

# JUNE 2018 CFA PROGRAM CANDIDATE SURVEY

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Each year, we survey CFA® Program candidates before and after the June exam to measure and improve the CFA candidate experience. The surveys ask for feedback across several areas, including exam preparation, charter value, exam day feedback, and employment outlook.

### PRE-EXAM SURVEY: 29 MAY-12 JUNE

23,663 candidates responded to the pre-exam survey (24% response rate with a margin of error of ±0.6%).

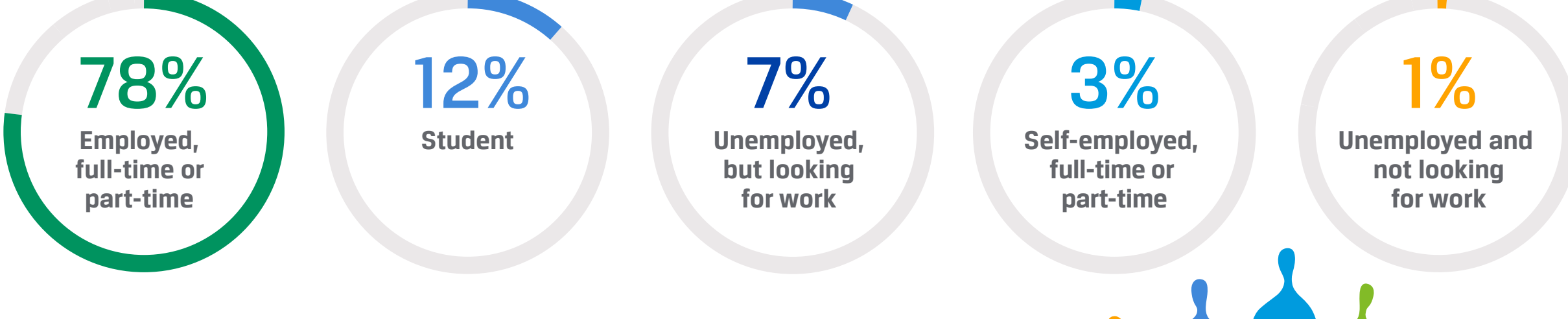
### POST-EXAM SURVEY: 17 JULY-31 JULY

47,112 candidates responded to the post-exam survey (33% response rate with a margin of error of ±0.4%).

