

Command Verb	Explanation
Analyse	Break down into component parts
Assess	Judge the effectiveness, implications, relevance, importance, suitability and/or value of
Comment on	Give brief conclusions on
Compare	Highlight the similarities and differences between
Contrast	Highlight the differences between
Determine	Find the solution by argument or calculation, making clear your reasoning (e.g. "Determine the most appropriate course of action for the company, within the given constraints")
Discuss	Write about in some detail, taking into account different issues or points of view
Estimate	Calculate a result, using judgement to decide on suitable assumptions and/or approximations (Used when the result is not definitive. Assumptions made should be expressed clearly and intermediate workings should be shown)
Evaluate	Judge the suitability of something for a given purpose
Identify	Select after consideration of the possible options or alternatives
Justify	Provide reasons to support
Propose	Select and then communicate a solution, action or range of possible solutions/actions (Justification is not expected unless explicitly asked for, e.g. "with reasons")
Recommend	Select and then communicate a preferred solution or course of action (Justification is not expected unless explicitly asked for, e.g. "with reasons")
Set out	Write down in a structured way
Suggest	Communicate a range of solutions, actions or reasons without justification (This is normally used in a situation where there is insufficient information provided to form a definitive recommendation or proposal, e.g. "Suggest possible reasons" or "Suggest possible actions")

Guidance Notes on the Use of Command Verbs

There should only be one command verb used per question. For example, learners are asked to describe or explain, not describe and explain.

You would not normally expect to see Knowledge and Application verbs used in the higher level modules. If they are to be used, then they will only be as 'a starter before the main meal'. For example, if it is necessary to **describe** (Knowledge) the different Quality Management Systems (QMS) before introducing the concept of **evaluating** (Higher Order) a single (and appropriate) QMS into the learners own organisation, then that is acceptable.

Qualification Aim

The aim of this **Pathway (Pensions Administration - Technical)** is to provide the required professional knowledge, skills and understanding for an individual to undertake, after sufficient experience, a position as a Pensions Administrator.

By undertaking this **Pathway (Pensions Administration - Technical)** the learner is provided with a specific route into Fellowship at the PMI via a pathway designed around the educational needs of the sector.


Syllabus

The syllabus and the examinations for this qualification are based on the law and practice of the United Kingdom as it existed on 6 April the previous year, unless stated otherwise.

Qualification Level

This qualification has been formally benchmarked against the Regulated Qualification Framework to a **Level 6** qualification.

The Pathway

	Pathway	Units and Qualifications needed to be completed
	<p>Pensions Administration (Technical)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APE or RPC ○ CPC • Core Units – CU2 CU3 • DBA unit • DCA unit • P&G unit

For this qualification it is expected that learners will have successfully completed the:

1. PMI Level 2 Award in Pensions Essentials (APE) or the PMI Level 4 Retirement Provision Certificate (RPC) ; and the
2. PMI Level 4 Certificate in Pensions Calculations (CPC)

Before they move onto completing the compulsory units of:

- Regulation of a Workplace Pensions Scheme (CU2)
- Running a Workplace Pensions Scheme (CU3)
- Defined Benefit Arrangements (DBA)
- Defined Contribution Arrangements (DCA)
- Professionalism and Governance (P&G)

We would also anticipate most candidates would be working in the field.

Learners signing up to this pathway have to be at least **Student Members** of the PMI.

Student Members completing any one of the Award in Pensions Essentials, Retirement Provision Certificate or the Certificate in Pensions Calculations qualifications will be eligible to join the **Professional Member** grade (PPMI).

Associate Membership (APMI) can be applied for when all qualifications & modules in the pathway are completed and the learner has been a **Professional Member** for at least 2 years.

Fellowship (FPMI) can be applied for when the member has been an **Associate Member** and completed the necessary CPD for a period of **5 years**.

Optional and Mandatory Qualifications

[The PMI Level 2 Award in Pension Essentials](#) (Optional)

The **PMI Level 2 Award in Pensions Essentials** (APE) is a qualification designed to support and acknowledge the training and development of new Pensions Administrators or those who need an introduction to pensions, HR or Payroll.

