

Trustee knowledge and understanding

Plan your learning



DB schemes only

Learning needs planner for trustee knowledge and understanding

Personal development

Unit 4 – Funding: Defined benefit (DB) occupational arrangement only

This includes the principles relating to the funding of DB occupational arrangements and the way in which the funding level is dependent upon the value of both the scheme's liabilities and its assets.

Knowledge required	Rate my skills 1 – No knowledge 5 – Highly skilled	My objectives	Timescale	Where to go next The relevant Trustee toolkit module and related learning
4a: How the funding for DB occupational scheme works	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Module: How a DB scheme works ▶ Module: Funding your DB scheme ▶ Module: DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles
4b: How liabilities are valued for different purposes	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Funding your DB scheme: Tutorials: Valuing the scheme's liabilities, Calculating the liabilities and Impact of assumptions ▶ Investment in a DB scheme: Tutorial: Changing asset and liability values
4c: How the market value of assets is assessed	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Funding your DB scheme: Tutorial: Impact of assumptions ▶ Investment in a DB scheme: Tutorial: Changing asset and liability values
4d: Funding measures	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Funding your DB scheme: Tutorials: The statutory funding objective and Valuing the scheme's liabilities
4e: Potential risks to the ability of the scheme to pay benefits	1 2 3 4 5			▶ How a DB scheme works: Tutorials: Employer covenant and Risks to employer covenant

4f: The importance of complete accurate and up-to-date data and calculations	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Running a scheme: Tutorial: Scheme admin and member data
4g: The impact of trustee powers	1 2 3 4 5			▶ The trustee's role: Tutorial: Duties and powers
4h: The nature and status of professional advice	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Running a scheme: Tutorial: Introducing advisers and service providers ▶ An introduction to investment: Tutorial: Investment in a pension scheme
4i: Transfers and bulk transfers in and out of the scheme	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Funding your DB scheme: Tutorial: Individual and bulk transfers

Unit 5 – Contributions: Defined benefit (DB) occupational arrangements only

This includes the principles relating to the setting up of contributions.

Knowledge required	Rate my skills 1 – No knowledge 5 – Highly skilled	My objectives	Timescale	Where to go next The relevant Trustee toolkit module and related learning
5a: The nature of the employer/trustee relationship and the effect of the scheme's funding level on the sponsoring employer	1 2 3 4 5			▶ How a DB scheme works: Tutorials: Employer covenant, Risk to employer covenant, Implications of winding up a DB scheme and Corporate transactions

Unit 5 – Contributions: Defined benefit (DB) occupational arrangements only continued...

5b: The way in which the sponsoring employer covenant reflects its ability to fund the scheme	1 2 3 4 5			▶ How a DB scheme works: Tutorials: Employer covenant and Risks to employer covenant
5c: The calculation of regular contributions to fund liabilities for future accruals	1 2 3 4 5			▶ DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles module
5d: The setting of special contributions for past service as required	1 2 3 4 5			▶ DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles: Tutorial: Recovery plans
5e: Member contributions (including AVCs and FSAVCs)	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Funding your DB scheme: Tutorial: Additional employee funding ▶ Running a scheme: Tutorial: Scheme admin and member data
5f: The role of the sponsoring employer in the calculation and collection of member contributions	1 2 3 4 5			▶ Running a scheme: Tutorial: Scheme admin and member data

Unit 6 – Strategic asset allocation: Defined benefit (DB) occupational arrangement only

This includes the principles relating to the suitability of different asset classes and taking account of the correlation between them and the trustee's investment objectives

6a: The process of strategic asset allocation	1 2 3 4 5			► Investment in a DB scheme: Tutorial: Understanding investment strategy
6b: The characteristics of alternative assets classes and financial instruments	1 2 3 4 5			► Investment in a DB scheme: Tutorial: Changing the asset allocation strategy
6c: The use of specialised investment techniques	1 2 3 4 5			► Investment in a DB scheme: Tutorials: Future projections and scenario analysis and Stochastic modelling
6d: Reviewing asset allocation decisions	1 2 3 4 5			► Investment in a DB scheme: Tutorials: Changing the asset allocation strategy and Reviewing the investment strategy

Unit 12 – A working knowledge of the scheme’s Statement of Funding Principles (SFP): Defined benefit (DB) occupational arrangements only

12a: Roles and responsibilities for preparing the SFP	1 2 3 4 5			► DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles: Tutorial: Statement of Funding Principles
12b: The scheme’s statutory funding objective	1 2 3 4 5			► DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles: Tutorial: Statement of Funding Principles
12c: Contents of the SFP	1 2 3 4 5			► DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles: Tutorial: Statement of Funding Principles
12d: Monitoring the SFP	1 2 3 4 5			► DB recovery plans, contributions and funding principles: Tutorial: Statement of Funding Principles

How to contact us

Customer Support
The Pensions Regulator
Telecom House
125-135 Preston Road
Brighton
BN1 6AF

www.tpr.gov.uk/contact-us

www.trusteetoolkit.com

Free online learning for trustees

Trustee knowledge and understanding

Plan your learning

DB schemes only

© The Pensions Regulator 2025

You can reproduce the text in this publication as long as you quote The Pensions Regulator's name and title of the publication. Please contact us if you have any questions about this publication. This document aims to be fully compliant with WCAG 2.0 accessibility standards.