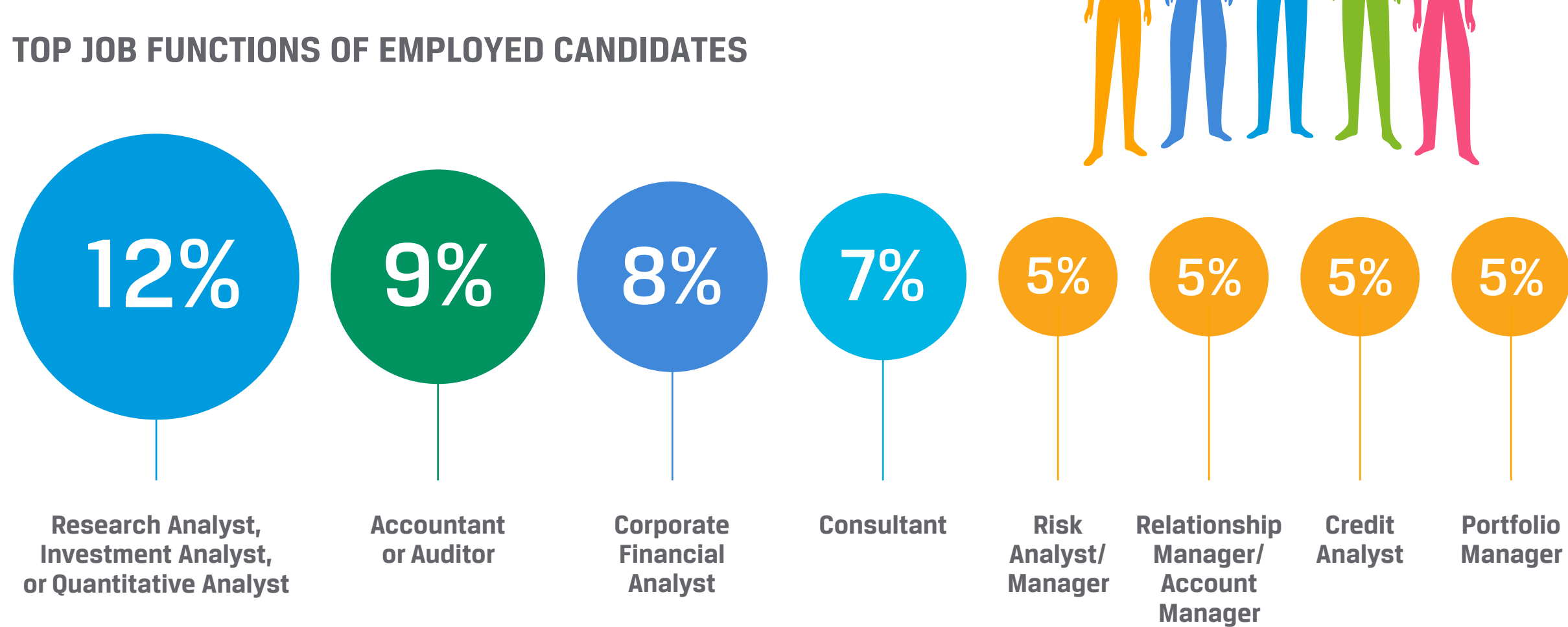
## CANDIDATE SURVEY PROFILE

The June 2018 CFA candidates represent a diverse, global community of current and aspiring investment management professionals, ranging in age from 21 to 76, from 184 international markets. 78% report they have full- or part-time employment.

### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



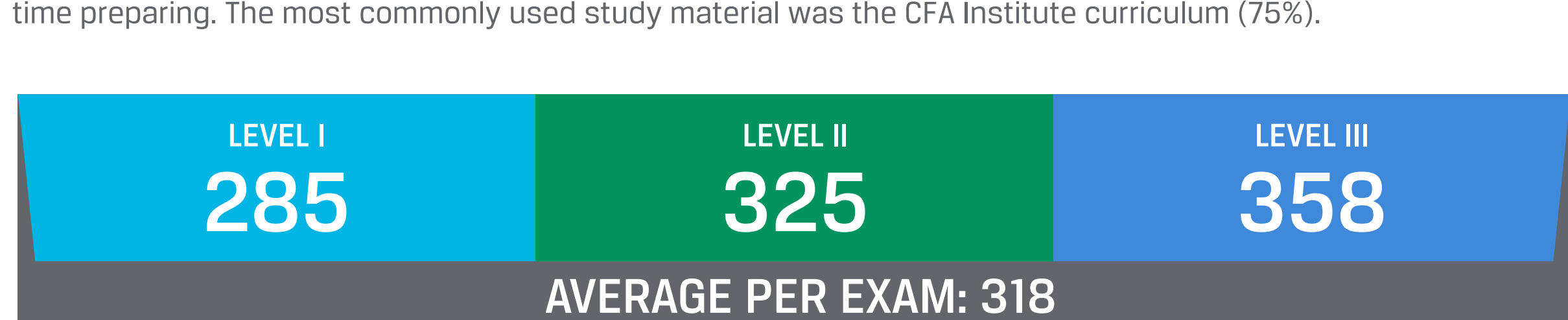
### TOP JOB FUNCTIONS OF EMPLOYED CANDIDATES