This provides the basic underpinning knowledge of the Pensions sector necessary for this qualification.

[The PMI Level 4 Retirement Provision Certificate](#) (Optional)

The **PMI Level 4 Retirement Provision Certificate** provides a broad introduction to pensions and other related benefits in the UK for those learners to pensions and for those professionals working in related fields. It provides a broad introduction to pensions and other related benefits in the UK.

This provides an in-depth underpinning knowledge of the Pensions sector necessary for this qualification.

[The PMI Level 4 Certificate in Pensions Calculations \(CPC\)](#) (Mandatory)

The **PMI Level 4 Certificate in Pensions Calculations** (CPC) is a qualification for Pensions Administrators designed to demonstrate competence in the manual calculation of benefits of occupational pension schemes.



It is designed to demonstrate candidates' competence in the manual calculation of benefits of DB and DC pension schemes. It is based on standards of occupational competence which have been defined by the industry.

The PMI Technical Pensions (Administration) Pathway is structured as follows:

Technical Pensions (Administration) Pathway		
Optional Qualifications (Choose 1)		
Title	Level	Credits
PMI Level 2 Award in Pensions Essentials	4	10
PMI Level 4 Retirement Provision Certificate	4	10
Mandatory Qualifications		
Title	Level	Credits
Certificate in Pensions Calculations	4	29
Mandatory Units		
Core Unit 2	4	10
Core Unit 3	4	10
Defined Benefit Arrangements	6	20
Defined Contribution Arrangements	6	20
Professionalism and Governance	6	20
Total credits needed to complete the Diploma		119

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

The TQT includes the time spent taking the pre-requisite qualifications.

In making an estimate we have referenced the approach used by Ofqual (the English qualifications regulator). This is also known as Total Qualification Time (TQT) or Guided Learning Hours. TQT is comprised of:

1. Guided Learning Hours (GLH). This means time spent being taught by an instructor (and not necessarily face to face);
2. Assessment Time, and
3. Study Time. (this means self-study/revision/reading)

The hourly allocations are based on evidence we have gathered from users of our qualifications, past experience and benchmarking exercises. The evidence we have gathered indicates that there is considerable variation within the overall TQT estimates as blended approaches are common with differing mixes of Guided Learning and other elements which contribute to TQT. These estimates are reviewed regularly.

In order to be consistent with Ofqual requirements and to provide an estimation of study time we have calculated the following:

Guided learning hours (GLH)	20	(Revision Courses)
Self-study (SS)	1190	(Distance Learning/Use of Learning Website)
Formative Assessment (F)	32	(Mock Exams/Assignments)
Summative Assessment (S)	20	(Online Exams)
Total Assessment Time (TAT)	52	(F+S)
Total Qualification Time	1262 Hours (GLH+SS+TAT)	

Fees

All fees can be found through accessing the [PMI Qualifications pages](#) via the individual unit/pathways chosen.

Links with other qualifications and progression

Those learners who complete the **PMI Technical Pensions (Administration) Pathway** can apply to other educational establishments/universities to continue their studies at **Level 6** or above dependent on the qualification and the study establishment.

It is possible to transfer credit across to the **PMI Technical Pensions (Administration) Pathway**, but this would need to be discussed with the PMI.

Support and Recognition

These qualifications have been developed with the support of Industry bodies that support the Pension sector in the United Kingdom.

Regulation

The APE, RPC and CPC individual qualifications attached to this Pathway are regulated by Ofqual.

Ofqual is 'The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation' and as such is a non-ministerial government department that regulates qualifications, exams and tests in England.

