

**CFA® EXAM QUICK START GUIDE** 

## LEVEL III ALL ABOUT THE ESSAY



In the past two exams, you were asked to describe and analyze. In this exam, you will need to justify your thinking by synthesizing information and applying solutions. Portfolio management and wealth planning will be heavily featured.



## **BE MINDFUL OF TIME**

There are two types—constructed responses (word-based) and calculation-based responses. Get started right away framing your study around these formats. Use the practice quizzes and mock exams available in the Learning Ecosystem to gauge your exam readiness.







Plan how much time you can give each answer and stick with it. If you are stumped by a question, move on to one you are more comfortable with and complete that one. You can go back to your skipped question later if you have time.



You do not get extra credit for producing a lot of words. Meandering prose can potentially hurt your score. Answer succinctly and to the point. Use bullet points if you would like to.

PROVIDE EXACTLY
WHAT IS ASKED FOR
(AND NO MORE)

For calculation-based questions, you are not required to show your work. If you choose to show your work, it will be evaluated as part of the response and could conceptually result in partial credit in cases where the answer is not otherwise fully correct.

LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

400+
EXAM
LOCATIONS

TOPICS COVERED

10-15
ITEM SET
QUESTIONS

38
READINGS
INCLUDED

EXAMS OFFERED YEARLY