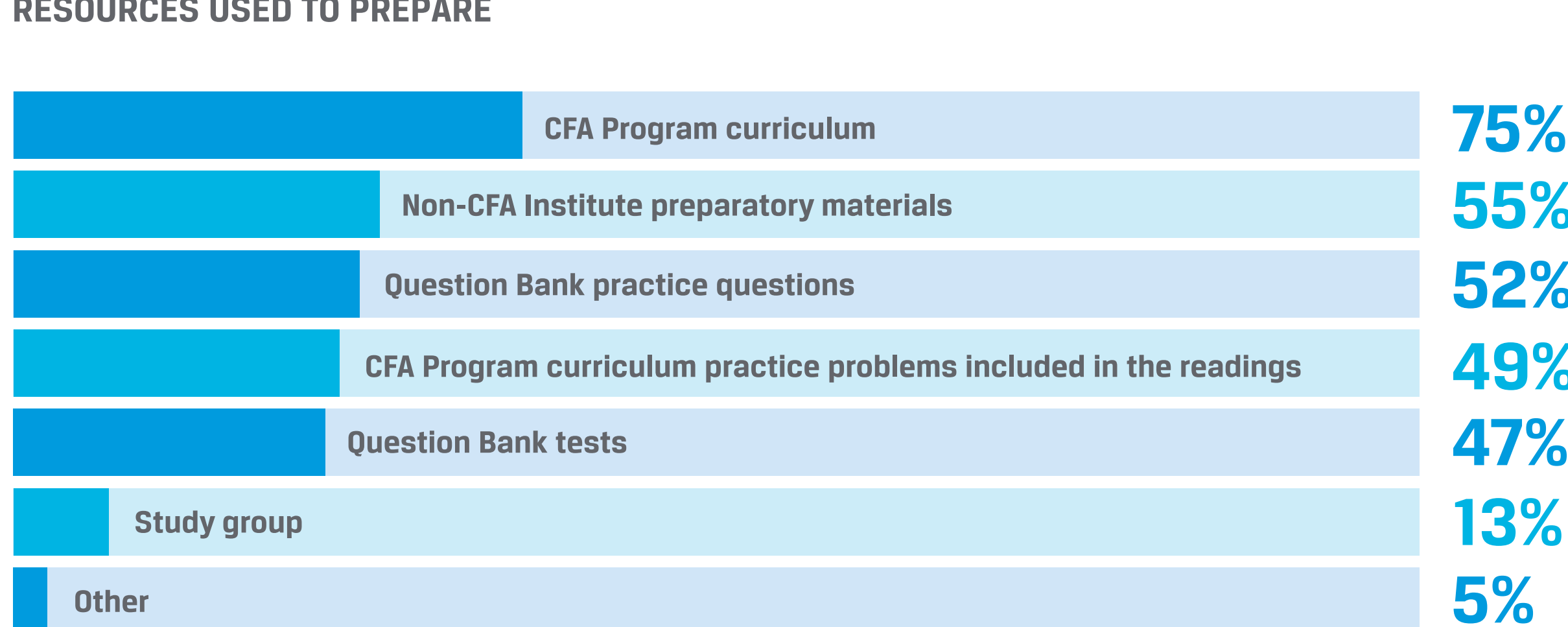
## EXAM PREPARATION

### TIME SPENT PREPARING FOR THE EXAMS

Candidates spent an average of 318 hours preparing for the exams, with Level III candidates reporting the most time preparing. The most commonly used study material was the CFA Institute curriculum (75%).