CU2 – Regulation of Retirement Provision

Unit Aims

To provide an overview of the regulation of retirement provision in the UK including an appreciation of:

- legal and taxation aspects
- compliance with regulation and where administrators need to focus on compliance issues
- the bodies responsible for defining, monitoring and oversight
- how the employee is supported by the financial services industry
- current issues

Unit Level	4	Unit Reference	CU2
TQT	167	Unit Grading Structure	Pass/Fail (65% pass boundary)
Assessment Guidance		Written Exam (online)	
Learning Outcomes - The Learner will:		Syllabus - The Learner can:	
1. Analyse a registered pension scheme and the tax treatment conferred by registered scheme status		(A) Outline the Finance Act 2004 including the tax treatment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions • Investment • Benefits (retirement and death) 	
2. Understand the context of the principal features of the current tax regime governing registered pension schemes		(A) Define Benefit Crystallisation Events and the Lifetime Allowance, including protection (B) Outline the features of the Annual Allowance, including the Tapered Annual Allowance and the Money Purchase Annual Allowance (C) Identify authorised and unauthorised payments	
3. Understand the tax treatment of unregistered schemes		(A) Define: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer Funded Retirement Benefit Schemes • Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes • Excepted Life Schemes 	
4. Understand the implications of differences in Jurisdiction (England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) on retirement provision		(A) Explain the implications in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of law • Income Tax • Options on divorce 	
5. Understand the roles and functions of the bodies that regulate pension schemes and provide protection to members and employers		(A) Explain the role and powers of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pensions Regulator (TPR) • HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) • Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) • Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) • Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) • Pension Protection Fund (PPF) • Pensions Ombudsman and Financial Services Ombudsman 	

<p>6. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of trust law and the role and responsibilities of pension scheme trustees and evaluate why trusts are used in a pensions context</p>	<p>(A) Identify the main features of a trust (B) Distinguish between trust and contract-based alternatives for workplace pensions, including master trusts (C) Identify the different types of trustees (D) Analyse the appointment and removal of trustees (E) Explain the duties and powers of trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment powers • exercise of discretions • Delegation • Meetings and minutes • Trustees' liability and protection • Trustee knowledge and understanding (TKU) <p>(F) Identify notifiable events (G) Describe the Pensions Regulator's Codes of Practice and guidance notes</p>
<p>7. Describe the way in which pension schemes are established, the methods for changing trustees and employers and for amending schemes and explain the possible constraints on such amendments</p>	<p>(A) Explain the trust deed and rules (B) Outline relevant employee communications (C) Explain how the following can be effected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing employers • Changing trustees • Amending deeds <p>(D) Outline the powers of amendment (E) Identify overriding legislation and relevant case law (F) Analyse the relevant practical considerations (G) Explain the process of consultation and notification to members</p>
<p>8. Distinguish between a share sale and a business sale and demonstrate an understanding of the duties of trustees in such situations and the related issues</p>	<p>(A) Explain share sales and business sales (and key differences between them) (B) Analyse sale and purchase agreements (C) Evaluate past and future service provision (including Transfer of Undertakings [Protection of Employment] Regulations [TUPE]) (D) Explain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 75 debts • Anti-avoidance and clearance • Apportionment of liabilities • Withdrawal arrangements <p>(E) Analyse scheme mergers</p>

<p>9. Understand the context of the duties imposed on the 'scheme administrator' by the Finance Act 2004</p>	<p>(A) Outline the characteristics of effective record keeping (B) Describe information requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM Revenue & Customs • Members • Other scheme administrators
<p>10. Describe the requirements for communication with members</p>	<p>(A) Explain the legal requirements for each of the following types of disclosure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic • On request • E-communications/multi-media
<p>11. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of a governance structure</p>	<p>(A) Explain the features of scheme governance (B) Outline the roles of the employer, trustees, governance committees and providers (C) Outline the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management • Member communication and engagement • Investment and manager selection
<p>12. Outline other laws which impact on UK pension provision</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the impact of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDPR/Data Protection • Divorce, civil partnership and same sex marriages • Family law • Human rights • equal treatment and discrimination (including age discrimination) • Dismissal and redundancy • Anti-money laundering and anti-bribery • Information and consultation regulation • Value Added Tax (VAT) • European Union law
<p>13. Demonstrate an understanding of current issues</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the impact of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cessation of contracting out and scheme reconciliations • Data protection • Pensions dashboard • Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) equalisation/conversion • Pension scams • Data quality and the scheme return • Defined benefit to defined contribution transfers • Pension advice allowance and provision of advice at retirement (robo advice) • A Green Paper (including consultation) • TPR consultation professional trustees • The impact of BREXIT

