

Canadian Institute of Financial Planning (CIFP) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What does "liquidity" signify in financial contexts?**
 - A. The total value of an asset portfolio**
 - B. The ability of an asset to generate income**
 - C. The ease with which an asset can be converted into cash without losing value**
 - D. The duration for which an asset can hold its value**
- 2. Which type of interest rate is most likely to vary with market conditions?**
 - A. Fixed interest rate**
 - B. Equity interest rate**
 - C. Variable interest rate**
 - D. Simple interest rate**
- 3. What can Jarrod do with his vested benefits upon terminating his employment?**
 - A. Cash out the full amount**
 - B. Transfer to a locked-in retirement account**
 - C. Leave it in the employer's plan**
 - D. Invest in a non-registered account**
- 4. What does behavioral finance study in the context of investing?**
 - A. Impact of economic trends on market outcomes**
 - B. Psychological factors affecting investor decisions**
 - C. Statistical analysis of market performance**
 - D. Legal implications of investment strategies**
- 5. Which statement about LRIFs and LIFs is true according to Andrea's confusion?**
 - A. Only LIFs permit annuitants to withdraw the investment return**
 - B. Both LIFs and LRIFs are identical in terms of withdrawals**
 - C. Only LRIFs permit annuitants to withdraw the investment return**
 - D. Annuitants cannot withdraw from LRIFs**

6. Which of the following factors will not affect a student's eligibility for a Canada Student Loan?

- A. Income level of the student**
- B. Current enrollment status**
- C. Past credit history**
- D. Debt load of the student**

7. What is the maximum monthly orphan's benefit under the CPP for eligible children?

- A. \$200**
- B. \$225**
- C. \$250**
- D. \$300**

8. What do contributory earnings in a defined-benefit pension plan represent?

- A. Earnings that are exempt from pension contributions**
- B. Earnings that are subject to pension contributions**
- C. Net income after deductions**
- D. All salary received during employment**

9. What is the income threshold for the age amount related to OAS benefits?

- A. \$34,000**
- B. \$45,000**
- C. \$50,000**
- D. \$30,000**

10. After 18 months in her pension plan, what cash payment is Karla entitled to upon leaving her job?

- A. \$4,000**
- B. \$4,400**
- C. \$8,000**
- D. \$8,400**

Answers

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1. C
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What does "liquidity" signify in financial contexts?

- A. The total value of an asset portfolio
- B. The ability of an asset to generate income
- C. The ease with which an asset can be converted into cash without losing value**
- D. The duration for which an asset can hold its value

Liquidity in financial contexts refers to the ease with which an asset can be converted into cash without significantly impacting its value. This concept is crucial for investors and traders because it determines how quickly an asset can be sold and the market's ability to absorb that sale. High liquidity implies that there are many buyers and sellers for that asset, allowing it to be quickly converted to cash at a stable price. For instance, cash itself is considered the most liquid asset since it can be accessed immediately. Conversely, assets like real estate or collectibles tend to have lower liquidity because they may take longer to sell, and selling them quickly might require accepting a lower price. The other options describe different financial concepts that do not capture the essence of liquidity. The total value of an asset portfolio relates to its market value rather than its liquidity. The ability of an asset to generate income refers to its profitability or yield, which is distinct from how quickly it can be sold. The duration for which an asset can hold its value relates more to its stability and longevity as an investment, rather than its liquidity. Thus, understanding liquidity is essential for making informed investment decisions and managing cash flow effectively.

2. Which type of interest rate is most likely to vary with market conditions?

- A. Fixed interest rate
- B. Equity interest rate
- C. Variable interest rate**
- D. Simple interest rate

A variable interest rate is most likely to vary with market conditions because it is directly linked to a benchmark rate, such as the prime rate or LIBOR, which can fluctuate based on economic factors, central bank policies, and overall market demand. This means that as these market conditions change, the variable interest rate can increase or decrease accordingly, impacting borrower payments and the cost of loans over time. In contrast, a fixed interest rate remains constant throughout the life of the loan or investment agreement, providing stability but not adapting to changing market conditions. An equity interest rate typically refers to a return on equity in investments rather than an applicable interest rate on loans or credit; it can be influenced by market trends but behaves differently from standard interest rates. Simple interest is calculated based on the principal amount and does not change over time, thus also not reflecting variability with market conditions.

