

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)
- 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)
- 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
- Declined

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)