

# PMC VSR Core Course Phase 4: Introduction to Pension Management

# Phase 4 Knowledge Check Preparation

Lesson Plan

September 28, 2016 Version 1.0

# **Phase 4: Knowledge Check Preparation**

# **Lesson Overview**

Topic	Description
Time Estimate:	1.5 hour
Purpose of the Knowledge Check preparation:	This Knowledge Check preparation is part of the entry-level curriculum, Core Course for PMC VSRs. The purpose of this Knowledge Check preparation is to get PMC VSRs ready to take the Phase 4 Knowledge Check.
Prerequisite Training Requirements:	Prior to taking the Phase 4 Knowledge Check Preparation, trainees must complete PMC VSR Core Course Phases 1–4. (Refer to the <b>Master Course Map</b> learning aid for a list of lessons.)
Target Audience:	This Knowledge Check preparation is for entry-level PMC VSRs.

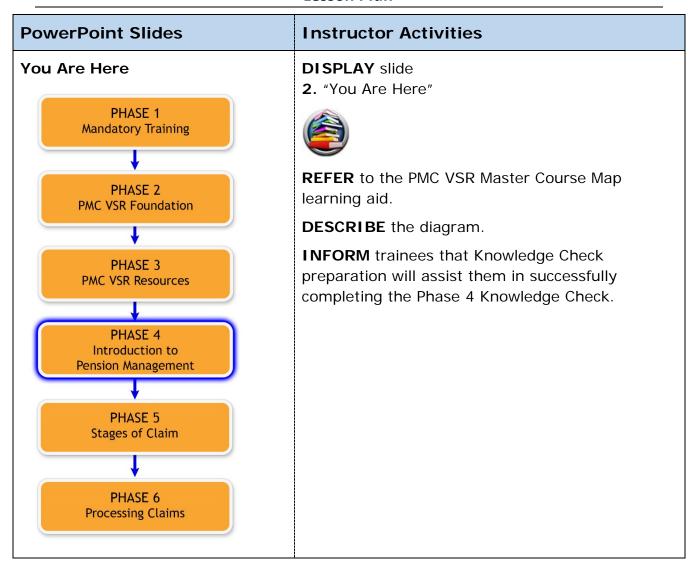
Topic	Description	
References:	Master Course Map learning aid	
	M21-1 III.ii.1 (Initial Screening Process)	
	M21-1 V.iii.1.A (General Information on the Effect Income and Net Worth Have on Pension and Parents DIC)	
	M21-1 III.v.2.A (Decision Authorization)	
	M21-1 III.v.2.B (Decision Notices)	
	M21-1 III (General Claims Process)	
	M27-1 I.2.2 (Providing Information to a Third Party)	
	M27-1 I.2.3 (Providing Information About VA Benefits)	
	M27-1 I.2.6 (Handing Non-Claim Actions)	
	M27-1 I.2.7 (Claimant Representation by Non-Attorney or Non-Accredited Agents)	
	M27-1 I.7 (Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] and Privacy Act [PA])	
	38 CFR 14.630 (Authorization for a particular claim)	
	VA Accreditation Search	
	• CPKM	
	Claim Types job aid	
	Locating and Updating a Claimant Record job aid	
	Lost Claims Checklist job aid	
	Provide Benefit Information job aid	
Technical	Processing Claims (PMC VSR)	
Competencies:	VBA Applications (PMC VSR)	
Knowledge Check:	Phase 4: Introduction to Pension Management Knowledge Check	

Topic	Description	
What You	Lesson Plan	
Need:	Master Course Map learning aid	
	Appendix A and B	
	Access to the following job aids from VSR Assistant:	
	<ul> <li>Claim Types job aid</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Locating and Updating a Claimant Record job aid</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Lost Claims Checklist job aid</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Provide Benefit Information job aid</li> </ul>	
	• Slides	
	Projector	
	Access to CPKM	
	Access to VSR Assistant	

#### **Instructor Notes**

This Knowledge Check preparation will provide trainees with a refresher of the topics covered in Phase 4: Introduction to Pension Management. This will include a review of all lesson objectives, participation in activities to reinforce their understanding, and a question and answer forum to address any misconceptions and provide additional clarification about the information presented.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Phase 4: Knowledge Check Preparation	<b>DI SPLAY</b> slide <b>1.</b> "Phase 4: Knowledge Check Preparation"
	INTRODUCE yourself as the instructor.
	INTRODUCE the Knowledge Check preparation.



