

R01 Regulation & Ethics

Exam Overview

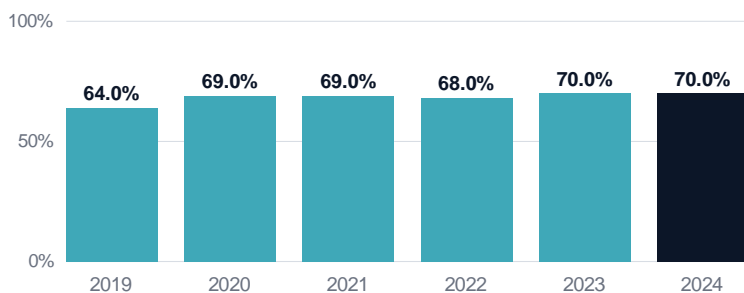


R01 Financial Services, Regulation & Ethics is the foundation unit of the CII Level 4 Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning, and is often the first R0 exam candidates sit. It is a 100-question multiple-choice paper covering the structure of UK financial services, regulators, the FCA's principles and rules, and the Code of Ethics. The challenge is breadth: the syllabus is wide and the questions are precise.

This guide is a primer. It covers the format, the marking, the study approach that works for time-poor working advisers, and the most common reasons candidates underperform. Use it to plan your preparation. For the deep-dive tactical material — 300+ MCQs, full mock papers and topic-by-topic explanations — see R0 Hub's full R01 preparation suite at r0hub.com.

Two-Hour Exam ✓ 100 multiple-choice questions in 2 hours.	Foundation Unit ✓ Often the first R0 exam candidates take.	100 Total questions — 87 standard + 13 multi-response.	65% CII pass mark — fixed for every sitting.
Sit On Demand ✓ Computer-based — book at a test centre or sit remotely.	Question Types ✓ 87 standard MCQ + 13 multi-response (all options must be right).	60 hrs Typical study time — more if you're new to financial services.	20 credits Credits at RQF Level 4 toward the Diploma.

National Pass Rates



Recent trend: 70%

R01 pass rates have crept up steadily from 64% in 2019 to 70% in 2024. Around three in ten candidates still fail at each sitting — typically because they underestimate the breadth or stumble on the multi-response questions. The pass mark is fixed at 65%.

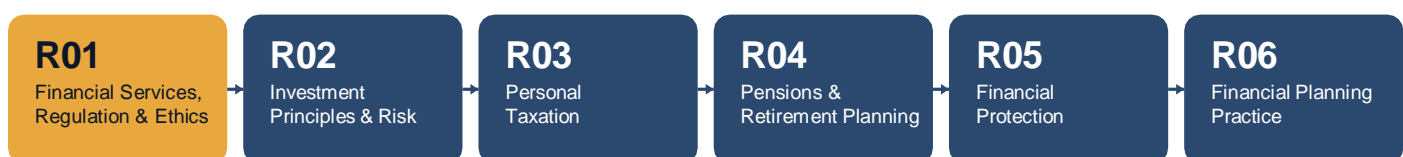
Source: National pass rate data published by the CII (collated by Wizard Learning and Brand Financial Training).

Topics That Recur in Every Sitting

Regulators FCA, PRA, FOS, FSCS — by far the heaviest learning outcome (29 questions).	Code of Ethics CII Code, principles, individual conduct rules — appears every sitting.	FSCS / FOS Compensation limits and ombudsman award limits — know the figures cold.	Advice Process The six steps, fact-find, suitability — frequent multi-response area.	Legal Concepts Trusts, contract, agency, capacity — basics tested every paper.
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Where R01 Sits in the Diploma

R01 is the foundation. It introduces the regulatory framework that every other R0 unit assumes you already know.



How to Prepare

Building Your R01 Study Plan



Preparation Strategy

Where you spend your time matters more than how much time you spend.

A practical study framework for time-poor working advisers — by R0 Hub

When to Start Studying

8–12 weeks

If new to financial services.

4–6 weeks

If working in regulated advice.

R01's challenge is breadth, not depth. The CII study text exceeds 360 pages, but every topic is examined at a relatively shallow level. The strongest candidates focus their time on Learning Outcome 5 (regulators) — 29 of the 100 questions sit here — and on the multi-response section, where partial credit is rare. Volume of practice questions matters more than re-reading the textbook.