<p>14. Understand how companies and individuals working in the pensions field are regulated by the FCA</p>	<p>(A) Outline the characteristics of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statements of principle• Financial advice• Best advice• Treating customers fairly• Advertising and promotion• Regular reviews of suitability• Asset management market study• Financial Advice Market Review (FAMR)
<p>15. Explain how the consumer is served by the financial services industry</p>	<p>(A) Describe the role of the providers of financial products</p> <p>(B) Explain the relationship between product providers, advisers and consumers</p> <p>(C) Analyse the perception of financial services</p> <p>(D) Identify the main financial needs and how they are met</p>

CU3 – Running a Workplace Pension Scheme

Unit Aims

To provide an overview of the requirements of running a workplace pension scheme, including an appreciation of:

- the implications of the tax and regulatory regimes that apply to workplace pensions
- scheme administration, payroll and financial administration
- the importance of data and data protection
- the calculation and payment of benefits
- the role of technology

Unit Level	4	Unit Reference	CU3
TQT	167	Unit Grading Structure	Pass/Fail (65% pass boundary)
Assessment Guidance		Written Exam (online)	
Learning Outcomes - The Learner will:		Syllabus - The Learner can:	
1. Demonstrate an understanding of administration system design		(A) Analyse each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System requirements • Contractual enrolment, automatic enrolment and re-enrolment processes • Interfaces with payroll and human resources • Data protection • Straight through processing • Online functionality • Cyber security 	
2. Demonstrate an understanding of ongoing scheme requirements and implications for payroll and HR		(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New employees, contractual enrolment and automatic enrolment • Employees opting-out and re-enrolment processes • Renewals/interfaces and disclosure • Record keeping • Relevant Pensions Regulator Codes of Practice and guidance notes 	
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the main features of automatic enrolment		(A) Define Jobholders and Workers (B) Explain the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staging dates • Postponement (C) Distinguish between the different options for Qualifying Schemes (D) Explain the administrative requirements (E) Describe the communication requirements and timescales (F) Explain compliance and the Pensions Regulator (G) Describe the main features of a master trust (H) Explain the main characteristics of NEST	

<p>4. Understand the main features of employee communication with saving for retirement</p>	<p>(A) Outline the importance of effective communication and identify the different methods of communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic or paper based • Face to face <p>(B) Distinguish between statutory disclosure requirements and those arising from best practice</p>
<p>5. Describe the procedures required for the different taxation allowances</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Allowance, including Tapered Annual Allowance and Money Purchase Annual Allowance • Lifetime Allowance • The various protection regimes
<p>6. Demonstrate an understanding of the key features of delivering pension benefits</p>	<p>(A) Analyse each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different service delivery models e.g. outsourcing, co-sourcing, front office/back office, off shoring • Organisation of work • Professional Advisors – their roles and responsibilities • Service delivery models • Target setting
<p>7. Outline the various benefit crystallisation events when an individual leaves a workplace pension scheme and understand the advantages and disadvantages, administrative requirements including the provision of guidance and risks associated with different benefit options</p>	<p>(A) Describe the options on early leaving, refunds, deferred benefits, transfers (in and out)</p> <p>(B) Define the retirement options before normal retirement age, including redundancy and ill-health</p> <p>(C) Identify the benefits payable on death</p> <p>(D) Explain the options available arising from divorce and the dissolution of civil partnerships</p> <p>(E) Describe the retirement options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ill-health retirement • Phased retirement • Flexible retirement • Lump sum options including trivial commutation • Uncrystallised funds pension lump sums • Income drawdown (capped and flexible) • Different types of annuities • Scheme pensions
<p>8. Demonstrate an understanding of accounts and treasury requirements</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of contribution payments • Money transfer processes and authorities • Record keeping • Reporting • Reconciliation processes • Accounting standards