3. What can Jarrod do with his vested benefits upon terminating his employment?

- A. Cash out the full amount
- B. Transfer to a locked-in retirement account**
- C. Leave it in the employer's plan
- D. Invest in a non-registered account

When Jarrod terminates his employment, one of the key options available to him regarding his vested benefits is to transfer them into a locked-in retirement account (LIRA). This option is beneficial because it allows him to maintain the tax-deferred status of his retirement savings. A LIRA is specifically designed to hold pension plan benefits that have been transferred from an employer's plan, ensuring that the funds continue to grow tax-free until retirement. Choosing this option is aligned with retirement planning, as it prevents premature access to the funds, thereby helping to ensure that the savings are preserved for future retirement needs. The legal framework surrounding pension plans often mandates that when an employee leaves a job and has vested benefits, these funds must either be left in the employer's plan or transferred to a LIRA, ensuring they are safeguarded for retirement. While there may be other actions he can take, such as cashing out or leaving funds in the employer's plan, the transfer to a locked-in retirement account is the most prudent and common approach for someone focused on securing their retirement future.

4. What does behavioral finance study in the context of investing?

- A. Impact of economic trends on market outcomes
- B. Psychological factors affecting investor decisions**
- C. Statistical analysis of market performance
- D. Legal implications of investment strategies

Behavioral finance studies the psychological factors that influence investor decisions and market behavior. This area of finance seeks to understand how cognitive biases, emotions, and social influences can affect the choices that investors make, often leading them to make irrational or suboptimal investment decisions. For example, behavioral finance explores phenomena such as overconfidence, where investors may overestimate their knowledge or prediction capabilities, and loss aversion, where the pain of losing money is felt more acutely than the pleasure of gaining money. By incorporating insights from psychology, behavioral finance provides a more comprehensive understanding of how various factors, other than purely rational calculations, play a critical role in investment choices and market trends. While other options cover relevant financial aspects, they do not focus on the psychological insights that are fundamental to behavioral finance. The impact of economic trends and market outcomes, for instance, falls under traditional finance principles, and statistical analysis is more about quantifying performance without necessarily understanding the underlying human behavior. Legal implications relate to regulatory and compliance issues rather than the psychological dimensions of investing. Therefore, the focus on psychological factors sets behavioral finance apart as a unique field within the broader study of finance.

5. Which statement about LRIFs and LIFs is true according to Andrea's confusion?

- A. Only LIFs permit annuitants to withdraw the investment return**
- B. Both LIFs and LRIFs are identical in terms of withdrawals**
- C. Only LRIFs permit annuitants to withdraw the investment return**
- D. Annuitants cannot withdraw from LRIFs**

The statement that only LRIFs permit annuitants to withdraw the investment return is correct. In the context of retirement income plans, LRIFs (Locking-in Retirement Income Funds) allow for certain flexibility in withdrawals, including the ability to withdraw both the principal and the investment returns to some extent, within specified limits. This distinguishes LRIFs from LIFs (Life Income Funds), which primarily restrict withdrawals to a minimum annual amount based on a prescribed formula and often do not allow the payment of excess returns as easily as LRIFs do. This characteristic of LRIFs makes them a viable option for annuitants seeking more access to their accumulated retirement funds, particularly for those who may want to benefit from market gains while still adhering to withdrawal limits set out for retirement income funds. Understanding these fundamental differences is crucial for financial planning, as it allows annuitants to select the most suitable option for their unique financial needs and retirement goals.

6. Which of the following factors will not affect a student's eligibility for a Canada Student Loan?

- A. Income level of the student**
- B. Current enrollment status**
- C. Past credit history**
- D. Debt load of the student**

The determination of eligibility for a Canada Student Loan encompasses several relevant factors that assess a student's financial situation and needs. Among these, past credit history does not play a role in the eligibility criteria for these loans. Canada Student Loans focus primarily on the current financial situation of the applicant, which includes factors such as income level, current enrollment status, and existing debt load. The program aims to support students who need financial assistance based on their present circumstances rather than past financial behavior or credit scores. Since Canada Student Loans are geared toward ensuring that access to education is available regardless of a student's historical financial decisions, credit history is not a criterion that would impact eligibility in this context. Conversely, the income level of the student affects loan amounts, as a higher income may reduce the amount of assistance available. Current enrollment status is essential because the student must be enrolled in a qualifying educational institution to receive funding. Lastly, the debt load provides insight into the current financial obligations a student has, influencing the assessment of their need for additional support.

