Chartered Insurance Institute

AF7

Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning

Unit AF7 – Pension transfers

October 2018 Examination

SPECIAL NOTICES
All questions in this paper are based on English law and practice applicable in the tax year 2018/2019, unless stated otherwise in the question, and should be answered accordingly.
It should be assumed that all individuals are domiciled and resident in the UK unless otherwise stated.

Instructions

- Two hours are allowed for this paper.
- **Do not begin writing until the invigilator instructs you to.**
- **Read the instructions on page 3 carefully before answering any questions.**
- Provide the information requested on the answer book and form B.
- You are allowed to write on the inside pages of this question paper, but you must **NOT** write your name, candidate number, PIN or any other identification anywhere on this question paper.
- The answer book and this question paper must **both be handed in personally by you** to the invigilator before you leave the examination room. **Failure to comply with this regulation will result in your paper not being marked and you may be prevented from entering this examination in the future.**

Unit AF7 – Pension transfers

Instructions to candidates

Read the instructions below before answering any questions

Two hours are allowed for this paper which carries a total of 100 marks as follows:

Section A: 36 marks
Section B: 64 marks

- You are strongly advised to attempt **all** questions to gain maximum possible marks. The number of marks allocated to each question part is given next to the question and you should spend your time in accordance with that allocation.

- Read carefully all questions and information provided before starting to answer. Your answer will be marked strictly in accordance with the question set.

- You may find it helpful in some places to make rough notes in the answer booklet. If you do this, you should cross through these notes before you hand in the booklet.

- It is important to show all steps in a calculation, even if you have used a calculator.

- If you bring a calculator into the examination room, it must be a silent, battery or solar-powered, non-programmable calculator. The use of electronic equipment capable of being programmed to hold alphabetic or numerical data and/or formulae is prohibited. You may use a financial or scientific calculator, provided it meets these requirements.

- Tax tables are provided at the back of this question paper.

- Additional information relevant to pension planning is also included at the back of this question paper.

- Answer each question on a new page and leave six lines blank after each question part.

Subject to providing sufficient detail you are advised to be as brief and concise as possible, using note format and short sentences on separate lines wherever possible.

SECTION A

The following questions are compulsory and carry a total of 36 marks

1. The Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) Conduct of Business Sourcebook no longer includes specific risk warnings that must be given to a customer who wishes to transfer their benefits from a defined benefit pension scheme to access their pension fund flexibility. Instead, the FCA expects firms to develop their own appropriate risk warnings and provides a list of the risk factors they expect firms to consider.

Identify **ten** risk factors that should be considered. **(10)**

2. Robert, aged 55, was a member of his previous employer's defined benefit pension scheme until last month. This is Robert's only pension provision. The scheme, which increases all benefits in payment in line with statutory minimums and offers partial transfers, has the following deferred benefits:

- Guaranteed minimum pension (GMP): £3,490 per annum
- Pre-1997 excess benefits: £14,600 per annum
- Post-1997 benefits: £28,785 per annum

Robert would like to access his pension funds to provide an income whilst he establishes his own business. He expects he will need an income for six to twelve months, and that thereafter the income from his new business will be sufficient until his expected retirement age of 67.

Robert's target income in retirement is £30,000 net per annum, increasing in line with inflation. He has a low to medium attitude to risk and limited savings.

Outline **four** potential benefits and **four** potential drawbacks of transferring Robert's pre-1997 excess benefits to a personal pension plan, whilst retaining his GMP and post-1997 benefits within his previous employer's defined benefit pension scheme. **(8)**

3. Sanjay is taking withdrawals from his flexi-access drawdown plan to provide him with income in retirement.

(a) Explain why Sanjay may need to be concerned about sequencing risk. **(4)**

(b) Outline **four** strategies that could be used to reduce its potential impact. **(4)**

4. Lucy, aged 44, has recently received a cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) in respect of her previous employers defined benefit pension scheme. She is upset to find that it is lower than the value offered to her eighteen months ago.