<p>9. Describe the scheme level administration requirements</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank accounts and cash management • Annual report and accounts, scheme accounting and audit • Annual renewals
<p>10. Demonstrate an understanding of pensioner payroll requirements</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a pensioner payroll • Taxation of lump sum options • Application of tax codes • Accounting for tax deducted • Application of pension increases • Record keeping • Reporting • Treatment of overpayments or underpayments and communication
<p>11. Explain from a UK perspective the practical benefit considerations to be taken into account when a member moves abroad</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence overseas before and after retirement including Temporary absence abroad • Cross border regulations • Overseas transfer charge
<p>12. Demonstrate an understanding of current issues and outline recent developments in legislation and forthcoming changes that will impact on the governance of retirement provision</p>	<p>(A) Explain the impact of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating pension scams • Guidance guarantee • Other current issues
<p>13. Describe the procedures to be adopted in connection with the winding up of a trust-based pension scheme and demonstrate an understanding of the powers and duties of trustees in such situations and related issues</p>	<p>(A) Outline the interaction with the employer (B) Explain scheme termination (C) Define the process for wind up (D) Explain the importance of tracing members (E) Explain the issue of company insolvency (F) Outline the role of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension Protection Fund • Financial Assistance Scheme <p>(G) Describe discharging duties on termination</p>

DBA – Defined Benefit Arrangements

Unit Aims

To provide an in depth understanding of trust-based defined benefit (DB) arrangements, building on and utilising the knowledge gained in the core units and applying it in a variety of scenarios, recognising the requirements of different stakeholders.

Unit Level	6	Unit Reference	DBA
TQT	247	Unit Grading Structure	Pass/Fail (55% pass boundary)

Assessment Guidance Written Exam (online)

Learning Outcomes - The Learner will:	Syllabus - The Learner can:
<p>1. Demonstrate an understanding of the factors which influenced defined benefit scheme design and the trend for new arrangements to be defined contribution schemes.</p>	<p>(A) Explain the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer needs • Employee needs • Legislation • Corporate activity • State provision • Administrative considerations • Eligibility conditions, contractual enrolment and automatic enrolment • Design of contribution structures • Salary sacrifice and its application • New developments
<p>2. Understand the different types of DB arrangements and current trends</p>	<p>(A) analyse each of the following workplace arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final salary (including cash balance) • Career average • Defined ambition (risk sharing schemes) <p>(B) Analyse individual and executive arrangements</p>
<p>3. Demonstrate an understanding of certain key features of the tax system that apply to defined benefit schemes</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax relief on contributions and investment return • Authorised and unauthorised payments • Annual Allowance • Lifetime Allowance • Protection • Benefit Crystallisation Events • Registration and de registration • Scheme pays

<p>4. Identify the roles of the employer and trustees</p>	<p>(A) Evaluate the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal requirements• Good governance and best practice including the voluntary "Code of Good Practice" on Incentive Exercises• Governance and impact on member outcomes <p>(B) Evaluate each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection, appointment, management, monitoring and review of advisers, delivery vehicles and providers
<p>5. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of the abolition of contracting out</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic requirements• Changes to scheme design• Reporting requirements (leavers; retirements; solvency)• GMP equalisation/reconciliation/convergence• Cessation

6. Describe the scheme level requirements for the administration of DB arrangements

(A) Active, deferred and pensioner members:

- Communication
 - disclosure
 - pension saving statements
 - Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) Statutory Money Purchase Illustrations
- Reconciliation procedures
- AVC
 - investments
 - switching/redirection
 - charges
 - guarantees

(B) Options on early leaving:

- Refunds
- Deferred benefits,
- Transfers (in and out) including public sector restrictions

(C) Retirement options:

