

CII Level 4 Award in Pensions Update

Qualification specification



Personal
Finance
Society
Standards. Professionalism. Trust.

Thank you for considering study with the CII. This specification summarises the purpose and the content of this qualification to help you decide whether it meets your learning needs. The qualifications section of the CII website, unit syllabus documents and CII policies provide further detail on the features summarised here.

Qualification overview

The **CII Level 4 Award in Pensions Update** is a single unit qualification that develops and tests knowledge of pension reforms and how they impact at-retirement advice.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is particularly appropriate for:

- Retail investment advisers wanting to develop and test their knowledge of pension reforms
- Paraplanners, technical consultants and staff in related support roles with existing knowledge and experience of pensions.

Benefits for individuals and employers

Given the rapid and constant changes in the pensions landscape, you will benefit from developing your understanding of the impact of these changes.

Completion of this qualification is an indicator of your commitment, and that of your organisation, to being at the forefront of technical knowledge in areas of critical importance to your customers.

Summary of content

This single-unit qualification develops and assesses applied understanding of the:

- changes introduced by the Taxation of Pensions Act 2014;
- changes to the State pension provision from 06 April 2016;
- key factors to take into account when advising clients on their retirement income.

(R08) Pension update will be withdrawn on 31 August 2018.

Entry and professional completion requirements

Entry requirements

There are no entry requirements for this qualification. However, we recommend that you should have some existing knowledge of pensions through experience or prior study.

Additional completion requirements

There are no additional completion requirements for this qualification.

Qualification structure

Single compulsory unit

You will need to complete the following unit.

(R08) Pensions update <i>10 CII credits</i>

Learning and assessment

Learning materials provided

For units in this qualification, students typically have access to the following materials as part of their enrolment or for an additional price:

- Study text with updates (printed and e-book)
- Exam guides containing a practice exam and guidance
- RevisionMate online study support, including end of chapter tests
- Further reading suggestions

Additional or different resources may be available for some units.

Study time

Specific study time guidelines are provided for each unit on its webpage and in the CII qualifications brochure. The notional Ofqual 'Total Qualification Time' for this qualification is 50 hours.¹ This represents the time a student might typically take to complete the qualification.

Assessment format

The unit is assessed by a single multiple-choice on screen exam, tested year-round throughout the UK at a choice of over 40 centres. The qualification award will be graded fail/pass.

Further information on learning and assessment for each unit

Please ensure that you refer to the individual unit syllabus for unit-specific details:

- learning outcomes and assessment criteria
- further reading and resources
- important notes, such as the tax and legislative position that will be assessed

This is available in our syllabus menu on the qualification webpage: www.cii.co.uk/pensionsupdate

Please also select your unit from the webpage to find out about any unit updates.

¹ 'Total Qualification Time' is a term that awarding organisations are required by Ofqual (the qualifications regulator in England) to use to describe the size of qualifications. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements>

Important assessment policies

Details of terms and conditions which apply to candidates entering for assessments with the CII are set out on the CII website. By entering any assessment with the CII you agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and our assessment policies, which can be found in our exam policies page: www.cii.co.uk/exampolicies

Fair access to our qualifications

The CII acts at all times to ensure that no unfair barriers apply to those seeking to gain the qualifications it offers. If, due to disability or illness, you may require adjustments in order to access an assessment, please read the access arrangements and reasonable adjustments policy and contact the CII Customer Service team as soon as possible to discuss how we can meet your needs. Further details are provided here: www.cii.co.uk/exampolicies/#Accessibility

QSAPU201803