Encouraging exam results


MEMBERSHIP EXAM The pass rates in this diet were 57% in Paper VII, 74% in Paper VIII and 74% in Paper IX for an overall pass rate of 51%. It is gratifying to see the Paper VII pass rate at its highest level for over four years. The Paper VIII and overall pass rates compared well with recent history.

Much of Paper VII revolved around the valuation and buyout of a publishing group. The route through the case study was clearly marked out and most students tackled the problem competently. The area where many struggled was where they were required to estimate and assess the adequacy of the return to the equity tranche of a leveraged buyout. However, as elsewhere in the papers, good preparation paid off and the case was well answered. More troublesome were the later parts of the paper, where less structured questions asked candidates to demonstrate their understanding of the relationship between risk and financial policy.

Paper VIII was well handled, with Paper VIIIIB proving slightly more difficult than VIIIA. The main case in VIIIA revolved around a food service company, asking students to comment on business and financial risk management, leading towards an assessment of debt capacity. Students clearly understood the issues and answered it well.

Paper VIIIIB required candidates to assess the currency risks of an international group. This topic had caused considerable problems in the past, particularly with quantification aspects, but this group of students had clearly got to grips with the topic and handled the question well. For the first time, IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement featured in the paper and was very badly addressed. Treasurers cannot ignore this hot topic and nor can students. The final question on the paper, about funding a large acquisition, elicited too many generalities, a trend that recurs whenever capital structure questions arise.

Students are usually well prepared for Paper IX and this diet was no exception. In the main case study, students demonstrated a good ability to set treasury policy in the context of the strengths (or otherwise) of the business. The difference between the better students and the poorer is illustrated by the question on commodity hedging. The good students stood back and focused on the competitive position (clearly flagged in the question), while the poorer ones focused on hedging instruments. At this level, treasury is about understanding, not just technique.

Overall, it was an encouraging set of results from students who had, for the main, prepared well.

ASSOCIATE EXAM At the April 2005 sitting, performance on most papers exceeded that at the immediately previous diet. The pass rate was again well ahead of the average pass rate for the last several diets. Distinctions in the most recent diet totalled 57 over all papers versus 56 in October 2004, 52 in April 2004 and 25 in October 2003. Clearly, performance is on a rising trend. It is believed that this reflects increased provision of face-to-face tuition and pre-examination revision courses. The link between attendance at these and examination performance is significant.

Paper I (Accounting Practice and Introductory Economics) recorded a pass rate of 71% (October 04 – 59%), the best seen for years. The question on elasticities, in the economics sense, proved to
be the weakest one answered. The examiner considered the paper to be difficult. Paper II (Financial Analysis) came in at a percentage pass rate of 63%, a figure slightly lower than last time (64%). The question on moving averages proved most difficult.

In Paper III (Corporate Taxation), the issue of the implication of buying shares in an acquisition versus buying the trade assets was poorly understood. The pass rate, at 70%, improved on last time’s figure of 68%. Paper IV (Business Law) has generally demonstrated a good pass rate. In October 2004 this fell below average at only 67% but recovered this time to 79%. The questions on compliance issues proved the weakest answered.

On Money Management (Paper V), the overall pass rate – 59% – was close to earlier diets (61% last time and 59% before). The question on currency forecasting was poorly answered as was the last part of the mini-case study where, with sterling cashflows, no foreign currency debt was implied. But, by and large, the remaining answers were good. Finally, Paper VI (Corporate Finance and Funding) showed a pass rate of 58%, equaling last time’s examination and the best level since October 1996. Here, all questions were well answered. But the Fast Track paper, for CIMA and ACCA accountants, had a far lower pass rate – only 37% passed. It appeared that too many candidates were using knowledge from their professional accounting exams to get them through without adequate reference to syllabus differences. This is a risky tactic. Beware.

All papers had structures that resembled previous sittings. Examiners were impressed by the good and improving achievement. It is to be hoped that future students keep up the good trend. However, complacency must clearly be avoided and reference to past papers and solutions and attendance at tuition and revision is well advised.

INTERNATIONAL CASH MANAGEMENT EXAM Despite some quite outstanding results and the highest scoring paper for several years emerging from this diet, overall, the pass rate was disappointing at 51%. There still appears to be a dichotomy between the practical and theoretic aspects of this examination and a perceived misconception in terms of the considerable amount of technical knowledge required in order to secure a pass.

In order to encourage a greater focus on revision, the Tuition School residential week has been brought forward several weeks with effect from the next diet. In addition, it is enlightening when reviewing the metrics in relation to the progress tests. Here, there is a genuine link between those making a real effort which typically manifests into good examination results. The five distinction students from this diet are a testament to this.

Chris Bunton Chairman of MCT Examination Board
Adrian Buckley Chairman of AMCT Examination Board
Catherine Adair-Faulkner Chairman of International Cash Management Examination Board
www.treasurers.org

EXAM RESULTS
THE ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATE TREASURERS WISHES TO EXTEND ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO HAVE PASSED EXAMINATIONS.