- Retirement
- Ill-health retirement
- Phased retirement
- Flexible retirement
- Lump sum options including trivial commutation
- Open market option and different types of annuities

(D) Death benefits:

- On death before and after retirement
- Payment of lump sums and dependant's pensions
- Record keeping
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<p>7. Describe the scheme level requirements for the administration of defined contribution AVC arrangements</p>	<p>(A) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of defined contribution administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contribution and investment processing cycle • Legislative requirements for member contributions • Reconciliation procedures
<p>8. Demonstrate an understanding of the legal requirements relating to the funding of registered pension schemes and the practical issues to which they can give rise</p>	<p>(A) Describe and explain the principles of scheme financing (B) Outline scheme specific funding (C) Analyse funding objectives and measurement (D) Explain each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and demographic assumptions • Calculations of contribution rates • The treatment of types of asset and liability • Use of contingent assets • Setting factors for early/late retirement commutation, transfer factors • The calculation of individual and group transfer values • Actuarial valuations and reports • The role of the Pensions Regulator <p>(E) Outline annual funding statements (F) Explain the significance of employer covenant (G) Define recovery plans and the schedule of contributions (H) Outline company accounting standards for pension schemes</p>
<p>9. Identify and distinguish between different methods of actuarial funding</p>	<p>(A) Analyse each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected unit method • Attained age method • Discontinuance • Section 179 Pension Protection Fund basis • Accounting standards
<p>10. Describe what factors should be taken into account when determining a defined benefit fund's overall investment strategy</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of scheme, funding level • Strength of employer covenant • Role of regulation and legislation • Employer and trustee attitude to risk • Cash flow requirements • Liability profile • Asset/liability modelling • Liability driven investment • Asset allocation • Risk management • Statement of Investment Principles • De-risking strategies

<p>11. Demonstrate an understanding of the approaches to managing risk, de-risking and the advantages and disadvantages of each</p>	<p>(A) Define and analyse the current approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy in/buy out • Longevity swaps • Liability driven investment
<p>12. Demonstrate an understanding of the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) levy</p>	<p>(A) Describe and explain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the PPF levy • The calculation basis and issues arising
<p>13. Demonstrate an understanding of the stages of restructuring a defined benefit scheme</p>	<p>(A) Analyse each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing benefit design • Changing future benefit or contribution structure • Closing to new entrants • Ceasing future accrual • Operating as a closed scheme • Winding up • Cessation of contracting out
<p>14. Describe the procedures to be adopted in connection with the winding up of a pension scheme and demonstrate an understanding of the powers and duties of trustees in such situations and related issues</p>	<p>(A) Outline the interaction with the employer (B) Explain scheme termination (C) Define the procedure for wind up (D) Explain the issue of company insolvency outline the role of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pension Protection Fund • The Financial Assistance Scheme <p>(E) Describe discharging benefits on termination</p>
<p>15. Describe the process to be followed for a pension scheme's journey into the Pension Protection Fund and demonstrate an understanding of the duties of trustees in such situations and related issues</p>	<p>(A) Explain the stages in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 120 notice • Assessment period • Transition • Compensation • Entry to the PPF • Communication • Project management • Timescales
<p>16. Demonstrate an understanding of the challenges created by legacy issues</p>	<p>(A) Understand the challenges created by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administering legacy arrangements • Contracting out • Reporting requirements • Data standards • Resolution of data discrepancies

DCA – Defined Contribution Arrangements

Unit Aims

To provide an in depth understanding of trust and contract-based Defined Contribution (DC) arrangements, building on and utilising the knowledge learners have gained in the core units to show that they can apply this in a variety of scenarios, recognising the requirements of different stakeholders.