Explain, in detail, the reasons that may have contributed to the reduction in her CETV. **(10)**

Total marks available for this question: 36

QUESTIONS CONTINUE OVER THE PAGE

SECTION B

All questions in this section are compulsory and carry an overall total of 64 marks

Case study 1

Read carefully all information provided in the case study before attempting the questions. Your answers should take into account the clients circumstances as set out in the case study.

Graham, aged 55, was recently widowed. He is in good health, with a family history of longevity. He has recently left the employment of the local authority to look after his two children, Oliver, aged 16, and Isobel, aged 13. His intention is to take a career break until Isobel finishes secondary school.

Graham has a low to medium attitude to risk and limited investment experience. He is now in receipt of a dependant's scheme pension of £15,000 per annum and needs an additional £10,000 net per annum to cover his outgoings during his career break. He has an investment portfolio of £25,000 which consists of £20,000 split between a bank account and cash ISA and the remaining £5,000 is in a stocks and shares ISA. He has no mortgage or other debts as these were all repaid following the death of his wife and intends to keep these funds for emergencies.

Graham has a Section 32 policy established in 1993 following a transfer from a contracted-out defined benefit scheme which he was a member of between 1984 and 1992. When Graham left his defined benefit scheme his accrued benefits were valued at £1,400 per annum, mostly in respect of guaranteed minimum pension (GMP). The policy is wholly invested in a with-profits fund and the provider has confirmed that a transfer value of £200,500 is currently available.

Graham joined the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in 1993. At the point that he started his career break he had an accrued pension of £18,750 per annum plus a pension commencement lump sum (PCLS) entitlement of £56,250. He plans to return to work when Isobel finishes school and expects to retire at State Pension age requiring a net index-linked secured income of around £30,000 per annum.

Questions

5. Taking account of Graham's personal circumstances and objectives, outline the features specific to his Section 32 policy that should be considered before recommending whether it should be transferred to a personal pension plan. **(9)**

6. Based on the information provided in the case study, explain why you would recommend that Graham should not transfer the value of his benefits out of his defined benefit pension scheme. **(11)**

7. You have recommended that Graham transfers his Section 32 policy into a personal pension plan to access benefits flexibly.

Explain why Graham should take the additional £10,000 per annum required as a series of pension commencement lump sum payments rather than taking an uncrystalised funds pension lump sum (UFPLS) payment each year. **(10)**

Total marks available for this question: 30

QUESTIONS CONTINUE OVER THE PAGE

Case study 2

Read carefully all information provided in the case study before attempting the questions. Your answers should take into account the clients circumstances as set out in the case study.

Rachel, aged 52, is self-employed and lives with her partner William, aged 56. They each have two children from previous relationships and apart from sharing the household expenditure, Rachel and William keep their financial affairs entirely separate.

In addition to £21,000 in cash savings, Rachel has a stocks and shares ISA valued at £76,000 and a personal pension plan currently valued at £115,000. Both are invested in accordance with her medium to high attitude to risk. Rachel also has the following benefits accrued under her former employer's defined benefit pension scheme:

Date of joining scheme	January 1986
Date of leaving scheme	March 2012
Total pension at date of leaving	£26,000 per annum
Normal retirement age	65
Early retirement	From age 60 with an actuarial reduction of 6% per annum
Dependant's pension	50% in deferment and retirement. Payable to a spouse or civil partner only.
Increases in deferment	Statutory minimum
Increases to pension in payment	Statutory minimum
Cash equivalent transfer value (CETV)	£760,000

Whilst Rachel is happy for all jointly held assets to pass to William in the event of her death, she is keen to ensure that her two children inherit her remaining assets where possible. As a result, Rachel is considering transferring the value of her benefits to a personal pension plan to help ensure her children receive some value from her pension in the event of her death.

