



TCS Online

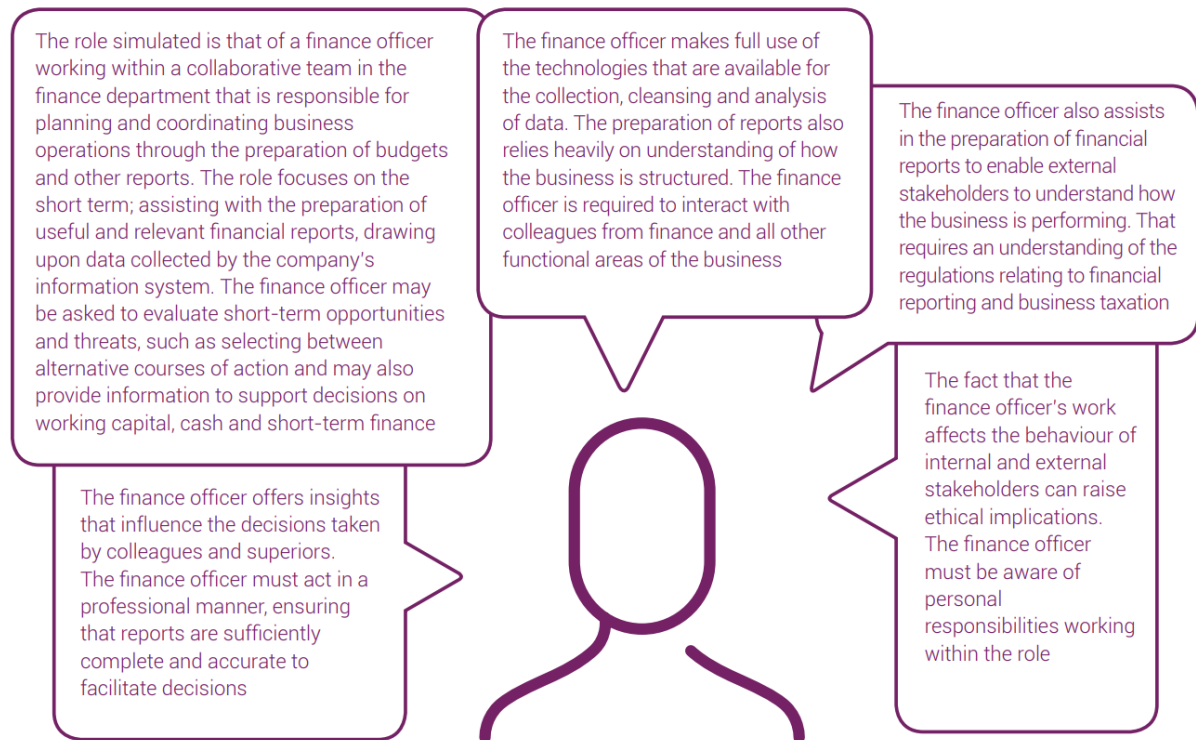
OCS Familiarisation Kit

➤ **What is a case study examination?**

The case study examination is a simulated business role play. Therefore, understanding your persona and role in the case study exam can really help you produce a good answer at the right level for your audience.

➤ **What is your simulated role in the OCS exam?**

The role simulated is that of a Finance Officer.



➤ **What is the examination structure?**

- PC based examination
- Duration: 3 hours
- Comprises of 4 main questions (sections) with each section consisting of sub-tasks
- 45 minute time allocation for each section, and within that time only that specific section can be answered
- Once the 45 minutes lapse, the screen will move on the next section, displaying the next question and a separate answer screen for that section
- Each sub-task is given a specific weighting and this represents the proportionate marks allocated for each sub-task
- Pass mark: 80 out of 150

(Note: Refer past examination variants and suggested answers for a clear understanding of the above: <https://www.cgma.org/becomeacgma/cgmaexam/post-exam-kits.html>)

➤ What is the syllabus for OCS?

E1, P1, F1. There is no new syllabus content for the operational case study exam. You just need to be thorough with the syllabus content of E1, P1 & F1.



➤ What are 'Core Activities'?

Within each Operational Case Study Examination, six core activities will be assessed. These core activities represent the tasks that are most frequent, critical and important to the Entry level finance professional role.

The core activities are linked to associated assessment outcomes expressed in terms of 'I Can' statements that speak directly to the skills and competencies that drive the employability of successful learners.

