

2026 Level I Topic Outlines

Corporate Issuers

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Organizational Forms, Corporate Issuer Features, and Ownership

The candidate should be able to:

- ☐ compare the organizational forms of businesses
- ☐ describe key features of corporate issuers
- ☐ compare publicly and privately owned corporate issuers

Investors and Other Stakeholders

The candidate should be able to:

- ☐ compare the financial claims and motivations of lenders and shareholders
- ☐ describe a company's stakeholder groups and compare their interests
- ☐ describe environmental, social, and governance factors of corporate issuers considered by investors

Corporate Governance: Conflicts, Mechanisms, Risks, and Benefits

The candidate should be able to:

- ☐ describe the principal-agent relationship and conflicts that may arise between stakeholder groups
- ☐ describe corporate governance and mechanisms to manage stakeholder relationships and mitigate associated risks
- ☐ describe potential risks of poor corporate governance and stakeholder management and benefits of effective corporate governance and stakeholder management

Working Capital and Liquidity

The candidate should be able to:

- explain the cash conversion cycle and compare issuers' cash conversion cycles
- explain liquidity and compare issuers' liquidity levels
- describe issuers' objectives and compare methods for managing working capital and liquidity

Capital Investments and Capital Allocation

The candidate should be able to:

- describe types of capital investments
- describe the capital allocation process, calculate net present value (NPV), internal rate of return (IRR), and return on invested capital (ROIC), and contrast their use in capital allocation
- describe principles of capital allocation and common capital allocation pitfalls
- describe types of real options relevant to capital investments

Capital Structure

The candidate should be able to:

- calculate and interpret the weighted-average cost of capital for a company
- explain factors affecting capital structure and the weighted-average cost of capital
- explain the Modigliani–Miller propositions regarding capital structure
- describe optimal and target capital structures

Business Models

The candidate should be able to:

- describe key features of business models
- describe various types of business models