

A guide to your examination results

How will I receive my results?

This depends on the type of exam you sat:

Certificate in Business Accounting Objective Tests

You will be given a provisional pass or fail decision when you access or log in to your MyCIMA account through your Dashboard. Your confirmed results plus your scaled score and your performance against the syllabus topic area will be published to your MyCIMA account after 48 hours of the exam. [Learn more](#)

Professional Qualification Objective Tests

You will be given a provisional pass or fail decision when you access or log in to your MyCIMA account through your Dashboard. Your confirmed results plus your scaled score and your performance against the syllabus content area will be published to your MyCIMA account after 48 hours of the exam. [Learn more](#)

Professional Qualification Case Study Exams

2019 Syllabus Professional Qualification — Your results will be published to your MyCIMA account about five weeks after the last day of the exam window. Look at the [exam timetable](#) to find our results release dates. The results will include a pass or fail grade, a scaled score (between 0 and 150) and performance feedback by each core activity. [Learn more](#)

2015 Syllabus Professional Qualification – Go to our [dedicated page](#) for information on historical results from the previous syllabus.

Cert BA — Objective Tests

How will my results be presented?

Your Cert BA Objective Test results consist of:

1. An overall grade (pass/fail)
2. A scaled score of between 0 and 150 (a mark of 100 or above is a pass)
3. An indication of whether you are proficient or not proficient in each syllabus topic area.

Your scaled score will show you how far above or below the pass score you were, which will be particularly useful if you need to re-sit.

Your scaled score, along with your syllabus topic area feedback, gives you an indication of where you should concentrate on your studies and how much extra studying you will need to do to be prepared for your next exam.

What is a scaled score?

CIMA students consistently tell us that they like the flexibility of the exams. Offering exams every day of the year means that we have multiple versions of each test running concurrently. Each of these test versions will be slightly different in terms of difficulty — therefore, we need to find a way to present the results so that each candidate knows how they performed compared to others sitting at the same time, even though they might be taking a different version of the exam.

Scaled scores are the industry standard approach to solving this problem. A scaled score ensures that you receive a consistent result that reflects the difficulty of the test you sit.

For objective tests, we give scaled scores of between 0 and 150, with the passing score being 100 or above.

Why do we need to transform the raw score?

There are multiple versions of the Cert BA objective tests (for greater flexibility and exam security). Care is taken to ensure that the questions selected for each exam version are comparable. However, minor differences in exam difficulty still occur.

Therefore, a raw score of 50 on one exam may not be directly comparable to a raw score of 50 on a slightly easier or more difficult version of the same exam. A candidate who receives a raw score of 50 on one exam may get 52 on a slightly easier version of the same exam or 48 on a slightly more difficult version of the same exam.

The raw score produced across all forms of the exam cannot be compared (even if two students achieved the same raw score) until they go through an industry standard process called 'equating', which results in the production of a scaled score.

By using scaled scores, we can ensure that you receive a score that gives a fair representation of how you performed in the exam — no matter which version of the exam you were presented with.

How do I use my exam feedback?

You will receive a grade of either *Proficient* or *Not Proficient* against each syllabus topic area. This provides you with a clear indication of the areas of the syllabus you have demonstrated competence and also the areas that you need improvement.

If you passed your exam but received *Not Proficient* on one or more syllabus topic areas, you should revisit study resources related to these topics when preparing for higher-level exams, which often require pre-requisite knowledge.

Likewise, if you failed your exam, you should revisit the study resources related to the syllabus topic areas in which you received a *Not Proficient* grade, while also focusing on a thorough understanding of the whole subject syllabus.

Please note that your overall grade (pass or fail) is based on overall performance in the exam and is a snapshot of your performance in that one exam. Your *Proficient* and *Not Proficient* scores can therefore be used as a guide to help you focus your revision. However, the only way to fully ensure a passing score is to fully prepare across all syllabus areas.

Professional Qualification — Objective Test exams

How will my results be presented?

Your Objective Test results consist of:

1. An overall grade (pass/fail)
2. A scaled score between 0 and 150 (100 or above representing a pass)
3. An indication of whether you are proficient or not proficient in each exam content area.

