



## **PROFESSIONAL LEVEL –PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

### **EDUCATORS BRIEFING 2020-2021**

#### **1. Performance in the 2020 examinations**

Not applicable, because this a new paper, examined for the first time in 2021.

#### **2. Syllabus objectives**

- The aims and learning outcomes are stated in the syllabus document for this paper. The types of question set and the marking scheme applied will reflect these, examining the syllabus thoroughly but having regard to the competency levels as specified for each syllabus area.
- Excellent technical knowledge is expected of candidates. Furthermore, in accordance with the learning outcomes, candidates need to have the ability to select, recommend and apply performance management techniques and structures for particular business situations as described in each exam question.
- Candidates also need to be able to describe and interpret analytical models in a performance management context, as well as identifying and discussing emerging developments which have implications for performance management and management accounting. Sections 4 and 5 below provide guidance as to how these aims and learning outcomes will be reflected in the design of the paper and the types of questions which will be asked in 2021.

#### **3. Syllabus changes**

Not applicable, because this a new paper, examined for the first time in 2021.

#### **4. Format of the 2021 examination papers**

- The exam paper will consist of five questions. All questions will be compulsory. The number of marks per question will vary between 10 and 30 marks (see the sample paper for examples). Of course, questions which carry larger number of marks will generally require more time to answer them and candidates should budget their time in the exam accordingly.
- Most questions will be divided into two (or at most three) parts. The purpose of this division into parts is to provide candidates with a structure which is intended to be helpful in answering the question (as a practical matter, candidates will find it easiest to answer the parts within a question in the order in which the parts are asked).
- The exam will be a “closed book” one. However questions will not be set which candidates can answer simply by writing down material which they have memorised from a textbook or article.

#### **5. Education focus for 2021**

- Questions will be set so as to examine a wide range of topics across the syllabus. The purpose of this is to ensure that the exam paper is a fair one. However, another implication (and bearing in mind that all questions are compulsory) is that it would be very unwise for candidates to omit topics from their study.
- It is necessary (but not sufficient) for candidates to have excellent technical knowledge and business writing skills. Candidates need to be able to apply their excellent technical knowledge and business writing skills to specific business problems as described in the questions. This will require both quantitative and qualitative analysis.