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CFA Institute Sustainable-Investing Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	ESG Analysis, Valuation, and Integration: 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.
Topic 2	Governance: This section assesses skills of Governance Analysts and Compliance Officers concerning governance structures. It covers key characteristics and models of governance, material impacts, diversity, equity, and inclusion considerations, and shareholder rights.
Topic 3	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.
Topic 4	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.
Topic 5	The ESG Market: This domain targets Financial Analysts and Institutional Investors, examining the size, scope, relevance, and key drivers of the ESG market. It also discusses risks and opportunities within the ESG investment landscape, helping candidates understand market dynamics and trends.

CFA Institute Sustainable-Investing Learning Materials & Sustainable-Investing Exam Forum

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CFA Institute Sustainable Investing Certificate (CFA-SIC) Exam Sample Questions (Q134-Q139):

NEW QUESTION # 134

Which of the following statements is most accurate? Assessments of the level of ESG capabilities of different fund managers:

- A. Only use data from audited data sources
- B. Are comparable
- C. Are performed using different methodologies

Answer: C

Explanation:

ESG assessments of fund managers vary widely because different providers use proprietary methodologies, data sources, and weightings. There is no universal standard for measuring ESG integration across asset managers, leading to inconsistencies in ratings. For instance, MSCI, Sustainalytics, and FTSE Russell all have different scoring models, leading to variations in ESG rankings for the same fund manager.

References:

Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) Guide on ESG Evaluation

CFA Institute ESG Integration Framework

MSCI vs. Sustainalytics ESG Rating Methodologies

NEW QUESTION # 135

One of the main principles of stewardship codes calls for institutional investors to:

- A. act independently of other investors when escalating stewardship activity
- B. avoid considering conflicts of interest regarding stewardship matters.
- C. regularly monitor investee companies

Answer: C

Explanation:

Principle of Monitoring:

Regular monitoring of investee companies is a fundamental principle in stewardship codes, ensuring that institutional investors remain informed about the companies in which they invest and can effectively engage with them on ESG and performance issues.

According to the CFA Institute, continuous monitoring allows investors to identify potential risks and opportunities, engage with company management, and advocate for improvements in governance and practices.

Stewardship Codes:

Stewardship codes, such as the UK Stewardship Code and the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) Global Stewardship Principles, emphasize the importance of regular monitoring as part of responsible investment practices.

The CFA Institute highlights that these codes provide frameworks and guidelines for institutional investors to follow, promoting transparency, accountability, and proactive engagement with investee companies.

Engagement and Escalation:

Regular monitoring enables investors to engage with companies on a continuous basis, addressing issues as they arise and escalating concerns if necessary. This ongoing engagement is crucial for effective stewardship and long-term value creation.

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) also advocate for regular monitoring and engagement, encouraging investors to take an active role in improving corporate behavior and sustainability practices.

Examples of Monitoring Activities:

Monitoring activities include reviewing financial statements, ESG reports, meeting with company management, and participating in shareholder meetings. These activities help investors stay informed and influence corporate strategies and practices.

The CFA Institute notes that effective monitoring involves a comprehensive approach, integrating financial analysis with ESG considerations to provide a holistic view of investee companies.

Reference:

CFA Institute, "Environmental, Social, and Governance Issues in Investing: A Guide for Investment Professionals." UK Stewardship Code and ICGN Global Stewardship Principles documents, which outline the principles of regular monitoring and engagement.

NEW QUESTION # 136

According to the Capitals Coalition, the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people is best described as

- A. natural capital.
- B. nature
- C. ecosystem assets

Answer: A

Explanation:

According to the Capitals Coalition, the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people is best described as natural capital. Here's a detailed explanation:

Natural Capital:

Natural capital refers to the world's stocks of natural assets including geology, soil, air, water, and all living things. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of ecosystem services that make human life possible.

The Capitals Coalition defines natural capital as the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (such as plants, animals, air, water, soils, and minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people.

CFA ESG Investing References:

The CFA Institute's ESG curriculum discusses natural capital extensively, emphasizing its importance in sustainable investing and the need for integrating natural capital considerations into financial decision-making.

NEW QUESTION # 137

In order to safeguard the independence of the external auditor, European Union (EU) regulation:

- A. obliges public companies to change auditors after ten years at most.
- B. obliges public companies to tender the audit after five years.
- C. limits the scale and scope of non-audit services an audit firm may provide to clients.

Answer: C

Explanation:

EU regulation aims to strengthen audit independence by limiting the range of non-audit services that an audit firm can provide to its audit clients. This ensures that external auditors remain objective and do not have conflicting commercial interests. Mandatory tendering and rotation also exist (five and ten years), but the core focus of independence requirements is restricting non-audit services to reduce potential conflicts of interest.

NEW QUESTION # 138

Green investment is a broad sub-category of:

- A. Philanthropy.
- B. Ethical investment.
- C. Thematic investment.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Green investment focuses on funding projects and companies that contribute to environmental sustainability, such as renewable energy, carbon capture, and energy efficiency.

Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (GSIA) Green Investing Report (2022)

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