# PowerPoint Slides

#### Why It Matters!

- Phase 4 provides:
  - High-level overview of the stages of a claim
  - Various types of claims they will encounter in training and on the job
  - Means of managing those claims (records)
- These broad concepts provide structure for the rules and procedures that will be learned in Phases 5 and 6

#### **Instructor Activities**

#### **DISPLAY** slide

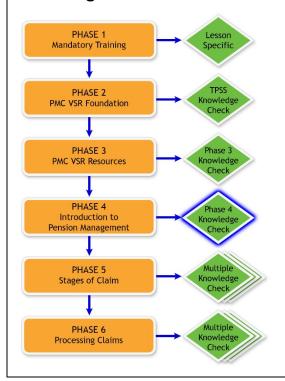
3. "Why It Matters!"

**REMIND** trainees the purpose of Phase 4. Focus on the following:

- Phase 4 provides:
  - High-level overview of the stages of a claim
  - Various types of claims they will encounter in training and on the job
  - Means of managing those claims (records)

**EXPLAIN** that these broad concepts provide structure for the rules and procedures that will be learned in phases 5 and 6.

#### **Knowledge Check**



#### **DISPLAY** slide

4. "Knowledge Check"

**INFORM** trainees that they will be assessed on this content in the Phase 4: Introduction to Pension Management Knowledge Check.

**EXPLAIN** that the Phase 4 Knowledge Check will assess the following lessons:

- 1. Stages of a Pension Claim
- 2. Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition
- 3. Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management
- 4. Provide Benefit Information

**REMIND** trainees that all the lessons included on the Knowledge Check are also listed on the POI.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Knowledge Check Preparation Overview	<b>DI SPLAY</b> slide <b>5.</b> "Knowledge Check Preparation Overview"
This Knowledge Check preparation will consist of the following:  • Lesson objectives review  • Partner activity  • Question/answer forum	EXPLAIN that this Knowledge Check preparation will consist of a review of the learning objectives for each lesson in Phase 4, followed by an activity or game to help reinforce their understanding of those objectives.  REFER trainees to Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet.  INFORM trainees that in order to save time for all activities, there will be time at the end of this Knowledge Check preparation for questions to be discussed.  REFER trainees to Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet.
Phase 4 Lessons	DISPLAY slide
Phase 4 consists of the following four lessons:  1. Stages of a Pension Claim  2. Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition	<ul> <li>6. "Phase 4 Lessons"</li> <li>REMIND trainees that Phase 4 consists of the following four lessons:</li> <li>1. Stages of a Pension Claim</li> <li>2. Types of Pension Claims and Claims</li> </ul>
<ul><li>3. Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management</li><li>4. Provide Benefit Information</li></ul>	Recognition  3. Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management  4. Provide Benefit Information

#### **PowerPoint Slides Instructor Activities** VA Stages of a Pension Claim **DISPLAY** slide 7. "VA Stages of a Pension Claim" Understanding the stages of a pension claim will help you TRANSITION to the first lesson in Phase 4: VA efficiently and effectively Stages of a Pension Claim process pension claims **REMIND** trainees of the five stages of a claim: 1. Initial Screening Document 2. Claim Development 3. Award Determination/Promulgation 4. Claimant Notification 5. Maintenance Claim Maintenance evelopment Claimant Notification