MCT PASS

Distinctions Paper 7 ■ Paper 8 ■ Paper 9 ■

Peter Bernie Liverpool & London P&I Management Ltd ■
Charles Bosson Coventry Building Society ■
Martin Cade Bradford & Bingley plc ■
William Cooper Anglo American plc ■
David Daniels InterContinental Hotels Group plc ■
Malcolm Fell Alliance & Leicester plc ■
Ian Foster-Jones James Gilmour Volvo Financial Services ■
Christopher Grant Nationwide Building Society ■
William Green Uniq plc ■
Katherine Horrell Hewlett Packard Ltd ■
Anthony Lawrence Shell International Ltd ■
Thomas Moore Aviva plc ■
Pam Pemberton Provident Financial plc ■
Steven Richardson Zurich Financial Services ■
David Roberts National Australia Bank ■
Declan Sawey HBOS plc ■ ■
Mathew Slade Reuters Group Plc ■ ■
Harjinder Sohal Aviva plc ■ ■

AMCT PASS

Distinctions Paper V ■ Paper VI ■

Peter Abrahamson GAP ■
Christopher Allen IBM UK Ltd ■
David Amos Royal Bank of Scotland plc ■
Stuart Ball Royal Bank of Scotland plc ■
Matthew Bartle HBOS plc ■
Maurice Bhujan Trade Promotion Services Ltd ■
James Billett SMG plc ■
Christopher Blake Investec Bank (UK) Ltd ■ ■
Justin Bradford ■
Claire Marie Bradley Northern Rock plc ■
Anne Brisbin PricewaterhouseCoopers ■
David Brown Greene King plc ■
Gary Burton Hewlett Packard Ltd ■
Kim Burton Lloyds TSB Bank plc ■
Miranda Chitty BPP (Croydon) Ltd ■
Lindsay Christian MEPC Ltd ■
Andrew Clark KPMG ■
Zoe Clarke KPMG ■ ■
Jonathan Clarke Atkins Limited ■ ■
AMCT PASS

Distinctions Paper V ■ Paper VI ■

Roy Clinton Banque Jacob Safra (Gibraltar) Ltd
Kevin Collett Ansabcher & Co Ltd
John Collingwood VA Tech Finance UK ■
Ruth Cooke Anchor Trust ■
Calvin Cordle Barclays Bank plc ■
Edward Coulson HSBC Bank Plc
Vanessa Coxon Shell Global Solutions International BV
Thomas Craigie Royal Bank of Scotland plc
John Cunningham Ulster Bank Ireland Limited
Christopher Cutts
Mark Dalton JLT Group plc
Nigel Darbyshire The Deva Tap Company Ltd ■
Iain Davies Nationwide Building Society
Nicola Davies InterContinental Hotels Group plc ■
Stephen Dews Anite Public Sector
Stephen Dines Chemring Group plc ■
Thomas Doyle Merrill Lynch
Alan Drew Dixons Group plc ■
Mark Farrer Diageo plc
Adrian Ferdinands Morgan Stanley
Cormac Finnerty Xerox (Europe) plc
Helen Foster Lloyd’s
Michael Foye Emap plc
Timothy Gaffney Barclaycard
Netraj Churburrum Hilton London Metropole (Hilton Grp Plc)
Nikolaos Gianniris Royal Bank of Scotland plc ■
Mandep Gills QinetiQ
Thomas Gillam Rentokil Initial plc
Caroline Godwin Marsh Ltd
Ian Goulbourne UBS Investment Bank
Valerie Graham Nationwide Building Society
Tom Green British American Tobacco plc
Claire Grosvenor Vodafone Group plc ■
Emi Hanawa JT (UK) Limited
Christopher Haworth Barclays Bank plc
Robin Hayes Lombard International Assurance S.A.
Neil Holmes Willis Management (Isle of Man) Limited
Elizabeth-May Honeyman Stagecoach Group plc ■
Andrew Ireland Royal Bank of Scotland plc
David Jackson Shell International
Daragh Kavanagh ESB International Investments
Jeremy Kernthaler QinetiQ plc
Edward Kirk-Wilson Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Si Yu Lam Astec International Holdings Ltd
Shiuan Lam Syngenta
Philip Lawrence KPMG
James Leather British American Tobacco ■
James Lee Vodafone Group plc
Harminder Liddar Marconi Corporation plc
Dariusz Lis Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein
Helen Maginn Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
Kerri Maharaj RBTT Bank Limited
Sean Malin
Geoffrey Mansfield Shell International Eastern Trading Company
Amir Marashian British American Tobacco Exports BV ■
Jason Marshall Serco
Paul McElhatton Linklaters