Unit Level	6	Unit Reference	DCA
TQT	247	Unit Grading Structure	Pass/Fail (55% pass boundary)

Assessment Guidance Written Exam (online)

Learning Outcomes - The Learner will:	Syllabus - The Learner can:
<p>1. Demonstrate an understanding of the factors which influence DC arrangement design and their influence on administration</p>	<p>(A) Explain the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee needs • Employer strategy including corporate activity • Legislation and legacy issues • State provision • Administrative considerations • Eligibility conditions, contractual enrolment and automatic enrolment • Design of contribution structures including automatic enrolment phasing • Salary sacrifice and its application • Charging structures and costs
<p>2. Understand the different types of DC arrangements and current trends</p>	<p>(A) Analyse each of the following workplace arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust-based • Contract-based • Group • Employer-sponsored arrangements • Bundled and unbundled arrangements • Master trusts
<p>3. Evaluate the importance of system design in the administration of DC arrangements</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System requirements • Legislative requirements • Interfaces • Online access • Online enrolment • Straight Through Processing

<p>4. Demonstrate an understanding of the regulatory bodies and their key functions and consider the financial aspects of DC administration</p>	<p>(A) Explain the functions of each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs • The Pensions Regulator • Financial Conduct Authority/The Prudential Regulation Authority <p>(B) Explain the requirements for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank accounts • Cash management • Scheme accounts and auditing • Risk benefits and re-broking
<p>5. Describe the member level requirements for the administration of DC arrangements</p>	<p>(A) Explain the procedures involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution management • Contribution investment processing including: • Payment of contributions • Investment switches/redirections • Purchase of units • Unit reconciliation checks • Disinvestments • Analyse the impact of the following: • Tax relief on contributions • Annual Allowance, Tapered Annual Allowance and Money Purchase Annual Allowance and Scheme Pays • Active and deferred member communications: • Pension savings statements • Benefit statements and Statutory Money Purchase Illustrations

6. Explain the authorised pension benefits payable from DC arrangements

(A) Describe each of the following:

- Options on early leaving:
 - refunds
 - deferred benefits
- Transfer options
- Death benefit options:
 - death in service
 - death in deferment
 - death in retirement
- Retirement options:
 - different types of annuities, including enhanced and the open market option
 - lump sum options including full commutation
 - income drawdown (capped and flexible)
 - uncrystallised funds pension lump sum
 - at/when given retirement advice
- Timing of retirement
 - early retirement
 - phased/flexible retirement
 - ill-health retirement
- Closing and winding up schemes
- Disclosure requirements including retirement risk warnings

(B) Analyse the impact of the Lifetime Allowance:

- Various protection regimes
- Benefit Crystallisation Events
- Registration and de-registration

<p>7. Identify the roles of the employer, trustees, providers and employer and provider governance committees and distinguish between trust-based and contract-based pension arrangements</p>	<p>(A) Evaluate each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance structures/committees: • Trustee (e.g. DC sub-committee/master trust) • Employer • Provider <p>(B) Evaluate the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal requirements around governance • Best practice • Charges and value for money • Internal controls • Conflicts of interest • Record keeping and regular reconciliations • The Chair's statement • Risk management including reviewing advisers, delivery vehicles and providers • Good member outcomes including member communication and engagement <p>(C) Describe the role of the Pensions Regulator in supporting good governance in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance • Code of Practice • How to Guides
<p>8. Describe what factors should be taken into account by employers, trustees and governance committees when determining investment strategy</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Default funds and their review • Range of funds • Monitoring performance • Statement of Investment Principles • Investment Governance Group Principles
<p>9. Understand the investment considerations for members of DC arrangements</p>	<p>(A) Analyse each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different types of investments and the risk attached to each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ default funds ○ target date funds ○ lifestyle options • Types of investment management and charging • Investment platforms • Lifestyle strategies

