

# R05 Financial Protection

Exam Overview

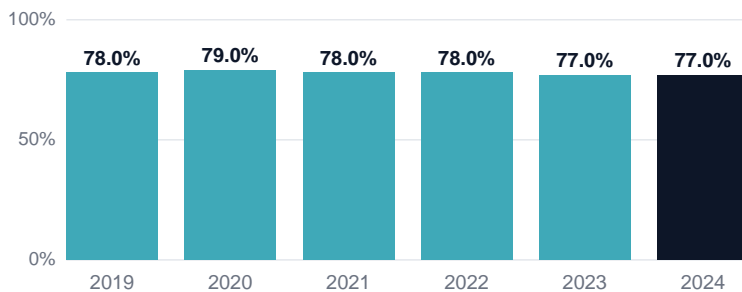


R05 Financial Protection is the protection unit of the CII Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning. It is a 50-question multiple-choice paper covering life cover, critical illness cover, income protection, long-term care, State benefits, business protection and the use of trusts in protection planning. Uniquely among the R0 series, R05 is an RQF Level 3 unit and contains no multi-response questions — every question has a single correct answer.

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, build-your-own mock exams and one-to-one expert support — see R0 Hub's full R05 preparation suite at [r0hub.com](https://r0hub.com).

<b>One-Hour Exam</b> ✓ 50 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes.	<b>Protection Unit</b> ✓ Life, CIC, IP, LTC, State benefits, business protection.	<b>50</b> Total questions — all standard MCQ. No multi-response.	<b>70%</b> CII pass mark — 35 of 50 to pass. Higher than other R0s.
<b>Sit On Demand</b> ✓ Computer-based — book any working day at a test centre.	<b>RQF Level 3</b> ✓ Only Level 3 unit in the R0 series — others are Level 4.	<b>40 hrs</b> Lighter study load than other R0 units — but still serious.	<b>10 cr</b> Credits at RQF Level 3 toward the Diploma.

## National Pass Rates



### Recent trend: 77%

R05 has the highest pass rate of any R0 unit and has held above 75% in every recent year. That reflects the unit being RQF Level 3 (rather than Level 4) and containing no multi-response questions. But the pass mark is also higher: 70%, not the 65% used elsewhere. Around one in four candidates still fail.

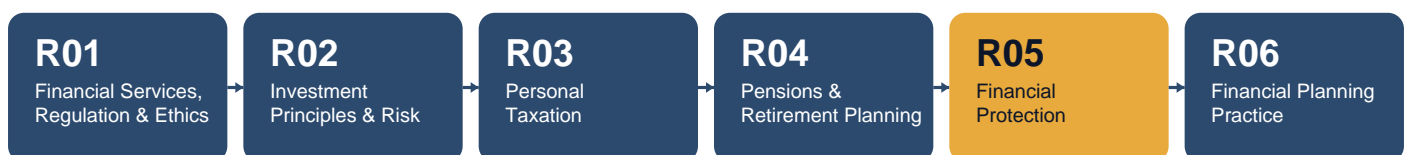
Source: National pass rate data published by the CII (collated by Wizard Learning and Brand Financial Training).

## Topics That Recur in Every Sitting

<b>Life Cover</b> Term, whole life, FIB, joint vs single — features and uses.	<b>CIC &amp; IP</b> Critical illness vs income protection — definitions, deferred periods.	<b>State Benefits</b> Statutory Sick Pay, ESA, PIP, Universal Credit interaction.	<b>Business Protection</b> Key person, shareholder, partnership, relevant life cover.	<b>Trusts &amp; Tax</b> Trusts for life cover; income tax and IHT treatment of products.
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## Where R05 Sits in the Diploma

R05 is the protection unit. Many candidates start here for the confidence boost — it's the only Level 3 unit in the series.



# How to Prepare

Building Your R05 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

**5–8 weeks**

If new to protection.

**3–5 weeks**

If you advise on protection.

R05 is the gentlest R0 unit on paper — single-answer MCQs only, RQF Level 3, the highest pass rate in the series. But the 70% pass mark means you only have 15 marks of slack. Most candidates fail not because the content is hard, but because they treat it casually: skipping State benefits, blurring CIC and IP definitions, or underestimating the business protection section.

