

DCA Examiner Report – April 2021

In summary, 16 out of 25 candidates passed. The pass mark was 53. Although it was not an easy paper, examiners were generous with spare marks and marks for format.

The highest mark was 81 and there was one non-serious attempt.

Question 5 was the best answered and question 3 the worst, although the averages across the questions were quite similar.

Some candidates answered from their own experience rather than studying the manual and missed easy marks as a result. Also, some candidates missed easy marks by not giving their answer in the format requested, such as a letter or report. In the paper there were 4 marks for format, but some candidates did not pick them up - which is careless.

Specific points on the questions are:

Question 1. Generally, well answered. Most (but not all) candidates remembered to write the answer in "Report" format. Many candidates were slightly lacking in knowledge concerning contributions in relation to an annuity contract. Eligibility and benefits were answered well across the board.

Question 2. Again, generally well answered although candidates were less conversant with the subject material. The knowledge was broadly consistent across the two parts. It was a matter of rote learning from the manual so would have been easy to pick up marks if the candidates had carefully learnt the manual.

Question 3. Most candidates made a good attempt to put the answer into a paper. The answers were quite technical so careful learning of the manual was required to score highly and whilst some candidates did this, too many did not provide sufficient detail to get good marks.

Question 4. Candidates rarely scored more than half marks omitting facts about administrators' obligations and role and the employer representative's role. However, they knew the dates and legislation well.

Question 5. Candidates either scored very highly or very poorly dependent upon their knowledge of the manual. The question was very straightforward, but candidates did need to have read the manual to answer it correctly. Most candidates omitted that short service refunds were not permitted from contract-based schemes and that the scheme rules give trustees the power to deduct tax from members.