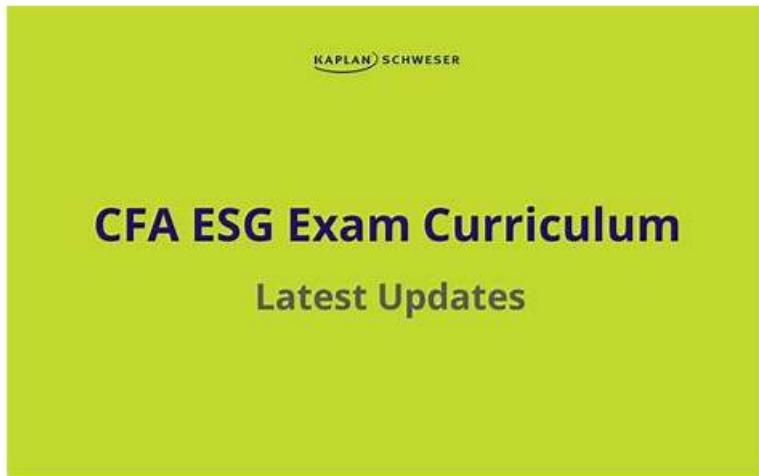


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## CFA Institute Sustainable-Investing Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Social Factors: Focused on Social Analysts and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Professionals, this domain reviews social factors impacting investments. It includes systemic relationships and material impacts related to labor practices, diversity, equity, inclusion, and social opportunities at multiple levels.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Environmental Factors: This section measures skills of Environmental Analysts and Sustainability Specialists by exploring environmental issues such as climate change, resource management, biodiversity, and pollution. It covers systematic relationships, material impacts, and methodologies for environmental analysis at country, sector, and company levels.</li></ul>

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to ESG Investing: This section of the exam measures skills of Investment Analysts and Portfolio Managers and covers the foundational concepts of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing. It focuses on defining ESG investment, different responsible investment approaches, sustainability concepts, benefits and challenges of ESG integration, and key global initiatives in ESG.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Portfolio Construction and Management: Targeting Portfolio Managers and Investment Strategists, this section discusses ESG integration into portfolio construction. It covers ESG screening approaches, benchmarking, the effect on risk-return profiles, and managing ESG portfolios across various asset classes.</li> </ul>

## CFA Institute Sustainable Investing Certificate (CFA-SIC) Exam Sample Questions (Q268-Q273):

### NEW QUESTION # 268

A company is accused of surveying employees to prevent them from forming a union. The decision of an asset manager to divest from holding shares in the company is an example of:

- A. idiosyncratic exclusion.
- B. universal exclusion.
- C. **conduct-related exclusion.**

### Answer: C

Explanation:

Conduct-related exclusions are applied when a company is excluded from an investment portfolio due to specific behaviors or incidents that violate certain ethical or legal standards. In this case, the exclusion is based on the company's actions rather than the nature of its business.

Conduct-Related Exclusion: This type of exclusion arises from specific behaviors or practices that are deemed unethical or illegal. Examples include violations of labor rights, corruption, environmental damage, or other significant breaches of conduct. The decision to divest from a company accused of preventing union formation fits this category as it directly relates to the company's conduct.

Universal Exclusion: This refers to broad-based exclusions applied to entire sectors or industries based on certain ethical principles or ESG criteria. It is not specific to the behavior of individual companies but rather to the nature of the industry.

Idiosyncratic Exclusion: These are exclusions that do not have broad consensus and are based on individual or specific institutional criteria. They are not generally applied universally or based on common ethical standards.

### NEW QUESTION # 269

Stewardship codes initially focused on which of the following asset classes?

- A. Fixed income
- B. **Public equities**
- C. Private equity

### Answer: B

Explanation:

Stewardship codes were first developed with a focus on public equity investments, where investors have voting rights and shareholder engagement opportunities. Over time, stewardship expectations have expanded to include other asset classes, but public equities remain the core area of engagement and governance focus.

"Stewardship codes... tend to reveal an initial focus in practice on public equity investment. The stewardship thought process both by regulators and by investors is most developed in public equities." This reflects the strong tradition of shareholder activism and proxy voting in public markets, which provide direct mechanisms for investors to influence corporate behavior.

### NEW QUESTION # 270

When portfolio managers upload their portfolios onto third-party ESG data provider online platforms, most of these platforms are capable of:

- A. producing a measure of the portfolio's relative carbon exposure
- B. illustrating the portfolio's weighting to high-scoring companies on ESG metrics
- C. calculating an exact overall controversy or risk score for the portfolio

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

When portfolio managers upload their portfolios onto third-party ESG data provider online platforms, most of these platforms are capable of producing a measure of the portfolio's relative carbon exposure.

Carbon Exposure Measurement: ESG data platforms typically offer tools to measure the carbon footprint of a portfolio, providing insights into the portfolio's exposure to carbon-intensive companies.

ESG Metrics: These platforms use company-level data on greenhouse gas emissions and other related metrics to calculate and compare the carbon exposure of different portfolios relative to benchmarks or peer groups.

Risk and Controversy Scores: While platforms may offer some insights into controversies or risk scores, these are often estimates and not exact calculations. The primary focus is usually on relative exposure measures like carbon intensity.

CFA ESG Investing Reference:

The CFA Institute's guidance on ESG data providers highlights the importance of carbon exposure metrics as a key component of portfolio analysis, enabling managers to understand and manage their environmental impact.

**NEW QUESTION # 271**

Which of the following is a form of individual engagement?

- A. Informal discussions
- B. Generic letter
- C. Soliciting support

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Individual engagement refers to direct and personal interactions between investors and companies. Informal discussions are a form of individual engagement where investors engage directly with company representatives to discuss specific concerns, insights, or feedback related to ESG issues.

Direct Interaction: Informal discussions involve direct communication between the investor and the company. This can be through meetings, phone calls, or casual conversations, providing a platform for open and candid dialogue.

Specific and Personalized: These discussions are tailored to the specific company and the investor's concerns. Unlike generic letters, which are broad and non-specific, informal discussions allow for detailed and nuanced conversations.

Relationship Building: Informal discussions help build and strengthen relationships between investors and company representatives. This can lead to more effective communication and collaboration on ESG matters.

Reference:

MSCI ESG Ratings Methodology (2022) - Highlights the importance of direct engagement and relationship building in effective ESG integration.

ESG-Ratings-Methodology-Exec-Summary (2022) - Discusses various forms of engagement, emphasizing the value of personalized and informal interactions.

**NEW QUESTION # 272**

To be aligned with the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities, economic activities should make a substantive contribution to:

- A. At least one of the environmental objectives.
- B. Each of the environmental objectives.
- C. One or more of the environmental objectives that outweighs any significant harm made to others.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities requires that an economic activity must make a substantial contribution to at least one environmental objective (Option B), while not causing significant harm to the others. The six key objectives include:

Climate change mitigation

Climate change adaptation

Sustainable use of water and marine resources

## Transition to a circular economy

## Pollution prevention and control

## Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

Option A is incorrect because a company does not need to contribute to all six objectives.

Option C is incorrect because the taxonomy requires strict compliance with the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle, meaning activities must not harm other objectives, not just outweigh harm.

## References:

## EU Taxonomy Regulation (2020/852)

## EU Platform on Sustainable Finance Reports

## European Commission: Sustainable Finance Strategy

## NEW QUESTION # 273

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