

How to approach the Advanced Performance Management (APM) exam

The APM syllabus has five capabilities which can be summarised as follows:

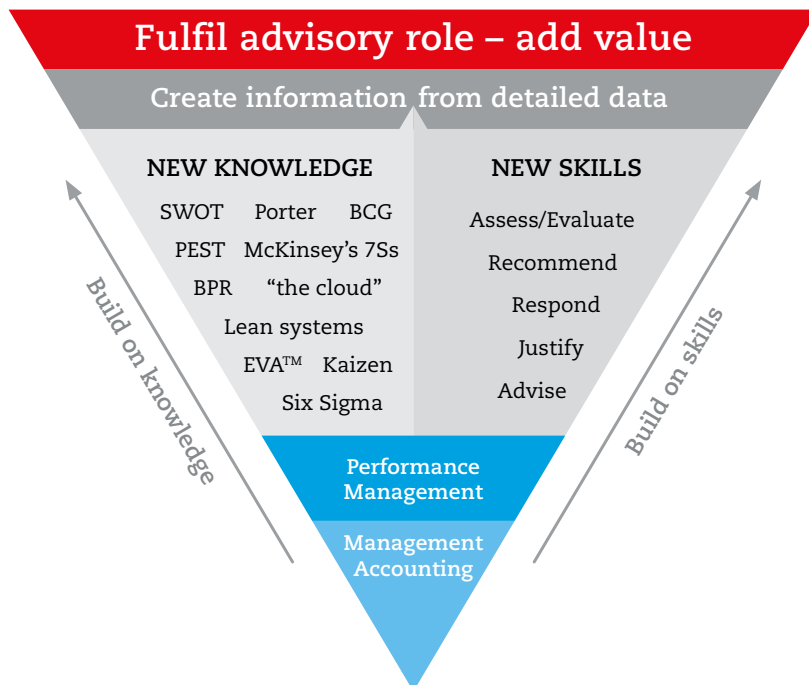
- Use *strategic* planning and control models
- **Assess** the impact of risk and uncertainty
- Identify and **evaluate** design features of performance management systems
- **Apply** appropriate *strategic* performance measurement techniques
- **Advise** clients on *strategic* business performance **evaluation**

Most of these will feature to some extent in **every** exam session.



APM – A Strategic View

The exam requires you to build on a good grasp of basic knowledge and skills and show awareness that performance management depends on an organisation's specific situation and environment.



Advice from the examining team

- Remember that APM builds on PM knowledge by applying it in more complex scenarios
- Create information from the detailed data provided in the scenario
- Add value to the organisation with comments relevant to the issues at hand



Tips for success in the APM exam

- ✓ Understand the links between issues at the strategic, tactical and operational levels
- ✓ Understand in particular how the choice of operational performance measures affects strategic performance
- ✓ Be able to apply PM knowledge to more complex scenarios
- ✓ Use any exhibit, information, model or technique explicitly referred to in a requirement
- ✓ Interpret and further analyse data provided
- ✓ Be selective in making calculations
- ✓ Assess alternative approaches from different perspectives
- ✓ Justify advice using the evidence given in the scenario
- ✓ Quantify comments, where possible
- ✓ Discuss commercial implications



Tackling the exam

Most frequently used APM exam verbs:



ASSESS



EVALUATE



ADVISE

Read [this article](#) for more about exam verbs

Writing a good answer – how to earn professional marks:



Question 1 will include 4 professional marks, typically for a report:

- Use an appropriate format
- Plan a logical structure
- Use suitable headings and subheadings
- Write clearly and concisely



Links to support resources

- [APM Study support guide](#)
- [Examiner's approach article](#)
- [Reading the requirements for APM](#)
- [Improving your APM answers](#)
- [Passing Strategic Professional exams](#)
- [How to earn professional marks](#)
- [Ethics and Professional Skills module](#)
- [Past exam questions and answers](#)
- [Examiner's reports](#)