

Your Exam Content Outline

The following outline describes the content of one of the South Carolina insurance examinations. The examination will contain questions on the subjects contained in the outline. The percentages indicate the relative weight assigned to each section of the examination. For example, 10 percent means that 6 questions will be drawn from the section on a 60-question exam, 10 will be drawn on a 100-question exam and 15 will be drawn on a 150-question exam.

South Carolina Producer's Examination for Life Insurance Series 19-01

100 questions – Two-hour time limit

1.0 Insurance Regulation 15%

1.1 Licensing

- Process (38-43-100)
- Types of licensees
 - Producer (38-43-10, 30)
 - Nonresident (38-43-70)
 - Temporary (38-43-102)
 - Broker (38-45-10)
- Maintenance and duration (38-43-110)
 - Reinstatement (38-43-110(B))
 - Reporting of actions (38-43-247)
 - Change of address (38-43-107)
 - Assumed names (38-43-10(C))
 - Continuing education (38-43-106)
- Disciplinary actions
 - Cease and desist order (38-57-200, 230)
 - Hearings (38-3-170; 38-57-200)
 - Penalties (38-2-10–30, 38-43-130)

1.2 State regulation

- Director's general duties and powers (38-3-60, 110)
- Company regulation
 - Certificate of authority (38-5-80)
 - Solvency (38-5-120)
 - Rates (38-3-110)
 - Policy forms (38-61-20)
 - Unfair claims settlement practices (38-59-20)
 - Examination of books and records (38-13-10–30)
 - Appointment (38-43-40, 50)
 - Termination of appointment (38-43-55)
- Producer regulation
 - Records maintenance (38-43-250)
 - Failure to act as fiduciary (38-43-240)
 - Blank forms (38-43-260)
 - Sharing commissions (38-43-200)
 - Representing an unauthorized insurer (38-43-160–180)
- Unfair and prohibited practices
 - Misrepresentation (38-57-40)
 - False advertising (38-57-50)
 - Defamation (38-57-90)

- Boycott, coercion and intimidation (38-57-100)
- False financial statements (38-57-80)
- Unfair discrimination (38-55-50)
- Rebating (38-57-130)
- Twisting (38-57-60)
- Free insurance (38-57-170)
- Prohibited inducements (38-57-130, 150)
- Insurance fraud act (38-55-510–590)
- Consumer information privacy regulation (Reg 69-58 Sec 1–16)

1.3 Federal regulation

- Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC 1681–1681d)
- Fraud and false statements (18 USC 1033, 1034)

2.0 General Insurance 7%

2.1 Concepts

- Risk management key terms
 - Risk
 - Exposure
 - Hazard
 - Peril
 - Loss
- Methods of handling risk
 - Avoidance
 - Retention
 - Sharing
 - Reduction
 - Transfer
- Elements of insurable risks
 - Adverse selection
 - Law of large numbers
 - Reinsurance

2.2 Insurers

- Types of insurers
 - Stock companies
 - Mutual companies
 - Fraternal benefit societies
 - Lloyd's associations
 - Risk retention groups
 - Captive companies (Title 38, Ch 90)
- Private versus government insurers
- Authorized versus unauthorized insurers
- Domestic, foreign and alien insurers
- Financial status (independent rating services)
- Marketing (distribution) systems

2.3 Producers and general rules of agency

- Insurer as principal
- Producer/insurer relationship

- Authority and powers of producers
 - Express
 - Implied
 - Apparent
- Responsibilities to the applicant/insured

2.4 Contracts

- Elements of a legal contract
 - Offer and acceptance
 - Consideration
 - Competent parties
 - Legal purpose
- Distinct characteristics of an insurance contract
 - Contract of adhesion
 - Aleatory contract
 - Personal contract
 - Unilateral contract
 - Conditional contract
- Legal interpretations affecting contracts
 - Ambiguities in a contract of adhesion
 - Reasonable expectations
 - Indemnity
 - Utmost good faith
 - Representations/misrepresentations
 - Warranties
 - Concealment
 - Fraud
 - Waiver and estoppel

3.0 Life Insurance Basics 26%

3.1 Insurable interest

3.2 Personal uses of life insurance

- Survivor protection
- Estate creation
- Cash accumulation
- Liquidity
- Estate conservation
- Viatical settlements
- Life settlements
- Exemption from claims of creditors
- Exemption from probate

3.3 Determining amount of personal life insurance

- Human life value approach
- Needs approach
 - Types of information gathered
 - Determining lump-sum needs
 - Planning for income needs

3.4 Business uses of life insurance

- Buy-sell funding
- Key person
- Supplemental executive retirement plans (SERPs)
- Executive bonuses

3.5 Classes of life insurance policies

- Group versus individual
- Permanent versus term
- Participating versus nonparticipating
- Fixed versus variable life insurance and annuities

- Regulation of variable products (SEC, FINRA and South Carolina) (Reg 69-12 Part A (Art IV), Part B (Art VI))

3.6 Premiums

- Factors in premium determination
 - Mortality
 - Interest
 - Expense
- Premium payment mode