Questions

8. State the additional information you would require from Rachel prior to advising her on the suitability or otherwise of transferring the value of her defined benefit entitlement into a personal pension plan. **(9)**

9. List **five** potential benefits and **five** potential drawbacks of Rachel transferring the value of her defined benefit entitlement into a personal pension plan. **(10)**

10. You have recommended that Rachel transfers the value of her defined benefit entitlement into a personal pension plan.

Evaluate the suitability, and outline the children's Income Tax position if the death benefits are nominated:

(a) directly to her children; **(8)**

(b) to a bypass trust with her children as potential beneficiaries. **(7)**

Total marks available for this question: 34

The tax tables can be found on pages 11 – 19

Also the additional information for the pension paper can be found on pages 21 – 22

INCOME TAX

RATES OF TAX	2017/2018	2018/2019
Starting rate for savings*	0%	0%
Basic rate	20%	20%
Higher rate	40%	40%
Additional rate	45%	45%
Starting-rate limit	£5,000*	£5,000*
Threshold of taxable income above which higher rate applies	£33,500	£34,500
Threshold of taxable income above which additional rate applies	£150,000	£150,000
Child benefit charge:		
1% of benefit for every £100 of income over	£50,000	£50,000

**not applicable if taxable non-savings income exceeds the starting rate band.*

Dividend Allowance		£2,000
Dividend tax rates		
Basic rate		7.5%
Higher rate		32.5%
Additional rate		38.1%
Trusts		
Standard rate band		£1,000
Rate applicable to trusts		
- dividends		38.1%
- other income		45%

MAIN PERSONAL ALLOWANCES AND RELIEFS		
Income limit for Personal Allowance §	£100,000	£100,000
Personal Allowance (basic)	£11,500	£11,850
Married/civil partners (minimum) at 10% †	£3,260	£3,360
Married/civil partners at 10% †	£8,445	£8,695
Transferable tax allowance for married couples/civil partners	£1,150	£1,190
Income limit for Married couple's allowance†	£28,000	£28,900
Rent a Room relief	£7,500	£7,500
Blind Person's Allowance	£2,320	£2,390
Enterprise Investment Scheme relief limit on £1,000,000 max**	30%	30%
Seed Enterprise Investment relief limit on £100,000 max	50%	50%
Venture Capital Trust relief limit on £200,000 max	30%	30%

§ the Personal Allowance reduces by £1 for every £2 of income above the income limit irrespective of age (under the income threshold).
† where at least one spouse/civil partner was born before 6 April 1935.
*** maximum for 'standard' investment but for 'knowledge intensive' investment, the limit is £2,000,000.*

Child Tax Credit (CTC)		
- Child element per child (maximum)	£2,780	£2,780
- family element	£545	£545
Threshold for tapered withdrawal of CTC	£16,105	£16,105

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Class 1 Employee	**Weekly**
Lower Earnings Limit (LEL)	£116
Primary threshold	£162
Upper Earnings Limit (UEL)	£892

Total earnings £ per week	**CLASS 1 EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS**
Up to 162.00*****	Nil
162.01 – 892.00	12%
Above 892.00	2%

**This is the primary threshold below which no NI contributions are payable. However, the lower earnings limit is £116 per week. This £116 to £162 band is a zero-rate band introduced in order to protect lower earners' rights to contributory State benefits e.g. the new State Pension.*

Total earnings £ per week	**CLASS 1 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**
Below 162.00**	Nil
162.01 – 892	13.8%
Excess over 892.00	13.8%

*** Secondary earnings threshold.*

Class 2 (self-employed)	Flat rate per week £2.95 where profits exceed £6,205 per annum.
Class 3 (voluntary)	Flat rate per week £14.65.
Class 4 (self-employed)	9% on profits between £8,424 - £46,350. 2% on profits above £46,350.