Core activity	Assessment outcome	Weighting
A. Prepare costing information for different purposes to meet the needs of management	<p>I can use appropriate technologies to gather data for costing purposes, from digital and other sources.</p> <p>I can apply different costing methods to produce costing information suitable for managers' needs.</p> <p>I can explain costing information to operational and senior management using appropriate formats and media.</p> <p>I can compare different costing methods and systems to determine the most suitable for use by the organisation for different purposes.</p> <p>I can identify the cost information required for digital cost objects.</p>	12–18%
B. Prepare budget information and assess its use for planning and control purposes	<p>I can use appropriate technologies to gather data from digital and other sources to co-ordinate budget preparation.</p> <p>I can explain and use different forecasting methods to assist in budget preparation.</p> <p>I can use different approaches to produce information for use by managers when preparing budgets.</p> <p>I can explain budget information to managers using appropriate formats and media.</p> <p>I can apply various techniques to determine the effect on budgets of changes to variables.</p> <p>I can explain to functional managers how budgets are used for planning and control purposes.</p> <p>I can discuss the behavioural implications of budgetary planning and control.</p> <p>I can compare alternative approaches to budgeting to determine their suitability for the organisation and for different purposes.</p>	17–25%

C. Analyse performance using financial and non-financial information	<p>I can identify information that can enable managers to review performance.</p> <p>I can interpret variances to review functional and organisational performance.</p> <p>I can identify appropriate KPIs for different functions of the organisation.</p> <p>I can explain company performance using KPIs.</p> <p>I can prepare performance reports for use by different functions and for different purposes in appropriate formats and media.</p>	17–25%
D. Apply relevant financial reporting standards and corporate governance, ethical and tax principles	<p>I can apply relevant IFRS in a given context, to facilitate the preparation of financial statements.</p> <p>I can apply the principles of corporate governance and ethics.</p> <p>I can identify the impact of tax regulation on transactions, decisions and profits.</p>	12–18%
E. Prepare information to support short-term decision-making	<p>I can identify relevant costs and benefits.</p> <p>I can apply appropriate techniques that support short-term decision-making.</p> <p>I can prepare information to support operational decisions.</p> <p>I can explain factors that could influence short-term decisions.</p> <p>I can apply appropriate techniques to deal with situations where there is risk and uncertainty.</p>	17–25%
F. Prepare information to manage working capital	<p>I can identify appropriate sources of short-term finance and methods of short-term investments.</p> <p>I can explain how to manage and control working capital.</p> <p>I can explain working capital ratios in comparison to prior periods or to other organisations.</p> <p>I can identify the impact of changing working capital policies.</p>	7–13%

➤ How important is the pre-seen?

The case study relates to a fictionalized organisation, reflecting a real business environment. The pre-seen provides information about a fictitious organisation and the industry so that the students can familiarise themselves with the organisation and the industry.

Immerse yourself in the pre-seen and get to know it inside out. You will need to become really familiar with the organisation, its structure, products, competitors, industry, strengths and weaknesses, its financials, cost structure, etc

You are not expected to “memorise” details of the pre seen, but simply remember the ‘key issues and points’.

➤ What is the answering style and structure for the CIMA case study examination?

A good starting point to understand this is to refer suggested answers published by CIMA for past exam papers.

Available at: <https://www.cgma.org/becomeacgma/cgmaexam/post-exam-kits.html>

➤ **Any tips for a good answer?**

- Read the scenario and reference material attentively
- Identify the number of requirements within each sub-task
- Plot the requirements into sub-headings
- Understand the requirements correctly
- Develop an answer plan
- Allocate the time based on the weighting assigned for each sub-task
- Expand the answer – write paragraphs with 2 to 4 sentences
- Answer all requirements
- Do not write generic or theoretical answers
- Do not write bullet points or single sentences unless required (for instance, when setting out the recognition criteria for an IAS)
- Do not deflect, answer to the point
- Do not infuse pre-seen information to the answers unnecessarily

➤ **How many questions/mock exams should I practice?**

As many as you can! It is, however, important that you attempt the mock exams under real exam conditions, on a similar exam platform to that of the case study and obtain feedback from tutors to ensure your answers meet the 'pass' standard.

➤ **Got another question?**

Post them to our tutors on the WhatsApp discussion groups or email info@studyattcs.com and our expert tutors will promptly respond. 😊