

Case Study

Management Level

Study Text



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Clarity, accessibility and ease of use for our learners are key to our approach.

We will use contemporary examples that are rich, engaging and representative of a diverse workplace.

We will include a representative mix of race and gender at the various levels of seniority within the businesses in our examples to support all our learners in aspiring to achieve their potential within their chosen careers.

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We will seek to devise simple measures that can be used by independent assessors to randomly check our success in the implementation of our Linguistic Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

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# Introduction

## **Acknowledgements**

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## How to use the Materials



**Test your understanding** – Following key points and definitions are exercises which give the opportunity to assess the understanding of these core areas. Within the work book the answers to these sections are left blank, explanations to the questions can be found within the online version which can be hidden or shown on screen to enable repetition of activities.



**Illustration** – to help develop an understanding of topics and the test your understanding exercises the illustrative examples can be used.

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Our Quality Coordinator will work with our technical team to verify the error and take action to ensure it is corrected in future editions.

## Exam Introduction

To complete CIMA's CGMA® qualification and be able to use the designatory letters of ACMA and CGMA, candidates for this prestigious award need to achieve three things:

- attain the entry requirements for the professional level qualification
- study for and complete the relevant professional level assessments and examinations
- complete three years of relevant practical experience

This text concentrates on the second of these requirements, and in particular to study for and complete the Management level case study exam.

## Overview of exam

CIMA's CGMA Case Study Examinations will be available four times a year. The purpose of this exam is to consolidate learning at each level by reflecting real life work situations. The exam is human marked.

This approach allows a wide range of knowledge and skills to be tested including research and analysis, presentation of information and communication skills whilst still ensuring competence in key skills.

CIMA believe that this format will provide the commitment to delivering the competencies which employers desire, thereby improving 'employability'.

For example, the CGMA Management Level Case Study exam will be set within a simulated business context, placing the candidate in the job role matched to the competency level. In the case of the Management Level, the job role is that of a Financial Manager (usually a management accountant) with responsibility for monitoring and implementing strategy. The focus will be on the need to translate long-term decisions into medium-term plans.

Typical aspects of such a role could include the following:

- Responsibility for monitoring and implementing strategy, focussing on the medium term. Translating the long-term strategy that has been decided at the senior management/board level into medium-term, tactical goals.
- Making full use of technologies to derive information that can be of value in evaluating business opportunities, including the implementation of cyber technologies in order to evaluate business processes and to create and enhance value for the company
- Collaboration with colleagues from finance and other disciplines to make decisions concerning investment projects, product development and product pricing.
- A sound understanding of the business environment, including the opportunities arising in the digital ecosystem, and a requirement to measure and report on the performance of individuals and divisions and an expectation to evaluate business risks
- Involvement in the accounting decisions that affect the preparation and content of the consolidated financial statements prepared by the company, requiring the exercise of professional judgement taking into account the effect that recommendations and decisions can have on the actions of internal and external decision-makers.
- Strong communication skills. The need to inform key decisions may raise significant ethical dilemmas that must be resolved in a justifiable and professional manner.

The exam is intended to replicate “a day in the life” of a finance professional operating at the management level and provide a simulated environment for candidates to demonstrate the required level of proficiency in each of the competency areas. Consequently, the exam will be set and marked according to the weightings for each core activity.

The Case Study exam is 3 hours in duration and is made up of a series of timed tests or tasks. This makes the Case Study exam different from most exams you will have sat to date – once you have submitted a particular task (or the time limit is reached, whichever is sooner) you will be moved on and will not be able to return to that task. This should reduce the problem of not completing the paper but does mean you will need to be very disciplined when attempting each task.

Candidates will be provided with access to pre-seen information approximately seven weeks before the real exam.





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