



**TCS Online**

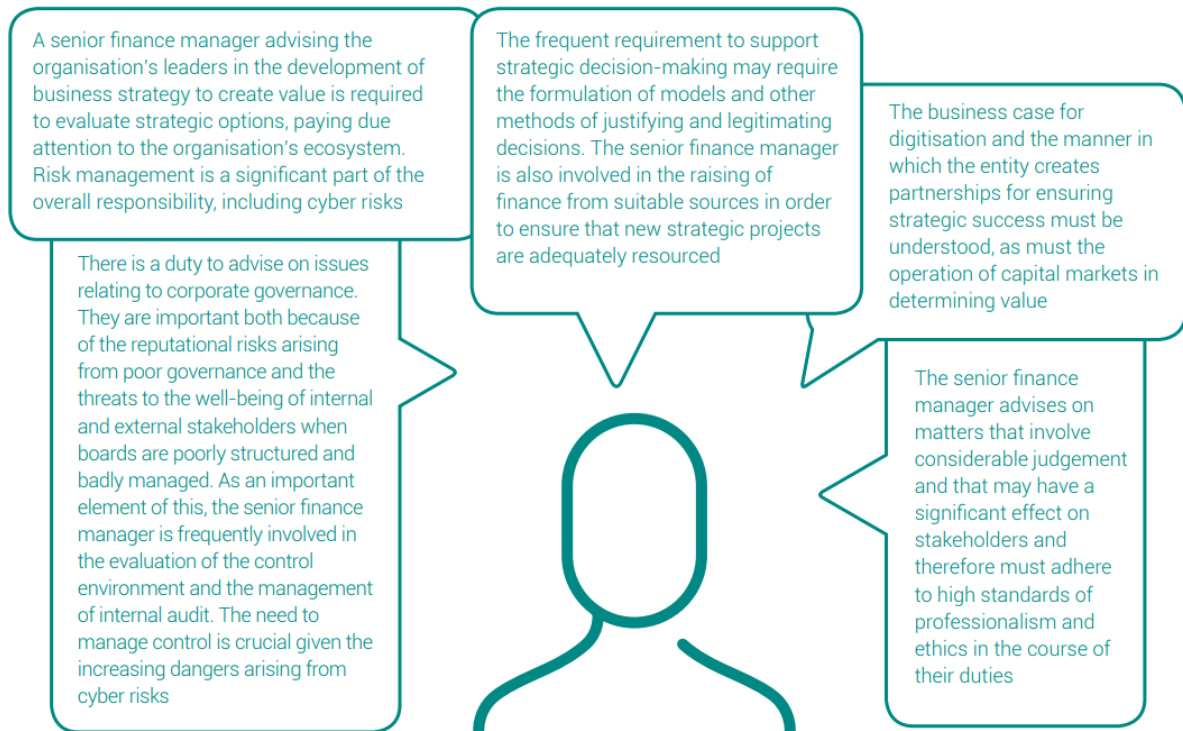
**SCS Familiarisation Kit**

➤ **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 SCS exam?**

The role simulated is that of a Senior Finance Manager.



➤ **What is the examination structure?**

- PC based examination
- Duration: 3 hours
- Comprises of 3 main questions (sections) with each section consisting of 2 or 3 sub-tasks
- 60 minute time allocation for each section, and within that time only that specific section can be answered
- Once the 60 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 SCS?

E3, P3, F3. There is no new syllabus content for the strategic case study exam. You just need to be thorough with the syllabus content of E3, P3 & F3.



### ➤ What are 'Core Activities'?

Within the Strategic 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. Develop business strategy.	I can evaluate strategic options (digital and otherwise). I can recommend strategic decisions (digital and otherwise). I can evaluate potential acquisitions and divestment opportunities. I can recommend responses to opportunities and threats arising from digital technologies.	15–25%
B. Evaluate business ecosystem and business environment.	I can select and apply suitable strategic analytical tools. I can conduct an analysis of stakeholder needs and recommend appropriate responses. I can recommend appropriate responses to changes in the business ecosystem. I can recommend KPIs that encourage sound strategic management. I can recommend responses to economic, political and currency risks.	15–25%
C. Recommend financing strategies.	I can recommend suitable sources of finance. I can recommend dividend policy. I can recommend and apply business valuation models.	15–25%
D. Evaluate and mitigate risk.	I can evaluate risks and recommend responses and can maintain the corporate risk register. I can identify ethical dilemmas and recommend suitable responses. I can evaluate and mitigate cyber risks. I can recommend internal controls.	15–25%
E. Recommend and maintain a sound control environment.	I can apply internal audit resources. I can recommend appropriate controls and evaluate the implications of compliance failures. I can recommend responses to the threats arising from poor governance.	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 business model, 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](mailto:info@studyattcs.com) and our expert tutors will promptly respond. 😊