

How to approach the Advanced Performance Management (APM) exam

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

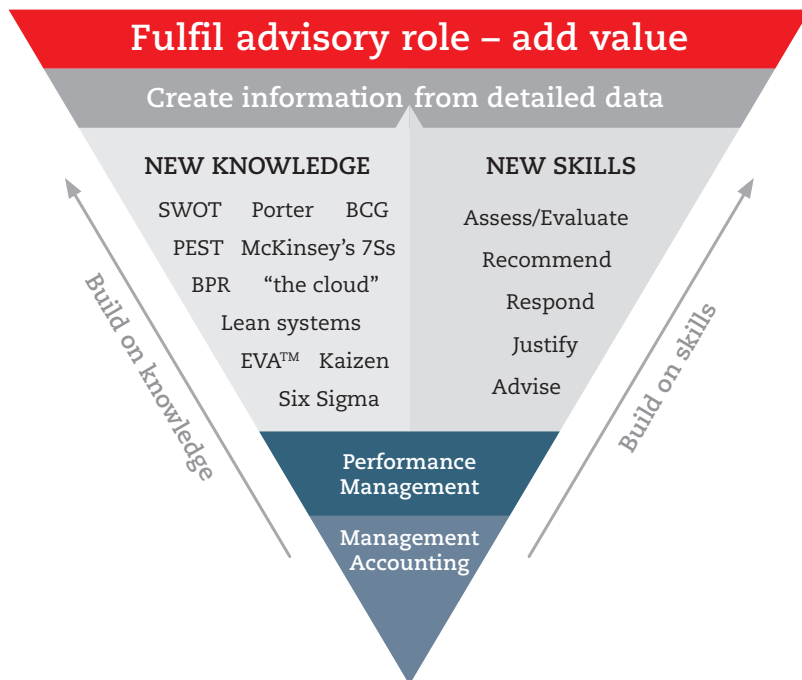
- Use *strategic* planning and control models
- **Assess** the impact of risk and uncertainty
- Identify and **evaluate** design features of performance management systems
- **Apply** appropriate *strategic* performance measurement techniques
- **Advise** clients on *strategic* business performance **evaluation**

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

- ✓ Visit **this page** for guidance on how to approach question practice, including using the ACCA Practice Platform
- ✓ 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

How to earn professional skills marks:

The APM exam has 20 marks for demonstrating professional skills



- **Communication**
Section A questions require a report
Use appropriate headings and sub-headings, and clear, concise language
Answer the question asked!
- **Analysis and evaluation**
Analysis or evaluation must be relevant to the organisation and their situation
- **Scepticism**
Have a questioning mindset that challenges information, evidence and assumptions
- **Commercial acumen**
Demonstrate your understanding of what is appropriate in different types of organisation and different contexts
Draw appropriate conclusions and make properly informed decisions which are appropriate to the scenario



Links to support resources

- [Examining team guidance](#)
- [Examiner's reports](#)
- [Reading the requirements for APM](#)
- [Technical articles](#)
- [Passing Strategic Professional exams](#)
- [Professional skills marks](#)
- [Ethics and Professional Skills module](#)
- [Past exam questions and answers](#)
- [Practice exams in the Practice Platform](#)
- [Strategic Professional CBE support](#)
- [FAQs](#)