PENSIONS

TAX YEAR	LIFETIME ALLOWANCE
2006/2007	£1,500,000
2007/2008	£1,600,000
2008/2009	£1,650,000
2009/2010	£1,750,000
2010/2011	£1,800,000
2011/2012	£1,800,000
2012/2013	£1,500,000
2013/2014	£1,500,000
2014/2015	£1,250,000
2015/2016	£1,250,000
2016/2017	£1,000,000
2017/2018	£1,000,000
2018/2019	£1,030,000

LIFETIME ALLOWANCE CHARGE

55% of excess over lifetime allowance if taken as a lump sum.
25% of excess over lifetime allowance if taken in the form of income, which is subsequently taxed under PAYE.

ANNUAL ALLOWANCE

TAX YEAR	ANNUAL ALLOWANCE
2011/2012	£50,000
2012/2013	£50,000
2013/2014	£50,000
2014/2015	£40,000
2015/2016	£40,000~
2016/2017	£40,000*
2017/2018	£40,000*
2018/2019	£40,000*

~ increased to £80,000 for pension input between April - 8 July 2015. If not used, can be carried forward to pension input period of 9 July 2015 - 6 April 2016, subject to a maximum of £40,000.

**tapered at a rate of £1 for every £2 of adjusted income in excess of £150,000 where threshold income exceeds £110,000.*

MONEY PURCHASE ANNUAL ALLOWANCE	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£4,000	£4,000

ANNUAL ALLOWANCE CHARGE

20% - 45% determined by the member's taxable income and the amount of total pension input in excess of the annual allowance or money purchase annual allowance.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

EXEMPTIONS	2017/2018	2018/2019
Individuals, estates etc	£11,300	£11,700
Trusts generally	£5,650	£5,850
Chattels proceeds (restricted to five thirds of proceeds exceeding limit)	£6,000	£6,000

TAX RATES		
Individuals:		
Up to basic rate limit	10%	10%
Above basic rate limit	20%	20%
Surcharge for residential property and carried interest	8%	8%
Trustees and Personal Representatives	20%	20%
Entrepreneurs' Relief* – Gains taxed at:	10%	10%
Lifetime limit	£10,000,000	£10,000,000

**For trading businesses and companies (minimum 5% employee or director shareholding) held for at least one year.*

INHERITANCE TAX

RATES OF TAX ON TRANSFERS	2017/2018	2018/2019
Transfers made on death after 5 April 2015		
- Up to £325,000	Nil	Nil
- Excess over £325,000	40%	40%
Transfers made after 5 April 2015		
- Lifetime transfers to and from certain trusts	20%	20%

A lower rate of 36% applies where at least 10% of deceased's net estate is left to a registered charity.

MAIN EXEMPTIONS

	2017/2018	2018/2019
Transfers to		
- UK-domiciled spouse/civil partner	No limit	No limit
- non-UK-domiciled spouse/civil partner (from UK-domiciled spouse)	£325,000	£325,000
- main residence nil rate band*	£100,000	£125,000
- UK-registered charities	No limit	No limit

*****Available for estates up to £2,000,000 and then tapered at the rate of £1 for every £2 in excess until fully extinguished*

	2017/2018	2018/2019
Lifetime transfers		
- Annual exemption per donor	£3,000	£3,000
- Small gifts exemption	£250	£250
Wedding/civil partnership gifts by		
- parent	£5,000	£5,000
- grandparent/bride and/or groom	£2,500	£2,500
- other person	£1,000	£1,000

100% relief: businesses, unlisted/AIM companies, certain farmland/building
50% relief: certain other business assets

Reduced tax charge on gifts within 7 years of death:

- Years before death	0-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7
- Inheritance Tax payable	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%

Quick succession relief:

- Years since IHT paid	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
- Inheritance Tax relief	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%

CAR BENEFIT FOR EMPLOYEES

The charge for company car benefits is based on the carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. There is no reduction for high business mileage users.

For 2018/2019:

- The percentage charge is 13% of the car's list price for CO_2 emissions of 50g/km or less.
- For cars with CO_2 emissions of 51g/km to 75g/km the percentage is 16%.
- For cars with CO_2 emissions of 76g/km to 94g/km the percentage is 19%.
- Cars with CO_2 emissions of 95g/km have a percentage charge of 20% and thereafter the charge increases by 1% for every complete 5g/km to a maximum of 37% (emissions of 190g/km and above).