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
VA Stages of a Pension Claim Objectives	DISPLAY slide 8. "VA Stages of a Pension Claim Objectives"
Describe the stages of a pension	on <b>PRESENT</b> the objectives for the lesson.
claim  o Describe the purpose fo initial screening and determining eligibility	ALLOW about 5–7 minutes to review these objectives.
<ul> <li>Describe the purpose of claims development and duty to assist</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Describe the purpose of award determination an promulgation</li> </ul>	i l
<ul> <li>Describe the purpose of claimant notification</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Describe the purpose of claim maintenance</li> </ul>	
Partner Activity—What's the Question?	DISPLAY slide 9. "Partner Activity—What's the Question?"
Instructions:	<b>DIVIDE</b> trainees into groups of two.
o Divide into pairs.	<b>DIRECT</b> trainees to complete Part A of Appendix
<ul><li>Complete Part A of Appendix A: Phase 4</li></ul>	A: Phase 4 Worksheet by selecting the correct question based on the answer given.
Worksheet.	<b>TELL</b> the pairs to take turns giving the answer and selecting the correct questions.
<ul> <li>Take turns giving the answer and selecting th correct questions.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Be prepared to share you</li> <li>finished activity with the class.</li> </ul>	
Time allowed: 7–10 minutes	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner—What's the Question? Answers (1 of 2)  1. This stage is for reviewing all incoming applications, correspondence, and evidence to determine if a claim warrants priority processing because of its nature or facts.	DISPLAY slide 10. "Partner Activity—What's the Question? Answers (1 of 2)" PROVIDE the correct answers for this activity.
a. What is Initial Screening stage?	
2. This stage addresses all issues pertaining to a single claim by denying benefits when entitlement does <b>not</b> exist.	
c. What is Award Determination/Promulgati on stage?	
3. This stage makes the appropriate award adjustments following changes to income subsequent to the original claim.	
e. What is Maintenance?	
4. This stage provides the claimant with full knowledge of the decision made and his/her rights pertaining to that decision.	
d. What is Claimant Notification stage?	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner—What's the Question? Answers (2 of 2)	DISPLAY slide 11. "Partner Activity—What's the Question?
5. This stage address all issues pertaining to a single claim by awarding benefits when entitlement exists.	Answers (2 of 2)"  PROVIDE the correct answers for this activity.
c. What is Award Determination/Promulgation stage?	
6. This stage assists claimants in obtaining evidence to substantiate the claim before VA makes a decision.	
b. What is Claim Development stage?	
7. This stage reviews all evidence to determine if an immediate denial is warranted.	
a. What is Initial Screening stage?	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
VA Stages of a Pension Claim  Question Writing Opportunity  Instructions:	<b>DISPLAY</b> slide <b>12</b> . "VA Stages of a Pension Claim Question Writing Opportunity"
<ul> <li>Use Appendix B: Phase 4         Question and Answer         Worksheet to write any         questions regarding VA         stages of a pension claim.</li> <li>Questions will be         answered at the end of         the Knowledge Check         preparation.</li> <li>Time allowed: 5 minutes</li> </ul>	INFORM trainees that before you transition to the next lesson for review, this will be the opportunity to capture any questions they had regarding VA stages of a pension claim.  REFER trainees to Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet.  DIRECT trainees to write any questions or concerns that they have regarding stages of a claim on the question and answer worksheet.
	ALLOW 5 minutes to complete this opportunity.
<ul> <li>Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition</li> <li>To be a successful PMC VSR, you need to recognize that there are a variety of claim types</li> <li>Failing to recognize characteristics of various claims causes time-consuming and benefit-affecting errors such as:         <ul> <li>Processing the claim incorrectly</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	DISPLAY slide  13. "Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition"  TRANSITION to the second lesson in Phase 4: Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition.  EXPLAIN the consequences of failing to recognize key characteristics in a claim.