### How to Study

- Learn each product cold.**  
Term, whole life, FIB, CIC, IP, LTC, PMI — features, when they pay out, premium structures and tax treatment.
- Know the State benefits side.**  
SSP, ESA, PIP, Universal Credit — when they apply, how much, how they interact with private cover. Often skipped, often tested.
- Master business protection structures.**  
Key person, shareholder protection, partnership protection, relevant life cover. The mechanics matter for both individuals and companies.
- Drill the trust uses.**  
Why protection policies are written in trust, the IHT consequences, and the difference between absolute and discretionary trusts.
- Don't let the high pass mark catch you.**  
70% is harder than 65% sounds. With 50 questions you can only afford 15 wrong — practise to 80%+ in mocks.

### Key Facts

Format	50 standard MCQs (no multi)
Duration	1 hour
Pass Mark	70% (35 of 50)
Latest Pass Rate	77% (2024)
Sittings	Year-round, computer-based
Recommended Study	40 hours
Credits	10 (RQF Level 3)
Calculator	Allowed — non-programmable
Tax Year Tested	2025/26 from Sep 2025

#### Common Mistakes

- Treating R05 as easy because of the pass rate.
- Confusing CIC and IP definitions.
- Forgetting the 70% (not 65%) pass mark.
- Skipping State benefits in revision.
- Mixing up business protection structures.
- Not learning the tax of each product type.
- Underprepared on trusts for protection.

### The Final Two Weeks

How the strongest candidates spend the fortnight before sitting R05.

<b>Days 1–2</b> Sit a baseline mock. Identify weakest product.	<b>Days 3–6</b> Drill life cover, CIC, IP, LTC and PMI features.	<b>Days 7–10</b> Business protection, trusts, State benefits.	<b>Days 11–13</b> Full timed mocks. Aim for 80%+ before exam day.	<b>Day 14</b> Light review. Confirm tax treatment of products. Sleep well.
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### Question Mix: A Quick Reference

Every question is worth 1 mark. You need 35 to pass — the highest pass mark of the R0 series.

<b>50 standard</b> Single correct answer from four. No multi-response.	<b>35 to pass</b> 70% pass mark — higher than 65% used in other R0 units.	<b>Level 3</b> Only Level 3 unit in the R0 series — the others are Level 4.	<b>~72 sec each</b> Plenty of time per question — but the high pass mark bites.
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# 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 R05 sittings.

**1 The 70% pass mark is underestimated.**  
Most candidates prepare as if R05 were a 65% paper like the others. The extra 5% means you can only afford 15 wrong answers — a small margin even with single-answer questions.

**2 CIC and IP definitions blur together.**  
Critical illness pays a lump sum on diagnosis of a listed condition. Income protection pays a regular income after a deferred period. Candidates who confuse the two lose marks across multiple questions.

**3 State benefits are skipped.**  
Statutory Sick Pay, ESA, PIP, Universal Credit — they appear in every paper. Candidates who skim them assume the easier topics will compensate. Often they don't.

**4 Business protection structures are confused.**  
Key person insurance, shareholder protection, partnership protection and relevant life cover all have different mechanics. Candidates who study them as 'one topic' come unstuck.

**5 Trust use is half-learnt.**  
Why protection policies are written in trust, the IHT consequences, absolute vs discretionary trusts — every sitting tests this. Often answered from gut feel rather than knowledge.

## Quick Wins on Exam Day

- Note the headline product features on scratch paper at the start.
- Use elimination — there's always one obviously wrong answer.
- Watch for 'most likely' wording — it changes the right answer.

- If two products feel similar, identify the one distinguishing feature.
- Treat each business protection question as a structure question first.
- Reserve the last 5 minutes to review every flagged question.

## R0 Hub by the Numbers

**300+**

MCQs in our  
R05 question bank

**All LOs**

Weighted to match  
the real exam

∞

Build-your-own  
exam combinations

**1:1**

Chat with our  
content expert

## Your R05 toolkit, all in one place

R0 Hub gives serious R05 candidates the tactical edge:

- 300 MCQs covering the full R05 syllabus
- Questions cover all LOs at the same weighting as the real exam
- Progress tracking by weak area
- Timed or practice exams with detailed explanations
- Build your own exam — filter by topic, LO or calculation-style questions
- Chat to our content expert — ask any question in the run-up to exam day
- Study card feature lets you build custom notes as you revise

Find the full R05 suite at [r0hub.com](https://r0hub.com).