

# Exam Questions Sustainable-Investing Vce & Latest Sustainable-Investing Exam Topics

## Exam Questions Sustainable Development

### Question - block 1 (Introductory lecture)

This course is about sustainable development in a global context. Please respond to the following questions:

- a. What is the most common definition of sustainable development and why is this concept highly contested (give a minimum of three reasons)? 5 points
- b. What is the ladder of sustainable development and how are its extreme ends defined? 5 points

### Question - block 2 (High consumption economies)

Like no other region in the world, the EU has a strong declaratory/constitutional commitment to sustainable development.

- a) Please describe briefly how the legal commitment developed in the EU. 5 points
- b) How would you describe the EU environmental policy integration? 5 points

### Question - block 4 (Least developed countries)

- a) The first President of Tanzania was Julius Nyerere. He ruled in the period after the country became independent from the UK. He once said: "Africans produce what they do not consume and consume what they do not produce. That has become the basis for African economic enslavement." Give an example of a product (or product type) that Africa produces but does not consume, and an example of a product (or product type) that Africa consumes but does produce. 5 points
- b) Critical thinkers belonging to the "dependency movement" argue that it is very hard to change this dominant pattern of Africa's production and consumption and the structural poverty and inequality that accompany it, because "late-comer" countries cannot easily free themselves from historical hard and soft structures and institutions. What is meant by hard structures and soft structures in this connection? 5 points
- c) People in the least developed countries have some positive expectations from the UNSustainable development negotiation processes as conducted in global UN conferences (see the Table below). At the same time, they have fears that these expectations will not be realised, and that they will be saddled with negative consequences and impacts in reality. Please complete the right side of the table by briefly indicating the nature of these fears. In each row of the table, the right hand side should indicate the flip side (negative mirror image) of the positive expectations on the left hand side. 5 points

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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>• <b>Introduction to ESG Investing:</b> 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 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engagement and Stewardship:</b> Designed for Asset Managers and Stewardship Professionals, this domain covers investor engagement strategies and stewardship principles. It highlights the purpose, importance, key principles, and practical application of engagement tactics within responsible investing frameworks.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Factors:</b> 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 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Integrated Portfolio Construction and Management:</b> 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>
Topic 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ESG Analysis, Valuation, and Integration:</b> This domain measures the capabilities of Portfolio Managers and Equity Analysts to integrate ESG factors into investment decision-making. It addresses challenges of integration, the impact on industry and company performance, security valuation, and approaches to ESG data analysis across asset classes.</li> </ul>

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## CFA Institute Sustainable Investing Certificate (CFA-SIC) Exam Sample Questions (Q717-Q722):

### NEW QUESTION # 717

A discount retailer facing high employee turnover due to poor working conditions will most likely experience:

- A. an adverse impact on revenues
- B. significant liabilities
- C. greater operating costs.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

A discount retailer facing high employee turnover due to poor working conditions will most likely experience greater operating costs. High employee turnover can lead to several cost-related challenges that impact the overall efficiency and profitability of the business. Recruitment and Training Costs: High turnover rates necessitate frequent recruitment and training of new employees. These activities incur significant costs in terms of time, resources, and money.

Productivity Losses: Frequent turnover can lead to disruptions in operations and lower productivity. New employees may take time to reach the productivity levels of their predecessors, leading to inefficiencies.

Quality and Customer Service: Poor working conditions and high turnover can negatively affect the quality of service and customer satisfaction. Consistent service quality is critical in retail, and turnover can result in inconsistent customer experiences, potentially reducing revenue.

References:

MSCI ESG Ratings Methodology (2022) - Discusses the financial impact of high employee turnover on operating costs and overall business performance.

### NEW QUESTION # 718

In the context of effective corporate governance, the use of alternative performance metrics (APMs) most directly raises questions about:

- A. Director independence
- B. Board structure
- C. Reporting and transparency

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Alternative Performance Metrics (APMs) refer to non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) financial measures that companies use to adjust reported earnings (e.g., EBITDA adjustments, pro forma earnings). The use of APMs raises concerns about reporting transparency, as they may be used to mask poor financial performance or manipulate investor perceptions. Strong corporate governance requires companies to clearly disclose the rationale for APMs, ensuring consistency and avoiding misleading representations.

References:

IFRS Guidelines on APM Disclosures

CFA Institute Corporate Governance Handbook

SEC Regulations on Non-GAAP Financial Measures

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### NEW QUESTION # 719

Which of the following ESG integration techniques is an example of policy engagement? An investor:

- A. Responding to a regulator's public consultation on ESG issues
- B. Voting on resolutions at an investee company's annual general meeting
- C. Embedding ESG into their strategic asset allocation program

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Policy engagement refers to efforts by investors to influence regulatory frameworks. An example of this would be responding to a regulator's public consultation on ESG issues, thereby contributing to the development of ESG policies that can drive broader change across markets and industries. ESG Reference:

Chapter 6, Page 280 - Engagement and Stewardship in the ESG textbook.

### NEW QUESTION # 720

The first step in the effective design of a client ESG investment mandate is to:

- A. Clarify client needs and set them out in a clear statement of ESG investment beliefs
- B. Ensure client ESG investment beliefs are reflected in the fund manager's investment approach
- C. Tailor the ESG investment approach to client expectations

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The first step in designing an ESG mandate is to clarify client objectives and document their ESG investment beliefs.

Why B (clarify needs and investment beliefs) is correct:

Establishes clear goals for ESG integration

Aligns expectations with investment strategy

Why not A or C?

A (Tailoring the approach) happens after defining client beliefs.

C (Fund manager alignment) is important but comes after client needs are established.

Reference:

### NEW QUESTION # 721

An asset owner inquiring within a request for proposal (RFP) if the asset manager has an explicit objective to "generate a positive, measurable ESG outcome alongside a financial return" is most likely aligned with a(n):

- A. Best-in-class investing approach.
- **B. Impact investing approach.**
- C. ESG-related exclusions investing approach.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Impact investing seeks to generate positive, measurable social or environmental outcomes alongside financial returns.

Why A (impact investing) is correct:

Impact investors explicitly aim for measurable ESG outcomes, such as reducing carbon emissions or improving social equity.

Example: Funds investing in affordable housing, renewable energy, or microfinance.

Why not B or C?

B (Best-in-class) refers to selecting the top ESG performers, not necessarily requiring measurable ESG outcomes.

C (Exclusions-based) avoids certain sectors but does not actively generate ESG impact.

Reference:

Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) Guide on Impact Investing (2023)

### NEW QUESTION # 722

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