<p>10. Demonstrate an understanding of individual arrangements and specialist pension provision for executives and directors</p>	<p>(A) Describe each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different arrangements for executives and directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Pension Plans ○ Small Self Administered Schemes ○ Employer Financed Retirement Benefit Schemes • Different types of individual pension arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ personal pension plans ○ stakeholder schemes ○ self-invested personal pensions ○ retirement annuity contracts
<p>11. Outline recent developments in legislation and forthcoming changes that will impact on DC pension provision</p>	<p>(A) Explain the impact of recent developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxation of ROPS transfers • Pensions Advice Allowance • Reduction to Money Purchase Annual Allowance • Market consolidation (bulk transfers of DC pensions without consent and master trust developments) • Latest DC governance reforms including early exit charges and transparency measures • Pensions Dashboard • Lifetime ISA and comparison to DC pension savings, pensions tax relief consultation • General Data Protection Regulation • Measures to tackle pension scams

Professionalism and Governance

Unit Aims

To provide learners with:

An understanding of the importance of professionalism and ethics and the importance of continuing their own professional development. It offers an appreciation of risk and governance issues as they apply to pension schemes, the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply risk and governance principles in a practical situation and then evidence that they can communicate their knowledge in a way that is relevant to their audience.

Unit Level	6	Unit Reference	P&G
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TQT	247	Unit Grading Structure	Pass/Fail (55% pass boundary)
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Assessment Guidance	Written Exam (online)
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Learning Outcomes - The Learner will:	Syllabus - The Learner can:
<p>1. Demonstrate an awareness of the Professional Standards expected of PMI Members as set out in the PMI Code of Professional Conduct.</p>	<p>(A) Discuss the importance of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observing regulatory and legal requirements Acting with the highest standards of professionalism and integrity Providing an objective high standard of service Acting in the best interests of each client Treating people fairly in accordance with regulations
<p>2. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of continuing personal development (CPD)</p>	<p>(A) Have knowledge of and be able to discuss each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Knowledge and Understanding (TKU) Continuing Professional Development in relation to the requirements of the PMI and other professions
<p>3. Demonstrate an understanding of professionalism and business ethics</p>	<p>(A) Analyse the importance of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate culture Dealing with complaints Conflicts of interest Ethical dilemmas - identification, implications and appropriate behaviour Whistle-blowing legislative requirements and the protections given to whistle blowers
<p>4. Explain the commercial aspects of operating a workplace pension scheme</p>	<p>(A) Analyse each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The types of costs involved in delivering pensions The costs which can be controlled and which can only be mitigated The value and limitations of budgets Managing the range of commercial relationships

<p>5. Demonstrate an understanding of the management and measurement of service delivery</p>	<p>(A) Assess each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting, monitoring and changing service providers • Managing client relationships • Service level agreements • Type, role and value of performance measures and standard – external & internal • Governance reporting • Contract remedies • Benchmarking • Member and client surveys • Complaint/dispute resolution
<p>6. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of good governance in managing a workplace pension scheme</p>	<p>(A) Comment on the features of scheme governance</p> <p>(B) Discuss the roles of the Employer, Providers, and Employer and Provider Governance Committees</p> <p>(C) Evaluate the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management • Member communication and engagement • Investment strategies for different types of schemes • Manager selection and asset allocation <p>(D) Evaluate each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures/governance committees • Key scheme documents for different types of arrangements • Documentation and record keeping • Relevant Pensions Regulator Codes of Practice and guidance • Data quality
<p>7. Outline factors taken into consideration when selecting, monitoring and changing investment managers</p>	<p>(A) Comment on each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying investment requirements • Types of asset managers • Segregated v pooled investments • Manager selection processes • Custody and title of assets • Fee structures • Setting investment performance targets • ESG, climate and other responsible investments • Investment management agreements • Investment administration • Transition management • Monitoring investment performance and governance

<p>8. Demonstrate an understanding of internal controls</p>	<p>(A) Describe internal controls</p> <p>(B) Explain why internal controls are required</p> <p>(C) Describe the assessment of risk</p>
<p>9. Discuss the role of the trustees in managing risk</p>	<p>(A) Comment on the process of governance review/risk management</p> <p>(B) Justify how the preparation and management of a risk register can mitigate risks</p> <p>(C) Analyse the nature of de-risking</p> <p>(D) Discuss how individual trustee and collective board knowledge can mitigate risk</p>