



TCS Online

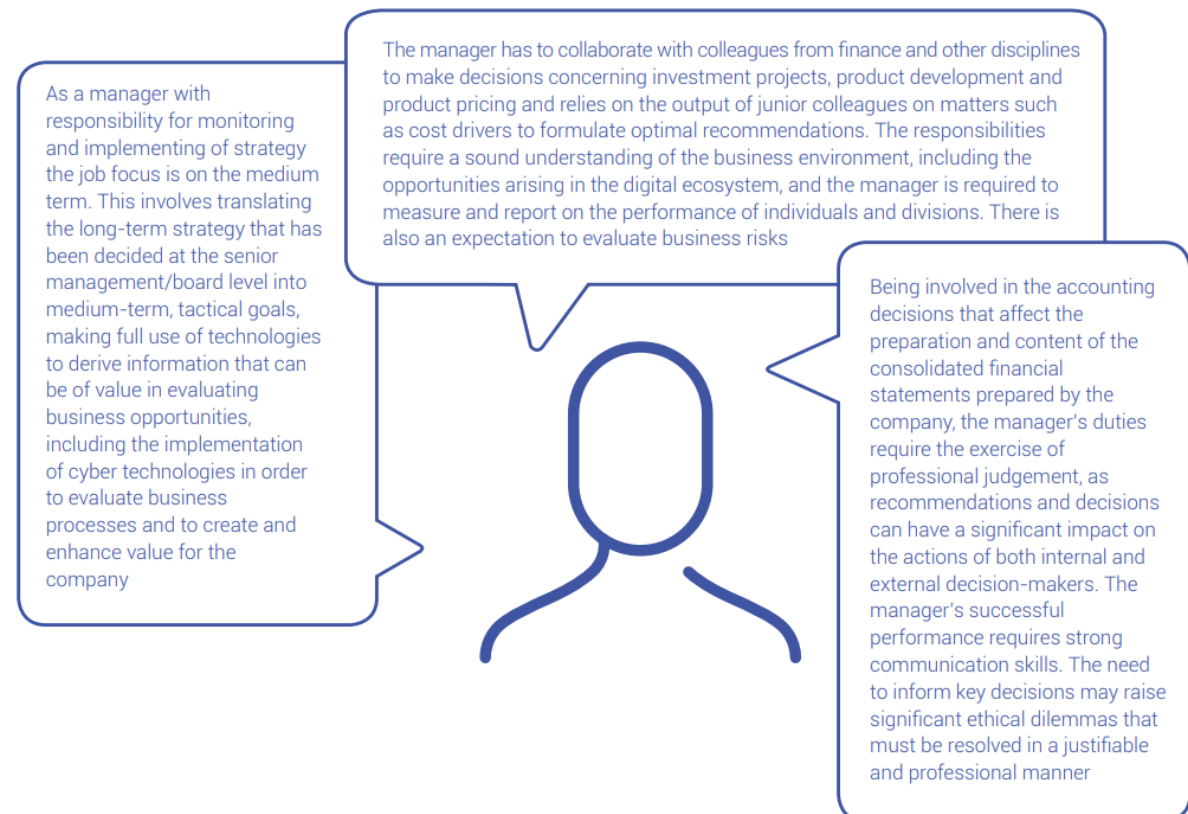
MCS Familiarisation Kit

➤ **What is a case study examination?**

The case study examination is a simulated business role play. Therefore, understanding your persona and role in the case study exam can really help you produce a good answer at the right level for your audience.

➤ **What is your simulated role in the MCS exam?**

The role simulated is that of a Finance Manager.



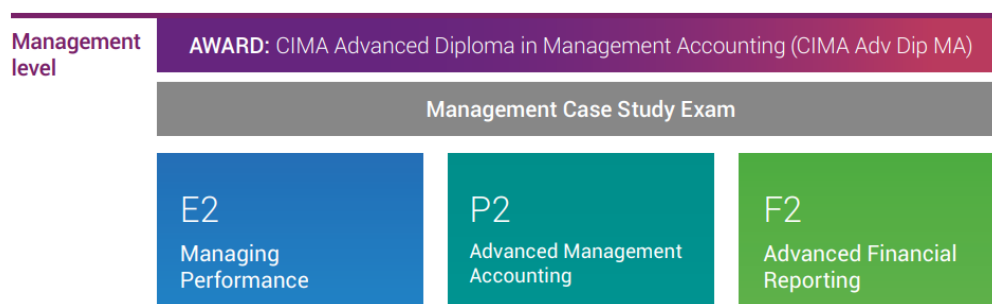
➤ **What is the examination structure?**

- PC based examination
- Duration: 3 hours
- Comprises of 4 main questions (sections) with each section consisting of sub-tasks
- 45 minute time allocation for each section, and within that time only that specific section can be answered
- Once the 45 minutes lapse, the screen will move on the next section, displaying the next question and a separate answer screen for that section
- Each sub-task is given a specific weighting and this represents the proportionate marks allocated for each sub-task
- Pass mark: 80 out of 150

(Note: Refer past examination variants and suggested answers for a clear understanding of the above: <https://www.cgma.org/becomeacgma/cgmaexam/post-exam-kits.html>)

➤ **What is the syllabus for MCS?**

E2, P2, F2. There is no new syllabus content for the management case study exam. You just need to be thorough with the syllabus content of E2, P2 & F2.