What are scaled scores and why do we use them?

CIMA students consistently tell us that they like the flexibility of the exams. Offering exams every day of the year means that we have multiple versions of each test running concurrently. Each of these test versions will be slightly different in terms of difficulty — therefore, we need to find a way to present the results so that each candidate knows how they performed compared to others sitting at the same time, even though they might be taking a different version of the exam.

Scaled scores are the industry standard approach to solving this problem. A scaled score ensures that you receive a consistent result that reflects the difficulty of the test you sit.

Why do we need to transform the raw score?

There are multiple versions of the nine CIMA objective tests (for greater flexibility and exam security). Care is taken to ensure that the questions selected for each exam version are comparable. However, minor differences in exam difficulty still occur.

Therefore, a raw score of 50 on one exam may not be directly comparable to a raw score of 50 on a slightly easier or more difficult version of the same exam. A candidate who receives a raw score of 50 on one exam may get 52 on a slightly easier version of the same exam or 48 on a slightly more difficult version of the same exam.

The raw score produced across all forms of the exam cannot be compared (even if two students achieved the same raw score) until they go through an industry-standard process called 'equating', which results in the production of a scaled score.

By using scaled scores, we can ensure that you receive a score that gives a fair representation of how you performed in the exam — no matter which version of the exam you took.

What does proficient/not proficient mean?

The grade *Proficient* means that you have scored above the boundary required to demonstrate competence against a particular exam content area.

The grade *Not Proficient* means that you have scored below the boundary required to demonstrate competence against a particular exam content area.

Your overall grade (pass or fail) is based on your overall performance on the exam.

How do I use my exam feedback?

Your grade (pass/fail) is an aggregation of your performance across all exam content areas. You will also receive a grade of either *Proficient* or *Not Proficient* against each syllabus topic area. This provides you with a clear indication of the areas of the syllabus in which you have demonstrated competence and the areas that you need to improve on.

If you passed your exam but received *Not Proficient* on one or more exam content areas, you should revisit study resources related to these topics when preparing to sit for your Case Study exam.

Likewise, if you failed your exam, you should focus on revisiting the study resources related to the exam content areas in which you received a *Not Proficient* grade.

Why don't I have a score? (for exams sat before 5 March 2020)

When the 2019 Professional Qualification syllabus was introduced, scaled scores were not issued for objective tests between 4 November 2019 and 5 March 2020.

2019 Professional Qualification — Case Study exams

How will my results be presented?

Your case study exam results are made up of three elements, all of which need to be considered:

1. An overall grade (pass/fail)
2. A scaled score between 0 and 150 (80 or above representing a pass)
3. Feedback on your performance by each core activity

Have a look at the [exam timetable](#) for case study exam results release dates.

Why do we use scaled scores?

CIMA students consistently tell us that they like the flexibility of the exams. Offering exams over an exam window means that we have multiple versions of each case study exam running concurrently. Each of these exam versions will be very slightly different in terms of difficulty — therefore, we need to find a way to present the results so that each candidate knows how they performed compared to others sitting at the same time, even though they might be taking a different version of the exam.

Scaled scores are the industry standard approach to solving this problem. A scaled score ensures that you receive a consistent result that reflects the difficulty of the test you sit. In the case of case study exams, we give scaled scores of between 0 and 150, with a passing score being 80 or above.

How should I interpret my results?

You are mainly interested in whether you have passed. This will be given against a grade.

If you are given a *Pass*, you have generally performed well across the test and met the required passing standard.

If you have been graded *Fail*, you have not demonstrated suitable competence across all of the tasks in the case study.

Are any post-exam materials available for case study exams?

Post-exam materials are available in the [Study Planner](#) two weeks after case study exam results are released. However, due to the shared pre-seen for case study exams, the full post-exam materials are released for all exams using the same shared pre-seen material.

- After the May and November case study exam sessions, an interim examiners report will be available.

- After the August and February exams, the full post-exam materials including examiner's report, variants, model answers and marking schemes will be available for both exams using the same pre-seen.