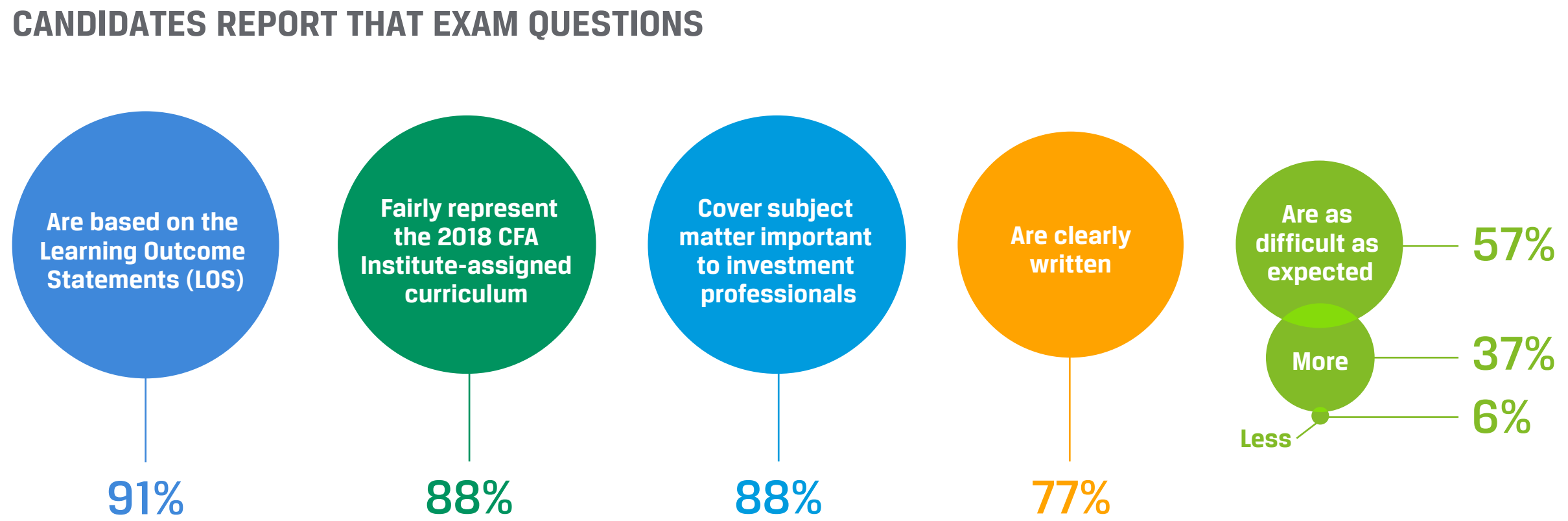
### RESOURCES USED TO PREPARE



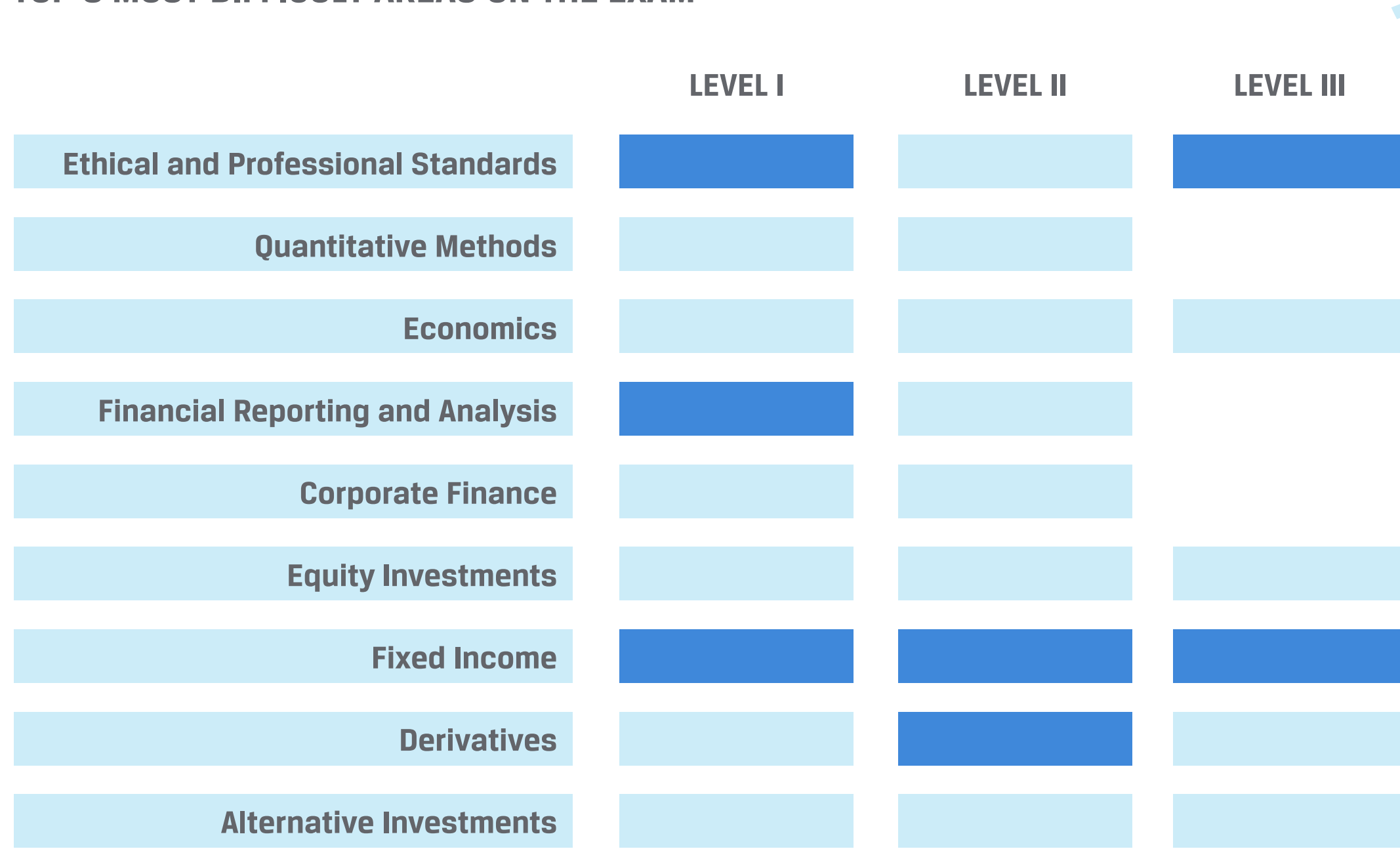
## CURRICULUM AND EXAM VALUE

Overall, candidates are highly satisfied with the quality of the exam and exam administration experience, with 97% agreeing that the CFA Program curriculum improved their understanding of important topics and 96% agreeing that the in-text examples and practice problems at the end of the readings helped explain the concepts.