How to Study

- Drown in MCQs.**
Past-style practice questions are the single biggest predictor of a pass. Aim for at least 1,000 before exam day.
- Master Learning Outcome 5 first.**
29% of the paper. FCA, PRA, FOS, FSCS, principles, conduct rules — every sitting tests this hardest.
- Drill multi-response separately.**
Each of the 13 multi-response questions needs every correct option. Treat them as a distinct skill.
- Memorise the headline figures.**
FSCS deposit limit, FOS award limits, key thresholds — questions assume you know them cold.
- Read each question twice.**
CII wording is precise. 'Most likely', 'must', 'may' and 'except' all change the answer.

Key Facts

Format	100 MCQs (87 std + 13 multi)
Duration	2 hours
Pass Mark	65%
Latest Pass Rate	70% (2024)
Sittings	Year-round, computer-based
Recommended Study	60 hours
Credits	20 (RQF Level 4)
Heaviest LO	LO5 — 29 of 100 questions
Results	Provisional on screen at end

Common Mistakes

- Treating R01 as the easy starter exam.
- Skipping multi-response practice entirely.
- Memorising figures that have since changed.
- Underestimating the weight of LO5.
- Reading questions too quickly.
- Confusing FOS with FSCS.
- Ignoring recent regulatory changes.

The Final Two Weeks

How the strongest candidates spend the fortnight before sitting R01.

Days 1–2

Sit a baseline mock. See where you stand against 65%.

Days 3–6

Hit weak topics from the mock. Lean heavily on LO5 if needed.

Days 7–10

Multi-response intensive. Drill these until they feel routine.

Days 11–13

Full mock under timed conditions. Mark the gaps.

Day 14

Light review. Reread the Code of Ethics. Sleep well.

Question Mix: A Quick Reference

Every question is worth 1 mark. You need 65 to pass — but the question types behave very differently.

87 standard

One correct answer from four options. Most of the paper.

13 multi-response

All correct options must be selected. No partial credit.

65 to pass

65% pass mark — fixed. Score 65 of 100 questions correctly.

~72 sec each

Pace at roughly one minute fifteen per question to bank review time.

Tips for Success

○○○ What the Markers Reward



Why Candidates Fail

The five reasons that come up year after year — and how to avoid each one.

Synthesised from CII candidate feedback and tutor observations across recent R01 sittings.

1 Multi-response questions are the killer.
13 of the 100 questions need every correct option ticked. Most candidates can pick two of three right answers — but no partial credit means a wrong tick costs the whole mark.

2 Learning Outcome 5 decides the result.
29 questions test the regulators (FCA, PRA, FOS, FSCS) and the regulatory framework. Candidates who treat this as 'one topic among many' run out of marks.

3 Breadth gets underestimated.
R01 covers nine learning outcomes across 360+ pages of study text. Candidates who skim assume they're ready, sit a mock, and discover otherwise.

4 FSCS, FOS and key thresholds aren't memorised.
Compensation limits, ombudsman award limits and reporting thresholds appear every sitting. They have to be instant recall — there is no time to think.

5 Question wording is misread.
'Most likely', 'must', 'except' and 'best describes' are all distinctions that change the answer. CII wording is precise — read every question twice.

Quick Wins on Exam Day

- Flag uncertain questions and come back — never get stuck early.
- If you can eliminate two of four, even guessing the rest pays off.
- Watch for absolute words like 'must', 'always', 'never' — often a clue.

- On multi-response, only tick options you're sure are correct.
- Use the test centre's scratch paper to note FSCS/FOS limits at the start.
- Reserve the last 10 minutes to review every flagged question.

R0 Hub by the Numbers

300+

MCQs in our R01 question bank

Mocks

Full mock exams with detailed answers

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Learning outcomes covered in full

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Lifetime access

Your R01 toolkit, all in one place

R0 Hub gives serious R01 candidates the tactical edge:

- 300+ R01 MCQs covering the full syllabus
- Detailed explanations to help you dig deeper
- Timed exam simulations or practice mode
- Weak area and progress tracking
- Complete R01 exam guide
- An adviser available to answer any questions
- Filter by topic or learning outcome and build custom exams

Find the full R01 suite at r0hub.com.