<ul> <li>Failure to recognize that the claim requires a rating decision</li> </ul>	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition Objectives  Recognize the most common types of PMC VSR claims:	DI SPLAY slide 14. "Types of Pension Claims and Claims Recognition Objectives " PRESENT the objectives for the lesson.
<ul> <li>Recognize the characteristics of each claim type</li> </ul>	<b>ALLOW</b> about 5 minutes to review these objectives.
<ul> <li>Identify the correct forms or other correspondence of each claim type</li> </ul>	
Individual Activity—Know the Claim Type	DISPLAY slide 15. "Individual Activity—Know the Claim Type"
Instructions:	<b>EXPLAIN</b> to trainees that this is an individual
<ul> <li>Complete Part B of Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet.</li> </ul>	activity. <b>DIRECT</b> trainees to complete Part B of Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet by:
<ul> <li>Match the definition with the correct claim type.</li> </ul>	Matching the definition with the correct claim type
<ul> <li>Use the Claim Types job</li> </ul>	Using the Claim Types job aid
<ul><li>aid.</li><li>Be prepared to share your finished activity with other trainees.</li></ul>	<b>ALLOW</b> 10 minutes to complete this activity.
Time allowed: 10 minutes	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Know the Claim Answers (1 of 2)  1. A monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.	DISPLAY slide 16. "Partner Activity—Know the Claim Answers (1 of 2)" PROVIDE the answers to the activity.
o Survivors Pension	
2. A one-time benefit in which a surviving spouse may receive pension or DIC for the last month that the Veteran was entitled to before death.	
<ul> <li>Month of Death (MOD)</li> <li>An additional monetary benefit for Veterans and survivors who are eligible for pension benefits and who are housebound. VA Form 21-2680 is associated with this claim type.</li> <li>Special Monthly Pension (SMP)</li> </ul>	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Know the Claim Answers (2 of 2)	DISPLAY slide 17. "Partner Activity—Know the Claim Answers (2
4. A benefit generally payable to survivors of Veterans who died from service-connected disabilities.	of 2)"  PROVIDE the answers to the activity.
<ul> <li>Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)</li> </ul>	
<ol> <li>A monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans.</li> <li>Also referred to as live or new pension.</li> </ol>	
o Veteran's Pension	
<ol> <li>A record received by VA     matching programs that     indicates a contradiction or     mandated review, which     requires action by a PMC VSR.</li> </ol>	
o 800 Series Work Item	
Pension Claim Types Question Writing Opportunity  Instructions:  Use Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet to write any questions regarding types of pension claims.  Questions will be answered at the end of the Knowledge Check preparation.	DISPLAY slide  18. "Pension Claim Question Types Writing Opportunity"  REMIND trainees that at this time, they can capture any questions they have regarding types of pension claims.  REFER trainees to Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet.  DIRECT trainees to write any questions on the worksheet.
Time allowed: 5 minutes	ALLOW 5 minutes to complete this opportunity.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management  • One of your duties as a PMC	DISPLAY slide 19. "Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management"
VSR involves locating and updating records in the:	<b>TRANSITION</b> to the third lesson in Phase 4: Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management
<ul> <li>eFolder</li> <li>Corporate record</li> <li>Claimant record</li> <li>These records must be tracked and updated to ensure that the:         <ul> <li>Claimant is receiving the benefits entitled</li> <li>PMC VSR has the evidence needed to justify</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	REMIND trainees that maintaining claimant records is a crucial part of the job because the claimant record is used to justify claim decisions and determine claimant benefits.  EMPHASIZE that records management includes:  • eFolder  • Corporate record
claim decisions	Claimant record
Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management Objectives	<b>DI SPLAY</b> slide <b>20</b> . "Pension Claims eFolder/Records Management Objectives"
