

Sustainability in action: how we've recently examined skills to support sustainable business in our Strategic Professional exams

<p>Strategic Business Leader (September/December 2021, task 1b)</p>	<p>This exam featured a listed company which owns and operates high quality fitness and leisure clubs. Candidates were provided with an extract from the company's website which included details of its corporate social responsibility (CSR), as well as a press article relating to CSR activities in their country. Following recent media coverage, the finance director has been asked by the chief executive to make a presentation to the board, outlining the strategic importance of maintaining a strong focus on CSR. The candidate was required to prepare presentation slides, with accompanying notes, explaining why it is of strategic importance to demonstrate a strong focus on CSR for customers and staff, and wider external stakeholders (investors, government and wider community).</p>
<p>Strategic Business Reporting (September/December 2022, Question 4)</p>	<p>Candidates firstly had to discuss the validity of views expressed by preparers of financial statements regarding materiality in relation to disclosure of climate-related matters. Candidates then needed to discuss the potential effects of climate-related matters on the financial statements of a company in the energy industry when applying three different IFRS Accounting Standards.</p>
<p>Strategic Business Reporting (March/June 2021, question 4)</p>	<p>Investors need to understand a variety of factors when making an investment decision. The nature of the companies in which they are looking to invest is an important consideration, as is the need to incorporate sustainability factors into investment decisions. Candidates were required to discuss why sustainability has become an important aspect of the investor's analysis of a company.</p>
<p>Strategic Business Reporting (March 2020, question 4)</p>	<p>Candidates needed to discuss the importance of environmental, social and governance factors in sustainable investing and the disclosure of such information. Thereafter, they must determine the financial reporting implications of "going green" in relation to moving to an office that has much reduced CO2 emissions that will save costs long term but cause initial higher costs and of improving the company's pension scheme to be socially aware and to prevent reputational damage.</p>
<p>Advanced Financial Management (September 2022, Question 1)</p>	<p>In this question, a company is considering two alternatives for its paraffin production facility . One is based on traditional technology and the other is a newer, more environmentally-friendly technology but is likely to be costlier and it is less proven. Candidates were expected to discuss the issues surrounding these alternative before making a recommendation of which alternative to pursue.</p>
<p>Advanced Financial Management (Practice Exam 1, question 1)</p>	<p>In this question, a company is considering producing biodegradable drones which can increase agricultural crop yields. There are many prospective customers who are discouraged by a price they regard as too high. Candidates needed to consider the sustainability and ethical issues concerned with moving production to a country with lower labour costs.</p>
<p>Advanced Performance Management (September/December 2021, question 2)</p>	<p>In this question, the candidate is required to advise the board on how ethical issues may affect the decision to manufacture a chemical by building a new manufacturing plant overseas.</p>
<p>Advanced Audit and Assurance (Specimen exam, question 1)</p>	<p>In this question, the candidate is required to evaluate the matters to be considered in deciding whether the audit firm should accept the engagement to provide advice on the client's social and environmental information. The client operates in the travel industry, offering a selection of worldwide itineraries and has a fleet of 20 cruise ships. The client operated three brands which provide different types of cruise experience.</p>