

Competitive Entrance Exams into ESIF
(10/05/2025 – 03H00)

SECTION 1: GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

Exercise 1: Multiple Choice (4 marks)

Choose the correct answer from the propose options and fill in the blanks.

1. By next year, she _____ for the company for a decade.
a) will work b) will have worked c) worked d) works
2. The report, along with the financial statements, _____ submitted.
a) was b) were c) have been d) are
3. He insisted that the proposal _____ revised.
a) is b) be c) was d) has been
4. Neither the manager nor the employees _____ satisfied with the merger.
a) is b) are c) was d) has been

Exercise 2: Error Correction (3 marks)

*Identify and correct **one** error in each sentence.*

1. The shareholders has approved the new policy last week.
2. If I was you, I would invest in mutual funds.
3. The company's success depend on its innovative strategies.

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks (3 marks)

Complete with the correct verb form.

1. Before the recession hit, the CEO _____ (already/resign).
2. By 2025, global inflation _____ (rise) by 3%.
3. She _____ (work) in risk management since she graduated.

SECTION 2: VOCABULARY (10 Marks)

Exercise 1: Match the Words (2 mks)

Match the finance-related terms to their definitions.

1. **Assets**
2. **Liabilities**
3. **Equity**

4. Dividend

- What a company owes.
- Money distributed to share holders
- What a company owns.
- The value of shares held by shareholders.

Exercise 2: Synonyms (2mks)

Provide a synonym for each of the following words.

- Profit: _____
- Investment: _____
- Revenue: _____
- Expense:** _____

5.

Exercise 3: Word Formation (3mks)

Transform the following words into the appropriate form to complete the sentences.

- Finance:** The company needs to improve its financial _____. (manage)
- Analyze:** The analyst will conduct a thorough _____ of the market trends. (analyze)
- Decide:** After much discussion, we reached a _____ on the budget allocation. (decide)
- Invest:** The firm made a significant _____ in renewable energy projects. (invest)
- Report:** The accountant submitted the annual financial _____ to the board. (report)
- Evaluate:** It is essential to conduct an _____ of the risks involved in the investment. (evaluate)

Exercise 4: Cloze Exercise

Fill in each blank with ONE suitable word (e.g., preposition, article, auxiliary verb, conjunction). (3mks)

- The global economy is currently facing a number (1)_____ challenges, including rising inflation and disruptions (2)_____ supply chains. Central banks around the world (3)_____ attempting to control inflation by increasing interest rates. This, (4)_____, can slow down economic growth. Businesses, therefore, must adapt quickly (5)_____ these changing conditions (6)_____ remain competitive.

SECTION C: READING COMPREHENSION (10 Marks)

Read the passage above carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Paragraph A The financial world is experiencing a significant shift, largely driven by "Fintech," a term combining "financial" and "technology." Simply put, Fintech involves using modern technology to create, deliver, and improve financial services. From easily sending money via mobile apps to receiving automated investment advice, Fintech is fundamentally changing how we manage and interact with our finances. This technological wave is not just a fleeting trend but a powerful force redefining the future of money globally.

Paragraph B Several key elements have powered Fintech's rapid expansion. The most crucial is the continuous advancement in technology: the widespread availability of smartphones, better internet connectivity, sophisticated data analysis, artificial intelligence (AI), and innovations like cryptocurrency blockchain. Smartphones have become particularly vital, acting as gateways to financial services, especially in areas with limited traditional bank branches, such as parts of Africa, including Cameroon where mobile money is prevalent. Alongside technology, consumer habits have transformed. People now expect financial services to be as fast, user-friendly, and personalized as the services they receive from major tech companies in other industries. The 2008 global financial crisis also played a role in some regions by reducing trust in established banks and opening doors for new, often more transparent, Fintech alternatives.

Paragraph C Traditional banks have found themselves navigating a new landscape shaped by Fintech. What started as potential disruption has evolved into a complex relationship involving both competition and cooperation. Fintech startups, known for their agility and focus, have excelled at offering specialized services—like mobile payments, peer-to-peer lending, and automated investment platforms (robo-advisors)—often more efficiently or at a lower cost than traditional institutions. These services particularly appeal to younger generations and those previously underserved by the banking sector. In response, many traditional banks are now significantly investing in their own digital upgrades, launching mobile applications, and enhancing customer experiences. Others choose to partner with Fintech companies or even acquire them, blending established trust with new innovation.