Locate information in a record	PRESENT the objectives for the lesson.
Update records when errors are identified	<b>ALLOW</b> about 5 minutes to review these objectives.
Address lost claims	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Update the Record	<b>DISPLAY</b> slide <b>21.</b> "Partner Activity—Update the Record"
Instructions:	<b>DIVIDE</b> trainees into groups of two.
o Divide into pairs.	NOTE: trainees have the option to go back to
o Complete Part C of	their previous partners or choose a new partner.
Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet.	<b>DIRECT</b> trainees to complete Part C of Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet by:
o Read each scenario.	Reading each scenario
<ul> <li>Answer questions about updating the claimant's</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Answering questions about updating the claimant's record</li> </ul>
record.	Using the Locating and Updating a
o Be prepared to share your	Claimant Record job aid
finished activity with the class.	<b>ALLOW</b> 10 minutes to complete this activity.
Time allowed: 10 minutes	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Update the Record Answers (1 of 2)	<b>DISPLAY</b> slide <b>22.</b> "Partner Activity—Update the Record Answers (1 of 2)"
Scenario 1:	` '
<ul> <li>What system will you need to access to perform the SSA inquiry?</li> </ul>	<b>PROVIDE</b> the answers to the first and second scenarios in this activity.
o VVA or SHARE	
<ul> <li>What information do you need to access the eFolder to begin the inquiry?</li> </ul>	
o SSN or file number	
Scenario 2:	
<ul> <li>What system(s) will you need to access to upload VA Form 27- 0820? (Select all that apply)</li> </ul>	
a. VBMS	
c. VVA	
<ul> <li>Where in the system would you find this VA form once uploaded?</li> </ul>	
o eFolder	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Update the Record Answers (2 of 2)	DISPLAY slide 23. "Partner Activity—Update the Record Answers
Scenario 3:	(2 of 2)"
What system will you need to access to update the direct deposit information?	<b>PROVIDE</b> the answers to the third scenario in this activity.
o SHARE	
Where in the system do you update the direct deposit information?	
<ul> <li>Change of Address or Direct Deposit (CADD)</li> </ul>	
Pension Claims Records Management Question Writing Opportunity	<b>DISPLAY</b> slide <b>24.</b> "Pension Claims Records Management Question Writing Opportunity"
Instructions:	<b>REMIND</b> trainees that at this time, they can capture any questions they have regarding pension claims.
<ul><li>Use Appendix B: Phase 4</li><li>Question and Answer</li></ul>	
Worksheet to write any questions regarding pension claims.	
<ul> <li>Questions will be answered at the end of</li> </ul>	<b>REFER</b> trainees to Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet.
the Knowledge Check preparation.	<b>DIRECT</b> trainees to write any questions on the worksheet.
Time allowed: 5 minutes	ALLOW 5 minutes to complete this opportunity.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
<ul> <li>Verifying the caller is         extremely important when you         receive a request for benefits         because you are the only one         able to provide information         regarding the benefits of the         Veteran or beneficiary</li> <li>Be cautious when providing         information to a third party         caller because the caller may         not be authorized to receive all         benefit information</li> </ul>	DISPLAY slide 25. "Provide Benefit Information"  TRANSITION to the fourth lesson in Phase 4: Provide Benefit Information.  REFER trainees to the Provide Benefit Information job aid.  REMIND trainees of some common errors when providing benefit information:  Providing too much information to an unauthorized caller  Providing information other than what is given on VA Form 21-0845 (Authorization to Disclose a Record in the Presence of a Third Party)
Provide Benefit Information Objectives  Respond to direct inquiries from callers requesting benefit information	DISPLAY slide 26. "Provide Benefit Information Objectives"  PRESENT the objectives for the lesson.  ALLOW about 5–7 minutes to review these objectives.
<ul> <li>Verify the inquirer before providing information</li> <li>Provide correct pension benefit information</li> <li>Document the call in Modern Awards Processing Development (MAP-D) notes and/or on VA Form 27-0820 (Report of General Information)</li> </ul>	