➤ **What are 'Core Activities'?**

Within each Management Case Study Examination, five core activities will be assessed. These core activities represent the tasks that are most frequent, critical and important to the role of a finance manager.

The core activities are linked to associated assessment outcomes expressed in terms of 'I Can' statements. These statements reflect the skills and competencies that drive the employability of successful candidates.

Core activity	Assessment outcome	Weighting
A. Evaluate opportunities to add value	<p>I can select appropriate capital investment appraisal techniques and apply them in order to support capital investment decisions, including product/service development, digital transformation projects and acquisitions.</p> <p>I can identify and use relevant digital data sources to assist in capital investment decisions.</p> <p>I can explain which pricing strategies are appropriate.</p> <p>I can select and implement suitable business models that will create value for stakeholders, including business models in the context of digital ecosystems.</p> <p>I can analyse the impact of disruptive and digital operating business models in the context of digital ecosystems.</p> <p>I can explain the relevance of weighted average cost of capital.</p>	15–25%
B. Implement senior management decisions	<p>I can apply appropriate project management tools and techniques to effectively manage projects at the appropriate stage in the project life cycle.</p> <p>I can identify the key project personnel, explain their responsibilities and set appropriate performance measures.</p> <p>I can select and apply suitable tools and techniques for managing risk and uncertainty in capital projects.</p> <p>I can select suitable financing sources and explain the characteristics of the different types of funding.</p> <p>I can recognise the characteristics of high performing teams.</p>	15–25%

C. Manage performance and costs to aid value creation	<p>I can advise on the measurement, analysis and reporting on the performance of responsibility centres.</p> <p>I can analyse the processes needed to ensure employee engagement, empowerment and alignment to enhance individual and team performance.</p> <p>I can compare leadership styles and identify the most appropriate style to use.</p> <p>I can use appropriate cost management and cost transformation techniques to manage costs and improve profitability.</p> <p>I can identify and apply appropriate quality management techniques to enhance value.</p> <p>I can identify and apply value management techniques to enhance value.</p> <p>I can apply the techniques that quantify and present risk to stakeholders.</p>	15–25%
D. Measure performance	<p>I can select and apply suitable tools and techniques for managing risk and uncertainty associated with performance related issues.</p> <p>I can select and apply suitable tools and techniques for managing risk and uncertainty in business models.</p> <p>I can use the financial statements to assess and report on financial performance and position, interpreting and reporting on a wide range of ratios.</p> <p>I can support managers by recommending actions to improve financial performance and position and assessing how suggestions impact on the wider organisational ecosystem.</p> <p>I can select appropriate accounting treatments and explain their implications for users of the financial statements.</p>	15–25%
E. Manage internal and external stakeholders	<p>I can explain the financial reporting implications of additions to the group.</p> <p>I can explain the behavioural and transfer pricing issues associated with internal trading.</p> <p>I can explain the implications of Integrated Reporting for the reporting entity and its stakeholders.</p> <p>I can advise on the communication process.</p> <p>I can advise on the negotiation process.</p> <p>I can advise on conflict management.</p>	15–25%

➤ How important is the pre-seen?

The case study relates to a fictionalized organisation, reflecting a real business environment. The pre-seen provides information about a fictitious organisation and the industry so that the students can familiarise themselves with the organisation and the industry.

Immerse yourself in the pre-seen and get to know it inside out. You will need to become really familiar with the organisation, its structure, products, competitors, industry, strengths and weaknesses, its financials, cost structure, etc

You are not expected to “memorise” details of the pre seen, but simply remember the ‘key issues and points’.

➤ What is the answering style and structure for the CIMA case study examination?

A good starting point to understand this is to refer suggested answers published by CIMA for past exam papers.

Available at: <https://www.cgma.org/becomeacgma/cgmaexam/post-exam-kits.html>

➤ **Any tips for a good answer?**

- Read the scenario and reference material attentively
- Identify the number of requirements within each sub-task
- Plot the requirements into sub-headings
- Understand the requirements correctly
- Develop an answer plan
- Allocate the time based on the weighting assigned for each sub-task
- Expand the answer – write paragraphs with 2 to 4 sentences
- Answer all requirements
- Do not write generic or theoretical answers
- Do not write bullet points or single sentences unless required (for instance, when setting out the recognition criteria for an IAS)
- Do not deflect, answer to the point
- Do not infuse pre-seen information to the answers unnecessarily

➤ **How many questions/mock exams should I practice?**

As many as you can! It is, however, important that you attempt the mock exams under real exam conditions, on a similar exam platform to that of the case study and obtain feedback from tutors to ensure your answers meet the 'pass' standard.

➤ **Got another question?**

Post them to our tutors on the WhatsApp discussion groups or email info@studyattcs.com and our expert tutors will promptly respond. 😊