7. What is the maximum monthly orphan's benefit under the CPP for eligible children?

- A. \$200
- B. \$225**
- C. \$250
- D. \$300

The maximum monthly orphan's benefit under the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) for eligible children is indeed \$225. This benefit is designed to support children who have lost a parent who was a contributor to the CPP. The funds provide essential financial assistance to help cover the living expenses of these children, recognizing the unique challenges they face after the loss of a parent. This amount is set to provide a standard level of support across the nation, ensuring that affected families can still maintain some sense of stability during a difficult time. The \$225 figure aligns with the established guidelines for benefits under the CPP as of recent revisions. Understanding the structure of these benefits is crucial for financial planners, particularly when considering the needs of families impacted by the death of a parent. The orphan's benefit serves a critical role in the overall framework of support that the CPP offers to families in need.

8. What do contributory earnings in a defined-benefit pension plan represent?

- A. Earnings that are exempt from pension contributions
- B. Earnings that are subject to pension contributions**
- C. Net income after deductions
- D. All salary received during employment

In a defined-benefit pension plan, contributory earnings represent the earnings that are subject to pension contributions. These earnings are typically used to determine the pension benefits that an employee will receive upon retirement. The amount contributed to the pension plan is calculated based on these earnings, which usually include the employee's salary and may also encompass bonuses and other forms of compensation deemed eligible under the plan's guidelines. Understanding contributory earnings is crucial because they directly influence the benefit calculations outlined in the pension plan. The greater the contributory earnings, the larger the potential pension benefit at retirement, as these earnings contribute to the overall calculation of the benefit formula used by the plan.

9. What is the income threshold for the age amount related to OAS benefits?

- A. \$34,000**
- B. \$45,000**
- C. \$50,000**
- D. \$30,000**

The income threshold for the age amount related to Old Age Security (OAS) benefits is a crucial aspect of Canada's retirement income system. For OAS, there is typically a deduction from the amount received if individual net income exceeds a certain limit. In this case, the correct choice reflects that once an individual's income exceeds \$34,000, the government may begin to reduce the amount of OAS benefits received. This threshold is designed to ensure that the benefits target those who are in greater need while minimizing payouts to higher-income individuals. Understanding this threshold helps financial planners guide their clients in retirement income planning and tax strategies, particularly in how different sources of income may affect the OAS benefits. Other figures such as \$30,000, \$45,000, and \$50,000 do not align with the specific income threshold governing the age amount for OAS benefits as set by the Canadian government. The actual limits and the nuances of the OAS clawback are essential for planning retirement income effectively.

10. After 18 months in her pension plan, what cash payment is Karla entitled to upon leaving her job?

- A. \$4,000**
- B. \$4,400**
- C. \$8,000**
- D. \$8,400**

To determine the correct cash payment that Karla is entitled to after 18 months in her pension plan, it is essential to understand the specifics of the pension plan's structure and rules. Many pension plans offer a vested interest after a certain period, which means that employees are entitled to receive benefits even after leaving their employer. In this case, if we are considering standard rules for a pension plan, Karla's payment could be calculated based on her contributions, the employer's contributions, and any applicable interest that has accrued during her time in the plan. A common practice is that the amount she receives reflects her contributions, multiplied by the number of months contributed. To reach the amount of \$4,400, this sum might represent the total of her own contributions along with any interest accumulated over those 18 months. It is possible that factors such as interest rates, matching contributions from the employer, or specific pension plan rules outlined in the plan documents influence the final amount. Understanding the method of calculating pension payouts and the significance of the contribution period helps clarify why \$4,400 stands as the rightful amount Karla would receive upon her departure from the job. Each pension plan has its own rules, which is why it's crucial to refer to the specific plan

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://finplanningcifp.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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