Learning Outcome Assessment Criteria Indicative Content



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Financial planning principles, standards and skills.	1	Explain the financial planning principles, standards and skills, including	1.1	Obligations towards consumers and their perception of financial services.
15 Questions		responsibilities and obligations to consumers. Client relationships and adviser responsibilities:	lationships and adviser responsibilities:	
			1.2.1	Fiduciary relationship – duty of care, confidentiality, primacy of clients' interests.
			1.2.2	Clarity of service provision and charges, status disclosure including client agreements, execution only clients, insistent clients and restricted advice.
			1.2.3	Clients' cancellation rights.
			1.2.4	Positive customer outcomes, including vulnerable clients.
			1.2.5	Adviser charging rules.
			1.3	Regulated advice standards.
			1.4	Responsibilities that rest with those under the Senior Managers and
				Certification Regime (SM&CR) and the need for integrity, competence
				and fair outcomes for clients, including dealing with conflicts of interest.
			1.5	The statements of principle and code of Practice for Approved Persons
				(APER) and senior managers.
	2	Explain the main client financial circumstances, needs and objectives; how	Consum	ers' main financial needs and how they are prioritised:
		these are prioritised and potentially met.	2.1.1	Managing debt.
		and are processed and personally mean	2.1.2	Budgeting and borrowing, including house purchase.
			2.1.3	Protection.
			2.1.4	Saving and investing.
			2.1.5	Retirement.
			2.1.6	Estate planning and tax planning.
				, , , , ,
			How the	se needs are met:
			2.2.1	Mortgages and loans.
			2.2.2	Life and health insurance.
			2.2.3	Savings and investments.
			2.2.4	The main types of pension provision.

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			2.3	Monitoring and reviewing clients' plans and circumstances and taking
				account of relevant changes and legislation.
			2.4	Due diligence on products/tools.
	3	Apply regulations and legislation, including	3.1	Record keeping, reporting and notification requirements.
		financial crime.	3.2	Complaints procedures and responsibilities to customers.
			3.3	Anti-money laundering and proceeds of crime obligations.
			3.4	Data protection and data security.
			3.5	Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).
			3.6	Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).
			3.7	The Pensions Ombudsman.
			3.8	The Pension Protection Fund.
			3.9	The Bribery Act.
Investment principles and risk.	4	Analyse the characteristics and risks of asset	4.1	Cash and cash equivalents: Main types, costs and charges.
25 Questions		classes.		erest securities:
			4.2.1	Main types.
			4.2.2	Markets and indices.
			4.2.3	Transaction costs – purchase and sale.
			Equities:	
			4.3.1	Main types.
			4.3.2	Stock markets – indices, listings.
			4.3.3	Transaction costs.
			Property:	
			4.4.1	Main types, residential and commercial, income profile and gearing.
			4.4.2	Valuation.
			4.4.3	Performance benchmarking.
			4.4.4	Transaction and on-going costs.
			4.5	Alternative investments - Pricing, liquidity and fair value.
				types and use of indirect investment products:
			4.6.1	Collective investment funds – onshore and offshore.
			4.6.2	Closed ended funds/investment companies – onshore and offshore.
			4.6.3	Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) including Junior ISAs, Help to Buy ISAs, Lifetime ISAs, Innovative Finance ISAs.
			4.6.4	National Savings & Investments current products.
			4.6.5	Life assurance based investments – onshore and offshore.
	1		7.0.5	The documented based investments offshore and offshore.

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			4.6.6	Purchased life annuities.
			4.6.7	Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Property Authorised Investment
				Funds (PAIFs) and other property based products.
			4.6.8	Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs), Enterprise Investment Schemes (EISs) and
				Seed Enterprise Investment Schemes (SEISs) – basic structures and uses.
			4.6.9	Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS)
				and Qualified Investor Schemes (QIS).
			4.7	With profit funds – main principles only.
	5	Explain the main types of risk and their	5.1	Liquidity and access.
		impact on clients.	5.2	Income and capital growth, including shortfall.
			5.3	Short term volatility.
			5.4	Currency.
			5.5	Inflation.
			5.6	Interest rates, including gearing.
			5.7	Systematic and non-systematic risk, including, institutional risk including
				fraud, counterparty venture, default and bail-in.
			5.8	Credit, including default.
	6	Explain the investment advice process,	6.1	Correlation of asset classes – including non-correlation and the use of
		portfolio construction and review.		correlation in asset allocation.
			Know Yo	ur Client requirements:
			6.2	Explain the investment process.
			6.3	Establish client relationships, capability and circumstances including
				assets and debts clients with additional needs and vulnerable clients.
			6.4	Agree and prioritise needs and wants.
			6.5	Agree investment objectives, growth, income, time horizons, debt and
				credit management and repayment.
			6.6	Determine and agree risk profile – objective and subjective factors,
				including capacity for loss.
			6.7	Assess affordability and other suitability considerations, including ethical,
				social responsibility, social impact investing, charitable giving and
				religious preferences.
			6.8	Agree strategy and rationale to achieve the objectives.
			6.9	Agree benchmark/performance measures and review process.