### CANDIDATES REPORT THAT EXAM QUESTIONS



### TOP 3 MOST DIFFICULT AREAS ON THE EXAM\*

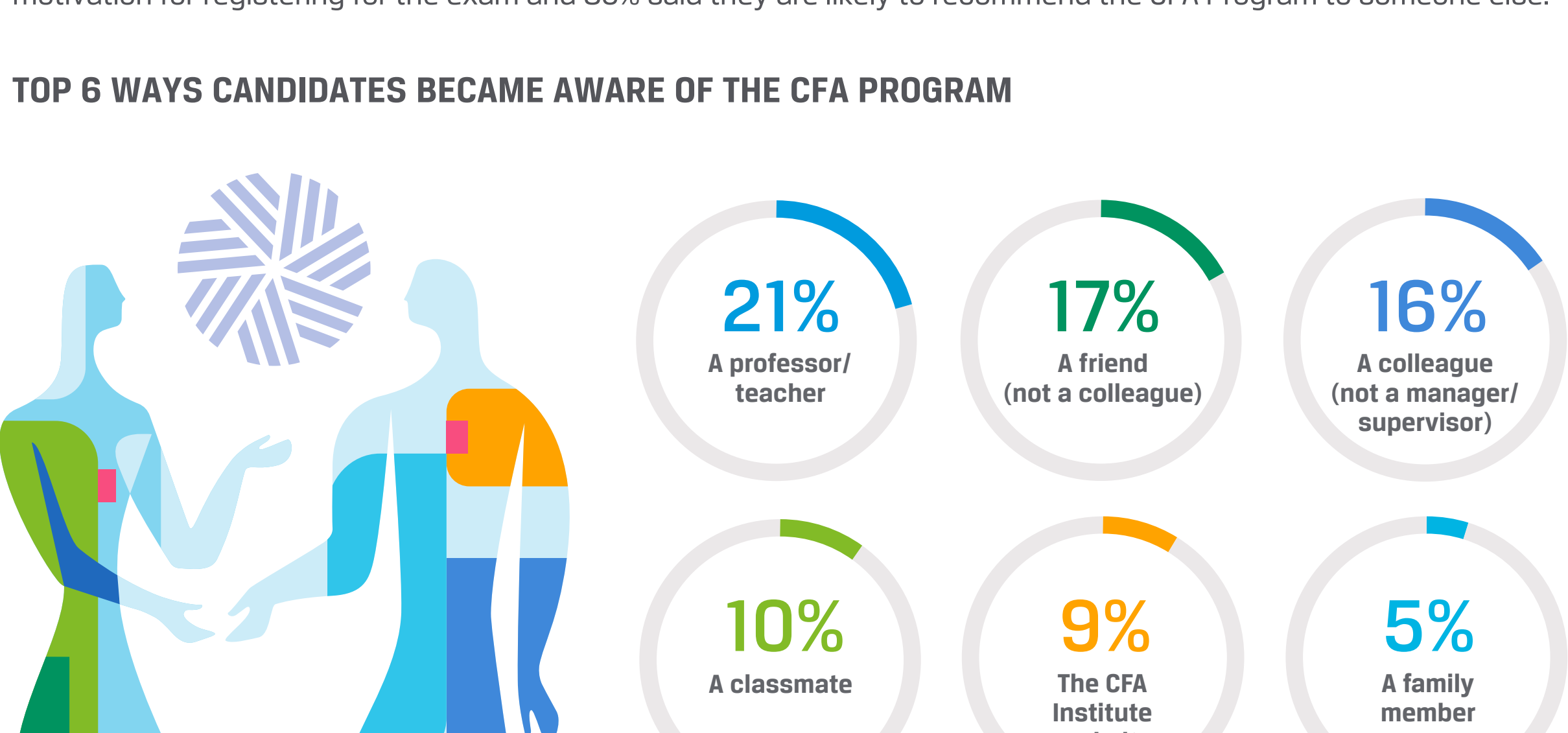


\*Please note this is the difficulty as reported by candidates, not the level of difficulty CFA Program is assigning to the topic areas.