Performance descriptors

You will be given feedback as to whether you met the exam level passing standard for each core activity.

Performance descriptors for each core activity are here:

- [Operational Level performance descriptors](#)
- [Management Level performance descriptors](#)
- [CIMA Gateway performance descriptors](#)
- [Strategic Level performance descriptors](#)

These descriptors state the characteristics and level of achievement that candidates who met the passing standard would generally demonstrate.

Please note that all core activities will be assessed in each form of the examination, in line with the weightings published in the exam blueprint. A sample of related assessment outcomes will be tested. For more details, see the [examination blueprint](#).

How should I use the performance descriptors?

The performance descriptors are applicable across all forms and sessions of the case study examination. They offer a consistent means of feedback on your performance in the exam. They help identify where your performance in an individual core activity may have fallen short of the overall passing standard, for the level of case study that you sat.

They are best used in conjunction with the exam blueprint and all other study resources available for the case study exams. When preparing for the exam, you can use these performance descriptors to benchmark your performance and see what you need to achieve to become exam-ready.

If you have performed well across all core activities, the performance descriptors will highlight what you should continue to do, as well as which skills you can build on for future exams.

If you have not reached the passing standard for one or more core activity, the performance descriptors provide guidance on the minimum level of performance you will need to achieve to meet the passing standard, help guide further study efforts.

Will pass rates for Case Study exams be issued?

Pass rates for each level of the case study exam will be available after the release of the strategic case study exam results. They can be found [here](#).

2015 Professional Qualification — Case Study exams

All current case study exams are based on the [2019 CIMA Professional Qualification Syllabus](#) and [blueprint](#). However, if you need more information on historical case study results from the 2015 syllabus, read this section carefully.

How will my results be presented?

Your case study exam results are made up of three elements, all of which need to be considered:

1. An overall grade (pass/fail)
2. A scaled score between 0 and 150 (80 or above representing a pass, if you have met the minimum threshold for each competency*)
3. Sectional feedback indicating performance against each of the competencies (reported as *Strong*, *Moderate* or *Fail*)

*You will be expected to reach a minimum threshold score for each competency (about one-third of the total marks available for that competency) and for integration.

How should I interpret my case study result?

You are mainly interested in whether you have passed. This will be given against a grade.

- If you are given a *Pass*, you have performed well in integrating your performance across the four CGMA competencies, weighted for the appropriate level of the syllabus.
- If you have been graded *Fail*, you have not demonstrated suitable competence across all of the tasks in the case study.

Sectional feedback — ‘grade descriptors’.

You will be awarded a performance rating (*Strong*, *Moderate* or *Fail*) for each competency (Technical, Business, People and Leadership) and for integration. For each of these elements, we have developed a set of grade descriptors.

Grade descriptors are a useful and objective way of describing the standards of achievement that candidates demonstrate to award a particular level of performance. The descriptors are based on the skills and/or abilities expected for different occupational roles. They are part of a holistic system that recognises links between categories and progression between achievement levels.

Not many candidates are likely to be rated a *Moderate* or *Strong* across or within all competences. Most exam performances will be a mixture of grades and your final results will reflect where you sit on the balance.

The descriptors offer a generic and consistent description of the performance required to reach a particular grade in the case study exam. They can help you identify where

your performance in an individual competency may have fallen short of the general standard for the level of case study that you sat.

The three categories are described below:

Fail

You did not achieve the minimum threshold required to pass the exam for this competency.

Students will be expected to reach a minimum threshold score for each competency (about one-third of the total marks available for that competency). This is so that successful students can demonstrate that they are business-ready and show that they have a good balance of ability across competencies.

There are a few exceptions to this: where only a small number of marks exist for a particular competency, it would not be meaningful to specify a minimum threshold (this will be the case with Leadership skills at the Operational level, which only accounts for 6% of the total credit available, and also for Integration at the Operational level).

Moderate

Your performance in this competency met the threshold required, but there were weak areas where you had the potential to improve your score. Additional development of this competency is recommended to improve your performance in future exams.

Strong

You performed strongly demonstrating a high level of competency, well above the level of a minimally competent candidate.