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		Asset allocation:
		6.10 Alignment with client risk profile and requirements.
		6.11 Diversification and correlation benefits.
		6.12 Accumulation and decumulation.
		6.13 Stochastic modelling.
		6.14 Strategic and tactical asset allocation.
		6.15 Passive and active management.
		Portfolio construction:
		6.16 Stock and fund selection, including environmental, social and governant (ESG) considerations.
		6.17 Diversification by sector, geographical area and currency.
		6.18 Main fund management strategies and styles.
		6.19 Costs, charges, Total Expense Ratios (TERs), Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF), Portfolio Turnover Ratios (PTRs).
		6.20 Selection of products, tax wrappers and services.
		6.21 Provider selection and due diligence.
		6.22 Recommendations and suitability.
		6.23 Main styles of ethical investment, including screening, socially
		responsible investing (SRI) and environmental social & corporate
		governance (ESG).
		Portfolio review and administration:
		6.24 Changes in client circumstances and financial environment.
		6.25 New products and services available.
		6.26 Maintenance of products and services including the availability of new
		products.
		6.27 Use of external services/benchmarking.
		6.28 Rebalancing.
		6.29 Determine sustainable withdrawal levels, including the impact of sequencing risk.

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Personal taxation.	7	Explain the taxation of investments,	7.1	Income Tax – sources of income, liability, allowances, reliefs, priorities for
		income, gains and inheritance.		taxing income, income of trusts and beneficiaries, trustees and settlors.
25 Questions			7.2	Capital Gains Tax (CGT) – liability, rate, disposals, gains and losses, reliefs
				and exemptions, capital gains of trusts.
			7.3	Inheritance Tax (IHT) – liability, transfers, nil rate bands, rates, reliefs and
				exemptions including gifts to charities and political parties, assets held in
				trusts, transfers to and from trusts.
			7.4	Direct investments – cash and cash equivalents, gilts, corporate bonds,
				equities and property.
			Indirect i	nvestments:
			7.5	Pension arrangements.
			7.6	Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) all types to which contributions can be
				made.
			7.7	Onshore and offshore collectives and investment companies.
			7.8	Onshore and offshore life assurance policies, qualifying and non-
				qualifying, including effect of adviser fees on tax-deferred withdrawals.
			7.9	Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) and Enterprise Investment Schemes (EISs)
				and Seed Enterprise Investment Schemes (SEISs) – basic outline.
	8	Analyse the impact of taxation on client scenarios.	8.1	The impact of taxes on individuals, trusts and their investments.
	9	Analyse the tax planning process and tax	9.1	Key principles of Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) planning –
		efficiency.		spouses, civil partners, children, pension contributions, ISA allowances,
				use of the main CGT exemptions and reliefs.
			9.2	Main uses of lifetime gifts, business relief, wills and trusts in basic IHT
				mitigation and use of joint tenancies, tenancies in common and deeds of variation.
			9.3	Taxation consequences when direct and indirect investments are gifted
				or sold to family members, third parties including gifts to charities.

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Pensions and retirement	10	Evaluate the aims of retirement planning		
planning.		and how they may be achieved.	Assessing	and quantifying retirement aims and objectives:
25 Questions			10.1.1	Availability and prioritisation of savings.
			10.1.2	Assumptions and impacts.
			10.1.3	Conflict with other objectives.
			10.1.4	Timescales and risk.
			10.1.5	IHT / generational planning.
			10.1.6	Cash flow/ stress testing.
			Investme	nts available to meet this objective:
			10.2.1	Suitability and risk.
			10.2.2	Rates of return needed.
			10.2.3	Accumulation and decumulation strategies, life-styling.
			10.2.4	Products and wrappers, advantages and constraints, critical yield.
			10.2.5	Other sources of non-pension income.
			10.3	Asset allocation factors, relationship to overall portfolio.
			10.4	Self investment - main characteristics.
			Alternativ	ve solutions for pension income:
			10.5.1	Alternative sources of capital including non-pension investment assets,
				home equity, proceeds from sale of a business, inheritance.
			10.5.2	Advantages and drawbacks.
			10.6	Factors affecting regular reviews.
	11	Analyse retirement options from different	11.1	State retirement benefits.
		types of pension scheme, and how and	11.2	Timing of decisions and implementation.
		when schemes will pay out in specific client	11.3	DB scheme benefits, payment guarantees, survivor benefits.
		circumstances.		
			DC Schen	nes:
			11.4.1	Secured pensions, types of annuities and main features.
			11.4.2	Drawdown pensions – capped and flexi access, short term annuities.
			11.4.3	Compliance requirements.
			11.4.4	UFPLS.
			11.5	Phased retirement – options, benefits and risks of using annuitisation,
				flexi-access or UFPLS to produce income.
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		11.6 Small pots, trivial commutation rules.	

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	12	Explain the impact of taxation and	12.1	Funding/contributions to registered pension schemes, tax relief
		legislation.		provision.
			12.2	Pension scheme investment funds.
			12.3	Death benefits before and after age 75.
			12.4	Pension scheme retirement benefits.
			12.5	Outline of relevant transitional reliefs.
Financial protection planning.	13	Explain the protection planning principles,	13.1	Co-habitation, marriage, civil partnerships and transgender matters.
10 Questions		process (including reviews) and key	13.2	Birth of child and caring duties.
		considerations.	13.3	Property purchase.
			13.4	Separation and divorce.
			13.5	Work, going overseas, retirement.
			13.6	Health, wellbeing and vulnerability.
			13.7	The suitability of trusts.
			13.8	Importance of regular reviews.
	14	Explain the product types and options, how	14.1	Qualifying and non-qualifying policies, onshore and offshore policies.
		these are taxed and their suitability for	14.2	Taxation of life funds, onshore and offshore, including policies when
		client scenarios.		traded.
			14.3	Personal Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax liabilities arising.
			14.4	Inheritance Tax and life assurance.
			14.5	Comparing similar types of products.
			14.6	Identifying and matching suitable product solutions to needs.
			14.7	Combinations of products.
			14.8	Current and future affordability.
			14.9	Relevant regulatory requirements, including scope for commission
				and/or fees.