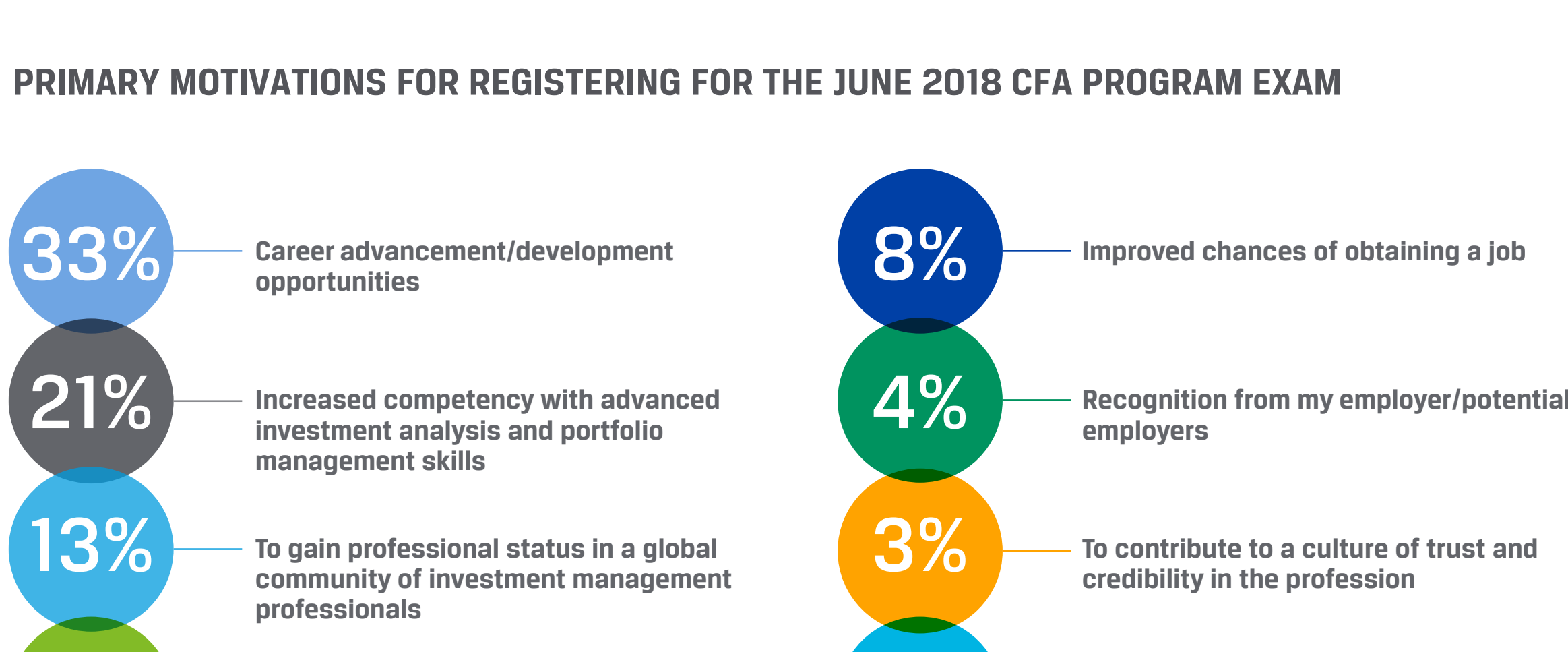
## CHARTER VALUE, PROGRAM AWARENESS, AND CAREER RELEVANCE

Candidates rate the value of earning the charter very high: 9 out of 10. Career advancement remains the primary motivation for registering for the exam and 85% said they are likely to recommend the CFA Program to someone else.

### TOP 6 WAYS CANDIDATES BECAME AWARE OF THE CFA PROGRAM



### PRIMARY MOTIVATIONS FOR REGISTERING FOR THE JUNE 2018 CFA PROGRAM EXAM



CANDIDATES RATE THE VALUE OF EARNING THE CHARTER VERY HIGH: **9** out of **10**

## EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

IN THE COMING 12 MONTHS, DO YOU EXPECT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR LOCAL MARKET TO INCREASE, DECREASE, OR STAY ABOUT THE SAME?

