

## Comments on Candidate Performance on the March 2019 Finance Elective Examination

Overall, some candidates appear to have performed very well while other candidates performed below expectations on this examination, especially when it came to the second case.

### Case Performance

Generally, candidates performed well on the first case but poorly on the second case, which was likely due to a combination of time constraints and the atypical nature of the second question. We noted candidates spent an average of 122 minutes on Case 1 (suggested time of 95 minutes) and 92 minutes on Case 2 (suggested time of 105 minutes).

Strengths of the candidates:

1. Candidates generally performed well on the quantitative analysis requests and understood the type of calculations required.
2. Candidates generally provided a conclusion consistent with their analysis.
3. Candidates generally integrated case facts in their calculations.

Weaknesses of the candidates:

1. More candidates than usual didn't answer case requests, specifically the last request in both cases.
2. Time management seemed to be an issue as Case 2 responses were very short and often appeared rushed.
3. Candidates sometimes confused their role and provided guidance that would be useful to the MBO team and not the Board of Directors in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case.

### OFQ:

Candidates should keep in mind that the OFQ portion is worth 17% of the examination. The following topics are the ones that candidates seemed to have trouble with in the OFQ portion of the exam:

1. Derivatives
2. Dividend Growth Model

However, overall the candidates did well in the OFQ section when compared against prior cohorts.