3.7 Producer responsibilities

- Solicitation and sales presentations
 - Advertising
 - Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association (38-29-130(5))
 - Illustrations (Reg 69-40 Sec 5-8)
 - Policy summary (Reg 69-30(D),(E))
 - Buyer's guide (Reg 69-30(D),(E), Appendix)
 - Life insurance policy cost comparison methods
 - Replacement (38-63-220(b); Reg 69-12.1)
 - Use and disclosure of insurance information
- Field underwriting
 - Notice of information practices
 - Application procedures and timing of initial premium collection
 - Premium collection
- Delivery
 - Policy review
 - Effective date of coverage

3.8 Individual underwriting by the insurer

- Information sources and regulation
 - Application
 - Producer report
 - Attending physician statement
 - Investigative consumer (inspection) report
 - Medical Information Bureau (MIB)
- Selection criteria and unfair discrimination (38-57-120(1))
- Classification of risks
 - Preferred
 - Standard
 - Substandard

4.0 Life Insurance Policies 17%

4.1 Term life insurance

- Level term
 - Annual renewable term
 - Level premium term
- Decreasing term

4.2 Whole life insurance

- Continuous premium (straight life)
- Limited payment
- Single premium

4.3 Flexible premium policies

- Adjustable life
- Universal life

4.4 Specialized policies

- Joint life (first-to-die)
- Survivorship life (second-to-die)

Final expense/pre-need

4.5 Group life insurance

Characteristics of group plans

Types of plan sponsors

Group underwriting requirements

Conversion to individual policy (38-65-210(8-10))

4.6 Credit life insurance (individual versus group)

5.0 Life Insurance Policy Provisions, Options and Riders 23%

5.1 Required provisions (38-63-220)

Modifications (c)

Right to examine (free look) (b)

Payment of premiums (h)

Grace period (i)

Reinstatement (j)

Incontestability (d)

Misstatement of age or gender (e)

Interest on insurance proceeds (f)

Entire contract (38-63-210)

Exclusions (38-63-225)

5.2 Beneficiaries

Designation options

Individuals

Classes

Estates

Minors

Trusts

Succession

Revocable versus irrevocable

Common disaster clause

Spendthrift clause

5.3 Settlement options

Cash payment

Interest only

Fixed-period installments

Fixed-amount installments

Life income

Single life

Life with term certain

Joint and survivor

Joint life with term certain

5.4 Nonforfeiture options

Cash surrender value

Extended term

Reduced paid-up insurance

5.5 Policy loan and withdrawal options

Cash loans

Automatic premium loans

Withdrawals or partial surrenders

5.6 Dividend options

Cash payment

Reduction of premium payments

Accumulation at interest

One-year term option

Paid-up additions

5.7 Disability riders

Waiver of premium

Waiver of cost of insurance

Disability income benefit

Payor benefit life/disability (juvenile insurance)

5.8 Accelerated (living) benefit provisions/riders

Conditions for payment

Effect on death benefit

5.9 Riders covering additional insureds

Spouse/other-insured term rider

Children's term rider

Family term rider

5.10 Riders affecting the death benefit amount

Accidental death

Guaranteed insurability

Cost of living

Return of premium

6.0 Annuities 7%

6.1 Annuity principles and concepts

Accumulation period versus annuity period

Owner, annuitant and beneficiary

Insurance aspects of annuities

6.2 Immediate versus deferred annuities

Single premium immediate annuities (SPIAs)

Deferred annuities

Premium payment options

Nonforfeiture

Surrender and withdrawal charges

Death benefits

6.3 Annuity (benefit) payment options

Life contingency options

Pure life versus life with guaranteed minimum

Single life versus multiple life

Annuities certain (types)

6.4 Annuity products

Fixed annuities

General account assets

Interest rate guarantees (minimum versus current)

Level benefit payment amount

Equity indexed annuities

Market value adjusted annuities

6.5 Uses of annuities

Lump-sum settlements

Qualified retirement plans

Group versus individual annuities

Personal uses

Individual retirement plans (IRAs)

Tax-deferred growth

Retirement income

Education funds

7.0 Federal Tax Considerations for Life Insurance and Annuities 3%

7.1 Taxation of personal life insurance

Amounts available to policyowner

Cash value increases

Dividends

Policy loans

Surrenders

Amounts received by beneficiary

General rule and exceptions

Settlement options

Values included in insured's estate

7.2 Modified endowment contracts (MECs)

Modified endowment versus non-MEC life insurance

Seven-pay test

Distributions

7.3 Taxation of non-qualified annuities

Individually-owned

Accumulation phase (taxation issues related to withdrawals)

Annuity phase and the exclusion ratio

Distributions at death

Corporate-owned

7.4 Taxation of individual retirement plans (IRAs)

Traditional IRAs

Contributions and deductible amounts

Premature distributions (including taxation issues)

Annuity phase benefit payments

Values included in the annuitant's estate

Amounts received by beneficiary

Required minimum distributions

Roth IRAs

Contributions and limits

Distributions

7.5 Rollovers and transfers (IRAs and qualified plans)

7.6 Section 1035 exchanges

8.0 Qualified Plans 2%

8.1 General requirements

8.2 Federal tax considerations

Tax advantages for employers and employees

Taxation of distributions (age-related)

8.3 Plan types, characteristics and purchasers

Simplified employee pensions (SEPs)

Self-employed plans (HR 10 or Keogh plans)

Profit-sharing and 401(k) plans

SIMPLE plans

Defined benefit pension plans

Section 457 deferred compensation

403(b) tax-sheltered annuities (TSAs)