Paragraph D The advantages offered by Fintech are considerable. A major benefit is the promotion of **financial inclusion**. In numerous developing nations, where access to physical banks is limited, Fintech solutions like mobile money have connected millions of previously unbanked or underbanked individuals to essential financial tools. This access empowers people, helps small businesses flourish, and supports wider economic progress. Additionally, Fintech often results in lower transaction fees for consumers, greater convenience with services available anytime and anywhere, and improved transparency in financial dealings.

Paragraph E Despite its many benefits, the rise of Fintech brings notable challenges. Cybersecurity remains a top concern. With more financial activities and sensitive data moving online, the risk of cyberattacks, fraud, and data leaks is heightened. Implementing strong security systems and safeguarding consumer data are therefore essential. Another hurdle is regulatory adaptation. Existing financial rules were largely designed for traditional banks, and modifying them to effectively govern new technologies and business models is a complex, ongoing task. There's a need to balance encouraging innovation with protecting consumers and maintaining overall financial stability. Furthermore, the "digital divide" is a real risk: individuals lacking access to technology or the skills to use it could be further marginalized, potentially increasing inequality.

Paragraph F In conclusion, Fintech is undeniably a major force reshaping the global financial system. It offers tremendous potential for a more inclusive, efficient, and customer-focused financial future. While significant challenges concerning security, regulation, and equal access need careful management, the drive behind Fintech innovation continues. The path forward likely involves a hybrid model where traditional financial institutions and dynamic Fintech firms both compete and collaborate, all aiming to meet the evolving financial needs of a rapidly digitizing world.

Questions:

Answer the following questions

1. Matching Paragraph Headings (3 Marks)

Match the most suitable heading from the list below (i-v) to a paragraph from the text (Paragraph A, Paragraph C, Paragraph E). Write the Roman numeral of the heading next to the paragraph letter. One heading is extra and will not be used.

Headings

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph A: _____• Paragraph C: _____• Paragraph E: _____ <p>Headings:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Addressing Risks and Regulatory Concernsii. Defining the Financial Technology Movementiii. Traditional Banking's Response to New Playersiv. The Future of Global Investment Strategiesv. Key Drivers Behind Fintech's Growth |
|---|---|

2. Identifying True Statements (2 mks)

From the statements below, select the **TWO statements** that are **TRUE** according to the passage. Write the letters of the true statements in the space provided.

- a) *The 2008 financial crisis was the sole reason for Fintech's development.*
- b) *Fintech exclusively benefits individuals in highly developed countries with advanced banking systems.*
- c) *Traditional banks are increasingly investing in digital technologies and sometimes collaborate with Fintechs.*
- d) *One of the main drivers of Fintech is the changing expectations of consumers for faster and more personalized services.*
- e) *The passage suggests that Fintech has no significant downsides or risks.*

True Statements: _____ and _____

3. Sentence Completion (2 Marks)

Complete the following sentences using information from the passage. Use a few words for each blank.

- a) According to Paragraph B, smartphones are particularly important for accessing financial services in regions _____. (1 mark)
- b) A primary aim of the **"hybrid model"** mentioned in the conclusion (Paragraph F) is to better serve the _____ in a digital world. (1 mark)

4. Vocabulary: Understanding Words (2 Marks)

Below are four words (1-4) taken from the passage. Read the list of meanings (a-e). For each word, choose the meaning that you think is closest or most similar. Write the letter (a, b, c, d, or e) of the correct meaning in the space (____) provided next to each word.

Important: There is one extra meaning in the list that you will not need to use.

Words from Passage :

1. *proliferation* (Paragraph B) _____
2. *agile* (Paragraph C) _____
3. *robust* (Paragraph E) _____
4. *marginalized* (Paragraph E) _____

Meanings:

- a) ability to adapt or change easily
- b) strong and healthy; unlikely to fail
- c) rapid increase in numbers or extent
- d) careful, watchful, and responsible handling
- e) treated as insignificant or peripheral

5. Short Answer Question (1 mark)

Paragraph D highlights "***financial inclusion***" as a major benefit of Fintech. Apart from this, name **ONE** other distinct benefit of Fintech mentioned in the passage.

SECTION D: ESSAY WRITING (10 MARKS)

Instructions for Candidates:

- Choose **one** of the following essay topics.
- Write your essay in English, approximately 00-250 words.
- Ensure your essay has a **clear structure**, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use appropriate finance terminology and examples where relevant.

Questions :

1. **The Impact of Technology on the Financial Services Industry**
Analyse how advancements in technology, such as fintech and cryptocurrency, are transforming the finance sector.
2. **The Importance of Ethical Practices in Finance**
Evaluate why ethical behaviour is crucial in finance and how it affects stakeholders, including businesses and consumers.

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