

AF4 Knowledge Checker

Understanding the AF4 syllabus, will help familiarise yourself with the areas tested in the AF4 exam, and ‘where the examiner is coming from’ in relation to the style of questions asked.



Therefore, it is worth spending some time here, and using a checklist of areas you need to revise and be comfortable with technically before you start looking and practicing on exam-style questions.

To be as helpful as we can, we have come up with our own checklist to assist you, using red, amber and green so that you can select how confident you are in each area. Completing this table at the start of your study of the unit, and then again in the weeks leading up to the exam, will help you to check your progress and identify where to focus your efforts.

Indicate, with a tick in the relevant columns, which subjects you feel you have secure knowledge of, and which you think still need some (or a lot of) work.

Learning Outcome 1 – The Economic environment	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
The Economic Environment			
International markets			
Economic and financial cycles			
Fiscal and monetary policy			
Money Supply			
Systematic and non-systematic risk			
Inflation, deflation and disinflation			
Interest rates			
Credit risks			
Currencies and exchange rates			
Balance of payments			
Role of financial investment in the economy			
Diversification			

Learning Outcome 2 – Direct Investments	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
Cash Investments			
Total Return, AER / APR or Effective Annual Rate, Annualised Return, Real vs Nominal Returns			
Fixed-interest securities			
Equities			
Property			
Alternative Investments			

Learning Outcome 3 – Collective Investments	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
Indirect investment products			
Unit trusts			
Open-ended investment companies			
Unit trust and OEIC management services			
Offshore funds			
Closed-ended funds; investment trust companies			
Life assurance-based investments			
Exchange traded products			
Property based investments			
Private Equity			
Annuities			
Derivatives			
Hedge funds and funds of hedge funds			
Absolute return funds			
Structured products			
Sharia-compliant investments			
Tax-efficient wrappers			

Learning Outcome 4 – Company Performance	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
Company accounts			
Financial Statements			
Analysing companies			

Learning Outcome 5 – Risk and Returns	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
Return calculations			
Risk management			
Investment theories			
Performance measurement			

Learning Outcome 6 – Investment Portfolio management	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
Portfolio construction			
Portfolio optimisation			
Portfolio creation considerations			
Management styles			
Monitoring performance			

Learning Outcome 7 – Portfolio management services and the advice process	Knowledge Gap	Working Towards	Secure
Providing investment advice			
Risk profiling			
Defining objectives			
Asset allocation			
Fund selection			
Wrapper selection			
Platform selection			
Investment policy statement			
Investment reviews			
Investment management services			
Drawing income from a portfolio			

What next?

Having worked through your technical check list, and probably identified a long ‘to do’ list, you may now be thinking what is the next step from here?

The first thing we would recommend is that you take a look through our AF4 Study Plan for your sitting, you can find all of our study plans by visiting <https://careerszone.bespoketrainingsolutions.com/study-support/> or by scanning this QR Code.



What support is offered by Bespoke Training Solutions for your AF4 exam?

Study: If you haven’t yet ordered your **BTS study guide**, we would recommend that this is your next step in your learning journey.



BTS study guides are available in a choice of two formats: printed or digital, in a way that starts at the beginning of each learning outcome and gradually builds knowledge and understanding as you work through.

This means that you learn the required areas for your exam ‘step by step’.

The guides are designed as full replacements for the CII text, so you can book the exam stand-alone.

They contain practice questions, end of chapter tests and a full specimen exam, all of which include rationale for the answers. BTS questions replicate the CII exam standard as closely as possible.

Why enrol on our AF4 Coaching Support Programme?



Are you planning to take the AF4 exam in October but feeling unsure about where to begin? Our comprehensive course is designed to cater to all learning styles and follows the BTS' **Read Watch Practise** approach. This structured course aims to give you the best chance of achieving success in this challenging unit.

Whilst you read through the BTS Study Guide chapters, we will provide you with five recorded webinars to further enhance your understanding.

Additionally, we understand the importance of putting your knowledge into practice. Therefore, a week after each recording, we will host a live webinar where you can practice answering different types of questions that may appear in the AF4 exam.

To consolidate your learning, we have included two workshop days at the end of the course. Furthermore, you will have access to trainer support through the BTS forums, and all recordings will be available to you until your exam date. We believe that those who prefer a more hands-on approach will greatly benefit from and even enjoy our AF4 Coaching Support package.

You will be amazed at what you learn by being part of this cohort and 'having a go' at the questions. Technical areas that may come up will be covered and revised, and group discussions around possible questions and answers will help a lot.

AF4 coaching support sessions are available for each sitting of the exam. If you can't see a date that works for you, get in touch to ask about more options.

To book your space, go to: <https://www.bespoketrainingsolutions.com/product-category/event-ticket/> or scan the QR Code.