There is an additional 4% supplement for diesel cars not meeting Euro IV emission standards. However, the maximum charge remains 37% of the car's list price.

Car fuel The benefit is calculated as the CO_2 emissions % relevant to the car and that % applied to a set figure (£23,400 for 2018/2019) e.g. car emission 90g/km = 19% on car benefit scale. 19% of £23,400 = £4,446.

1. **Accessories** are, in most cases, included in the list price on which the benefit is calculated.
2. **List price** is reduced for capital contributions made by the employee up to £5,000.
3. **Car benefit** is reduced by the amount of employee's contributions towards running costs.
4. **Fuel scale** is reduced only if the employee makes good **all** the fuel used for private journeys.
5. **All car and fuel benefits** are subject to employers National Insurance contribution's (Class 1A) of 13.8%.

PRIVATE VEHICLES USED FOR WORK

	2017/2018 Rates	2018/2019 Rates
Cars		
On the first 10,000 business miles in tax year	45p per mile	45p per mile
Each business mile above 10,000 business miles	25p per mile	25p per mile
Motor Cycles	24p per mile	24p per mile
Bicycles	20p per mile	20p per mile

MAIN CAPITAL AND OTHER ALLOWANCES

	2017/2018	2018/2019
Plant & machinery (excluding cars) 100% annual investment allowance (first year)	£200,000	£200,000
Plant & machinery (reducing balance) per annum	18%	18%
Patent rights & know-how (reducing balance) per annum	25%	25%
Certain long-life assets, integral features of buildings (reducing balance) per annum	8%	8%
Energy & water-efficient equipment	100%	100%
Zero emission goods vehicles (new)	100%	100%
Qualifying flat conversions, business premises & renovations	100%	100%

Motor cars: Expenditure on or after 01 April 2016 (Corporation Tax) or 06 April 2016 (Income Tax)

CO_2 emissions of g/km:	50 or less*	51-110	111 or more
Capital allowance:	100% first year	18% reducing balance	8% reducing balance

**If new*

MAIN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

		2017/2018	2018/2019
		£	£
Child Benefit	First child	20.70	20.70
	Subsequent children	13.70	13.70
	Guardian's allowance	16.70	17.20
Employment and Support Allowance	Assessment Phase		
	Age 16 – 24	Up to 57.90	Up to 57.90
	Aged 25 or over	Up to 73.10	Up to 73.10
	Main Phase		
	Work Related Activity Group	Up to 102.15	Up to 102.15
	Support Group	Up to 109.65	Up to 110.75
Attendance Allowance	Lower rate	55.65	57.30
	Higher rate	83.10	85.60
basic State Pension	Single	122.30	125.95
	Married	195.60	201.45
new State Pension	Single	159.55	164.35
Pension Credit	Single person standard minimum guarantee	159.35	163.00
	Married couple standard minimum guarantee	243.25	248.80
	Maximum savings ignored in calculating income	10,000.00	10,000.00
Bereavement Payment*		2,000.00	2,000.00
Bereavement Support Payment**	Higher rate - First payment	3,500.00	3,500.00
	Higher rate - monthly payment	350.00	350.00
	Lower rate – First payment	2,500.00	2,500.00
	Lower rate – monthly payment	100.00	100.00
Jobseekers Allowance	Age 18 - 24	57.90	57.90
	Age 25 or over	73.10	73.10
Statutory Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Pay		140.98	145.18

**Only applicable where spouse or civil partner died before 6 April 2017.*
*** Only applicable where spouse or civil partner died on or after 6 April 2017.*

CORPORATION TAX

	2017/2018	2018/2019
Standard rate	19%	19%

VALUE ADDED TAX

	2017/2018	2018/2019
Standard rate	20%	20%
Annual registration threshold	£85,000	£85,000
Deregistration threshold	£83,000	£83,000

STAMP DUTY LAND TAX

	Residential
Value up to £125,000	0%
£125,001 - £250,000	2%
£250,001 and £925,000	5%
£925,001 and £1,500,000	10%
£1,500,001 and over	12%

Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) is payable in England and Northern Ireland only. Land Transaction Tax (LTT) is payable in Wales and Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) is payable in Scotland. The rates for LTT and LBTT are different to the rates shown above.