Po	owerF	oint Slides	Instructor Activities
	artner nrough	Activity—Think It	DISPLAY slide 27. "Partner Activity—Think It Through"
•	Instru	ctions:	<b>DIVIDE</b> trainees into groups of two.
	0	Work with a partner.	<b>NOTE:</b> trainees have the option to go back to their previous partners or choose a new partner.
	0	Complete Part D of Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet using the Provide Benefit	DIRECT trainees to complete Part D of Appendix A: Phase 4 Worksheet by:  Reading each scenario
	0	Information job aid.  Read each scenario and determine:  Type of caller  Information needed to verify the caller	<ul> <li>Using the Provide Benefit Information job aid to determine:         <ul> <li>Type of caller</li> <li>Information needed to verify the caller</li> <li>Type of information that can be provided</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Type of information that can be provided to the caller</li> </ul>	to the caller <b>ALLOW</b> 10 minutes to complete this activity.
	0	Be prepared to share your finished activity with the class.	
•	Time	allowed: 10 minutes	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Think It Through Answers (1 of 3)	DISPLAY slide 28. "Partner Activity—Think It Through (1 of 3)"
Scenario 1:	PROVIDE answers for first scenario of this
Type of caller: Authorized third party	activity.
<ul> <li>Information needed to verify caller: Caller was able to verify the security question under box 11 on the VA Form 21-0845 in addition to the ID protocol</li> </ul>	
Type of information that can be provided to the caller:	
<ul> <li>Permitted to disclose specifics about the claim</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Cannot take information from the caller as a first party to adjust benefits</li> </ul>	
Partner Activity—Think It Through Answers (2 of 3)	<b>DISPLAY</b> slide <b>29.</b> "Partner Activity—Think It Through (2 of 3)"
Scenario 2:	<b>PROVIDE</b> answers for the second scenario of this
Type of caller: Veteran (first party)	activity.
Information needed to verify caller:	
o Full name	
o SSN	
o Date of birth	
Type of information that can be provided to the caller:	
May disclose the status of the original pension claim	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Partner Activity—Think It Through Answers (3 of 3)	DISPLAY slide 30. "Partner Activity—Think It Through (3 of 3)"
Scenario 3:	PROVIDE answers for the third scenario in the
Type of caller: VSO     Representative (Third Party)	activity.
Information needed to verify caller:	
<ul> <li>VA Form 21-22 designating</li> <li>Jan Scott as POA</li> </ul>	
o POA showing in system	
o VA Form 21-0845 completed	
Type of information that can be provided to the caller:	
o The caller is only permitted to receive information pertaining to the current monthly amount of any benefit because this is public information	
<ul> <li>Any other information must be requested from the Veteran or an authorized third party</li> </ul>	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Provide Benefit Information  Question Writing Opportunity  Instructions:	<b>DISPLAY</b> slide <b>31</b> . "Provide Benefit Information Question Writing Opportunity"
<ul> <li>Use Appendix B: Phase 4         Question and Answer         Worksheet to write any         questions regarding         benefit information.</li> <li>Questions will be         answered at the end of         the Knowledge Check</li> </ul>	REMIND trainees that at this time they can capture any questions they have regarding the benefit information.  REFER trainees to Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet.
<ul><li>preparation.</li><li>Time allowed: 5 minutes</li></ul>	<b>DIRECT</b> trainees to write any questions on the question and answer sheet. <b>ALLOW</b> 5 minutes to complete this opportunity.
Question and Answer Forum	DISPLAY slide
Instructions	32. "Question and Answer Forum"
<ul> <li>Divide into groups of three or four.</li> </ul>	<b>DIVIDE</b> trainees into groups of three or four. <b>DIRECT</b> trainees to review with their group any
<ul><li>Review the Appendix B:</li><li>Phase 4 Question and</li><li>Answer Worksheet with</li></ul>	questions that they had written down on the Appendix B: Phase 4 Question and Answer Worksheet
your group.	INFORM trainees to mark any questions that need further clarification from the instructor.
<ul> <li>Mark any questions that need further clarification from the instructor.</li> </ul>	ALLOW 7–10 minutes for this forum.
Time allowed: 7–10 minutes	

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Question and Answer Clarification	DISPLAY slide 33. "Question and Answer Clarification"
2	
	<b>ASK</b> if they have any questions or concerns regarding Phase 4. Use this time to clear up any confusion or misconceptions about the information presented.
What's Next?  Phase 4: Introduction to Pension Management Knowledge Check	DI SPLAY slide 34. "What's Next?"
	<b>DISCUSS</b> the upcoming Phase 4: Introduction to Pension Management Knowledge Check
	<b>REMIND</b> trainees to use the job aids and resources provided in the Knowledge Check to help answer the questions.