Colin McEvoy Open & Direct Insurance Group
Daniel McKay Morgan Stanley
Karleen McKenna Origin Energy
David Morgan National Grid Transco plc
Rabbie Mukuma Zambia Centre for Accountancy Studies
Fiona Munro
Isobel Nelson Northern Rock plc
Stuart Nelson Electrocomponents plc ■
Gary Newbrook Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Derek O’Reilly
Matthew Plant AMEC plc
Emily Plummer Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein ■
Edward Poet Nestle Purina Petcare
Garry Porter GlaxoSmithKline plc
Michael Rae PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Jonathan Rees Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Christopher Reid
Charles Richardson BUPA
Julian Roughley Morgan Stanley ■
Andrew Rushton ■
Neil Sadler
Katrina Samadian Credit Suisse First Boston
Philip Scott Vodafone Group Services Limited
Paul Seager Land Securities plc
Reshma Shah The Bank of New York
Carl Sharman CP Ships Limited
Sarah-Jane Shay Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Stephen Smith Ernst & Young LLP
Abisodun Soetan Henderson Group plc
Carol Swann Lloyds TSB Bank
Christopher Sweeney Rolls-Royce Power Ventures Ltd
Richard Sykes Standard Chartered Bank
Peter Tallboys Publicis Group S.A.
Tsegaye Tewolde Tsegay Tewolde & Co Auth. Auditors & Accountants
James Thomas KPMG ■
Ritz Lai Sze Tsang IDS Group Management Limited
Andrew Vahidi
Jeffrey Vernon Rathbone Investment Management Ltd
Mark Verwey Deutsche Bank
Elizabeth Waddington William Grant & Sons Ltd
Sarah Wallace Royal Bank of Scotland plc
David Weaver Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Anthonia Williams Britvic
Amy Williams Royal Bank of Scotland ■
Craig Williams Diageo plc
CERT ICM PASS

Distinctions

Angela Abrahall Lloyds TSB Bank
Luciferina Annas Bank Danamon Indonesia
Philip Arrgrimsson Fortis Bank
Martin Beekelaar Rabobank Nederland
Helle Borup Jeppesen Nordea Bank Danmark A/S
Philip Boyall Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Delphine Chazalet Airbus Financial Services
Gina Cleife Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Jess Culver Barclays Bank plc
Louisa Dall Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Chrystie Dao HSBC Bank plc
Hendelk De Boer Dexia Bank Nederland
Sally Doe Linklaters Business Services
Robert Doorly AIB International Services
Paul Feeney Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Helen Finn Citigroup
Helen Fowler Bank of America
Christina Ganeva Johnson Controls International BVBA
Rachel Gooch Sungard Treasury Systems
Graham Grant National Australia Bank
Nadeem Haque HSBC Bank plc
Jacoba Hogervorst ICC
Heidi Holth Åker Material Handling Ltd
Nicholas Howden JPMorgan Chase
Nafsika Kokkinos Time Warner
Gunilla Kotiranta Nordea Bank AB (publ.)
Martin Kuipers VNU NV
Timothy Lane Premier Oil plc

Katrina Lawson Jardine Motors Group plc
Shen Lee Maritz
Hans-Erik Lind Nordea
Boris Loones ING Bank
Martin Lyons Kostal Ireland GmbH
Paul Mason Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Elizabeth Mattos American Express Europe Ltd
Abigail McMahon Merrill Lynch Investment Managers
Aarti Mittal JPMorgan Chase Bank
Brian Moore HSBC Bank plc
Rohit Moudgil Barclays Bank plc
Agata Pawelec Danske Bank Polska S.A.
Per Pedersen Nordea
Joanna Piotrowska ABN AMRO Bank NV
Elaine Ryan Diageo Finance Ireland
Loraine Saggars Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Guido Schellino Unicredit Corporate New Europe
Saira Shah JPMorgan
Vishnu Balkaran Sitaram Ontario Teachers Pension Plan
Susan Stephens Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Peng Tan Soletron Europe BV
Marianne Traedal Fokus Bank
David Van Mechelen KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
Jeanette Vincent Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Espen Wattø Nordea
Thomas Wicka Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Carl Wood Royal Bank of Scotland plc

MCT Full Membership
The leading qualification in Treasury, Risk and Corporate Finance

The quality and intellectual rigour of the MCT course are highly regarded within the finance community. I viewed the qualification as a significant step up on the learning curve and as a long term benefit to my career.

Dominic Jaques MCT, Finance Director, Krispy Kreme UK Ltd.

Exam enrolment deadlines:
• December for October sitting
• June for April sitting

For further information contact
Andy Swallow:
T | +44 (0)20 7213 0736
F | +44 (0)20 7248 2591
E | costas@treasurers.co.uk

Full details available at: www.treasurers.org/mct

Designed as a logical continuation from AMCT, this high level strategic qualification will give a deeper understanding of the function of the treasury role and explain how it can continue to increase shareholder value.

Regarded by recruitment consultants as demonstrating personal commitment and high technical acumen, the MCT will develop your skill base, improve your earnings potential and help you differentiate yourself from your colleagues. It equips candidates to face the most complex challenges in treasury and corporate financial management.

The course comprises:
• Three course manuals
• Fifteen days of optional intensive tuition
• Eight optional progress tests

mct/amct and icm EXAM RESULTS

“...