Additional SDLT of 3% may apply to the purchase of additional residential properties purchased for £40,000 or greater.

SDLT is charged at 15% on interests in residential dwellings costing more than £500,000 purchased by certain corporate bodies or non-natural persons.

First-time buyers benefit from SDLT relief on purchases up to £500,000 when purchasing their main residence. On purchases up to £300,000, no SDLT is payable. On purchases between £300,000 and £500,000, a flat rate of 5% is charged on the balance above £300,000.

The additional information for the pension paper can be found on pages 21 – 22

Additional Information Pension Paper – AF7 2018/2019

Revaluation

Guaranteed Minimum Pension – Fixed rate

Date of leaving service	Fixed rate of revaluation
Before 6 April 1988	8.5%
Between 6 April 1988 and 5 April 1993	7.5%
Between 6 April 1993 and 5 April 1997	7.0%
Between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2002	6.25%
Between 6 April 2002 and 5 April 2007	4.5%
Between 6 April 2007 and 5 April 2012	4.0%
Between 6 April 2012 and 5 April 2017	4.75%
After 5 April 2017	3. 5%

Non GMP benefits – statutory minimum rates

Date of leaving service	Statutory rate of revaluation
Before 1 January 1986	No requirement to revalue benefits
Between 1 January 1986 and 31 December 1990	CPI capped at 5% in respect of non GMP benefits accrued from 1 January 1985
Between 1 January 1991 and 5 April 2009	CPI capped at 5% in respect of all non GMP benefits
After 5 April 2009	CPI capped at 5% in respect of all non GMP benefits accrued before 6 April 2009 CPI capped at 2.5% in respect of all benefits accrued after 5 April 2009

NOTE: Statutory revaluation is based on RPI for revaluation prior to 2011

Escalation

Statutory rates of escalation: Member reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016

Accrual	Statutory rate of escalation
GMP: Accrual prior to 6 April 1988	**Scheme:** No requirement to provide any increases in payment **State:** Fully in line with CPI
GMP: Accrual between 6 April 1988 and 5 April 1997	**Scheme:** CPI capped at 3% **State:** Any increases in CPI in excess of 3%
Non GMP: Accrual prior to 6 April 1997	**Scheme:** No requirement to increase in payment
Non GMP: Accrual between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2005	**Scheme:** CPI capped at 5% (LPI)
Non GMP: Accrual from 6 April 2005	**Scheme:** CPI capped at 2.5%

NOTE: Statutory escalation was based on RPI prior to 2011

Statutory rates of escalation: Member reaches State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016

Accrual	Statutory rate of escalation
GMP: Accrual prior to 6 April 1988	**Scheme:** No requirement to provide any increases in payment
GMP: Accrual between 6 April 1988 and 5 April 1997	**Scheme:** CPI capped at 3%
Non GMP: Accrual prior to 6 April 1997	**Scheme:** No requirement to increase in payment
Non GMP: Accrual between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2005	**Scheme:** CPI capped at 5% (LPI)
Non GMP: Accrual from 6 April 2005	**Scheme:** CPI capped at 2.5%

NOTE: No increase to GMP is made by the State (via the State Pension) for individuals who reach State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016

Pension Protection Fund

Compensation cap at age 65 (2018/2019): £39,006.18

Revaluation of deferred benefits within PPF

Service	Rate of revaluation
All service before 6 April 2009	CPI capped at 5%
All service after 5 April 2009	CPI capped at 2.5%

Escalation of benefits in payment from PPF

Service	Rate of revaluation
All service before 6 April 1997	No increases
All service after 5 April 1997	CPI capped at 2.5%