Chartered Insurance Institute

AF7

Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning

Unit AF7 – Pension transfers

April 2019 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.**

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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: 31 marks
Section B: 69 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 31 marks

1. **(a)** State the eligibility criteria that must be met for a member of a defined benefit scheme to have a statutory right to transfer safeguarded benefits to a personal pension plan. **(3)**

(b) Explain how the statutory right to transfer safeguarded benefits is applied when more than one category of benefit exists in the scheme. **(3)**

2. William is a deferred member of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. He is about to join the police force and will become a member of the Police Pension Scheme.

He has been advised to transfer his Armed Forces Pension Scheme to the Police Pension Scheme. Both schemes belong to the Transfer Club.

(a) Explain briefly how the Police Pension Scheme will calculate the pension benefits to be credited in respect of the proposed transfer. **(3)**

(b) Explain briefly the potential advantages to William of the Transfer Club. **(4)**

3. Dennis became a deferred member of his previous employer's defined benefit scheme on 30 March 2016. At the date of leaving the scheme his preserved pension was £31,720 per annum.

In June 2016 he was offered a cash equivalent transfer value of £1,110,200 and he chose to transfer this into a self-invested personal pension (SIPP).

In July 2016 he started to make contributions into the SIPP.

Explain to Dennis why he is unable to benefit from any form of currently available lifetime allowance transitional protection. **(6)**

4. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has introduced the requirement to undertake an appropriate pension transfer analysis (APTA) which is tailored to the needs of the client when considering the transfer of a defined benefit pension scheme.

Outline **twelve** factors that the FCA expect to be considered within an APTA. **(12)**

Total marks available for this question: 31

Section B questions can be found on pages 6 – 9

SECTION B

All questions in this section are compulsory and carry an overall total of 69 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.

Simon, aged 47, is a widower. He has two children, Abigail, aged 10 and Oliver, aged 11. Simon was widowed in 2016 and is in receipt of a dependant's scheme pension of £6,000 per annum from his late wife's defined benefit pension scheme. No children's scheme pension is provided by his late wife's scheme.

Simon was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis five years ago. Whilst the condition is not immediately life threatening, he has been told that his life expectancy is likely to be reduced by 10 to 15 years. Simon's condition has steadily worsened and, in 2017, he left his job, although he continued to do some work on a self-employed basis. Simon's condition has now progressed to the stage where he is unable to work.

Simon has preserved benefits in his previous employer's defined benefit pension scheme. He has recently been advised that he is eligible for an ill-health scheme pension and that no early retirement factor will be applied. He has also been provided with a cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) of £458,000. His benefits in the defined benefit pension scheme are summarised as follows:

Scheme service	1 September 1994 to 1 September 2017
Scheme pension at date of leaving	£17,250 per annum gross
Eligibility for ill-health early retirement	Subject to HM Revenue & Customs criteria
Spouse's pension	50% of member's pre-commutation pension
Children's pensions	25% for each child, payable until the age of 18 or the end of full-time education if later
Guaranteed period	5 years payable as a continuing income
Increases in deferment	Statutory minimum
Increases to pension in payment	Retail Prices Index capped at 5% per annum
Normal pension age	65

The dependant's scheme pension covers some of the family's day-to-day living expenses, but since giving up work entirely Simon has had to use his savings, which have now largely been depleted.

Simon would like to consider his options in respect of his defined benefit pension scheme. He would like a secure income and if a transfer is recommended, he would prefer to use the fund to purchase a lifetime annuity. He would also like to take some or all of the pension commencement lump sum to provide an emergency fund. Simon is also keen to ensure the children are provided for in the event of his death. Simon has a low to medium attitude to investment risk.

Questions

5. Outline the HM Revenue & Customs requirements that must have been satisfied for Simon to be eligible to take his scheme pension on the grounds of ill-health. **(4)**

6. Based on the information provided in the case study, identify the factors that an adviser should consider and the relevance of these factors when considering the appropriateness of transferring Simon's defined benefit pension scheme. **(12)**

7. Simon would like a secure income from either his defined benefit pension scheme or from a lifetime annuity following a pension transfer.

(a) Outline **four** benefits to Simon of taking a scheme pension from the defined benefit pension scheme. **(4)**

(b) Outline **six** potential benefits to Simon of transferring the value of his defined benefit pension and purchasing a lifetime annuity with annuity protection. **(6)**

(c) State the death benefits payable under each of the two options being considered in **parts (a) and (b)** above, including their Income Tax treatment. **(6)**

8. Simon would like to ensure that his children will receive any annuity protection lump sum death benefit if a lifetime annuity is purchased.

Explain why it is important that a nomination form should be completed to this effect. **(4)**

Total marks available for this question: 36

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.

Asher, aged 64, is married to Esther, aged 65. They have two children aged 34 and 32, neither of whom are financially dependent on them.

Esther retired a couple of months ago and is now in receipt of a defined benefit pension income of £18,653 per annum. In addition to this, Esther will start to receive a State Pension of £9,500 per annum from May 2019.

Asher is currently self-employed and would like to retire when he reaches his 65th birthday in June 2019. He recently received details of his retirement options at age 65 from a former employer's defined benefit pension scheme as shown in the table below:

Full immediate pension of	£6,520 per annum
or	
Pension Commencement Lump Sum	£30,688
Plus a reduced pension of	£4,602 per annum
or	
Cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) of	£228,200

The only other pension that Asher has accrued is a forecasted State Pension of £8,200 which will become payable when he reaches State Pension age in March 2020.

Asher and Esther estimate they will require a total joint annual net income of £35,000 in retirement. Their only other assets are a mortgage free main residence valued at £340,000, cash savings of £15,000 and a stocks and shares ISA portfolio in Asher's name valued at £62,000.

Asher would like advice in respect of his former employer's defined benefit scheme. He is unsure whether he should take his benefits from the scheme or transfer to a personal arrangement in order to access his benefits flexibly.

Asher has an adventurous attitude to investment risk whereas Esther is cautious.

Questions

9. Before advising Asher on the most appropriate option for him in respect of his former employer's pension scheme, state the additional information you would require regarding:

(a) the pension income payable under the scheme; **(3)**

(b) Asher and Esther's personal and financial circumstances and objectives. **(8)**

10. Asher is considering transferring out of his defined benefit scheme to access his benefits flexibly.

Based on the information provided in the case study, state the factors that an adviser should consider when assessing Asher and Esther's capacity for loss. **(6)**

11. List **five** potential benefits and **five** potential drawbacks of Asher transferring the value of his defined benefit pension into a personal pension plan to access benefits flexibly. **(10)**

12. As part of the advisory process, a lifetime cashflow model has been put in place for Asher and Esther.

State **six** stress tests that should be undertaken as part of an annual review of the cashflow model. **(6)**

Total marks available for this question: 33

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

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*

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%