



FSA Level I Exam Blueprint

Learning Objectives Grouped By Category

The FSA Level I exam tests a candidate's ability to satisfy the 25 Learning Objectives covered by the FSA Level I Study Guide. SASB has grouped the Learning Objectives into four categories to provide feedback to test takers who did not pass the exam and would like to receive feedback about areas for future improvement.

Exam Category: Materiality – historical and legal context

Relevant Learning Objectives (21% of exam):

- Explain the purpose and role of requiring public companies to disclose material information in SEC filings.
- Explain the current state of financial accounting (codified, standard, decision-useful) given the history and efforts of the FASB.
- Recognize key elements of Regulation S-K and other prominent legislation and what is required for disclosure (i.e. financial & non-financial information that alters the total mix of info).
- Discuss the Supreme Court definition of materiality and the implications.
- Discuss the implications of making statements about "materiality" outside of SEC filings.



Exam Category: Investors and sustainability information

Relevant Learning Objectives (22% of exam):

- Describe the trends driving demand for the disclosure of sustainability information.
- Discuss the challenges that investors have in integrating sustainability information into investment decisions (e.g. information is available, but often its quality varies, it is not comparable, and/or it lacks obvious financial implications, etc.).
- Explain why sustainability information is increasingly important to investors for investment decisions (e.g. reduced ratio of net assets to enterprise value, increased risks and opportunities, etc.).
- Describe the current state of disclosure of sustainability topics in the 10-K.
- Discuss the utility of SASB standards in investment decisions (e.g. portfolio allocation, risk/return profile, etc.).

Exam Category: Integrating sustainability into corporate management and 10-K reporting processes

Relevant Learning Objectives (26% of exam):

- Explain why the MD&A section was added to the 10-K and why it is an appropriate place for disclosure of sustainability information.
- Explain the cross-functional nature of preparing sustainability disclosures in the 10-K.
- Explain the timeline and process for 10-K disclosure.
- Discuss the stages of 10-K preparation where sustainability information could be incorporated.



- Discuss the role of SASB standards in helping companies to develop strategy for long-term value creation, and to benchmark and improve operational performance.
- Explain the influences of internal controls and third-party assurance on the data quality of sustainability information and disclosures.

Exam Category: Sustainability accounting standards and SASB

Relevant Learning Objectives (31% of exam):

- Distinguish SASB's approach (sustainability accounting) from other approaches to sustainability tracking and reporting.
- Explain the evidence basis that supports the identification of SASB disclosure topics.
- Explain the stakeholder consensus that supports the identification of SASB disclosure topics.
- Describe the criteria that guide the selection of SASB's accounting metrics.
- Explain the organization of SICs and the implications of a sustainability-based industry classification.
- Describe the components of a sustainability accounting standard and their purpose for supporting disclosure.
- Describe the principles that guide the selection of SASB's industry-specific topics for disclosure.
- Distinguish SICs sectors based on their distinct sustainability profiles.
- Describe the special disclosure considerations for multinational and diversified companies.