

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES (SOA)

## INTRODUCTORY STUDY NOTE

**EXAM SESSION:** FALL 2015

**EXAM:** RETIREMENT BENEFITS—FUNDING AND REGULATION

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday, October 28; 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

1. The examination will consist of five hours of written answer questions. A read-through time will be given prior to the start of the exam, 15 minutes in the morning session and 15 minutes in the afternoon session. No writing is allowed during the read-through time.
2. The following link shows a recommended FSA module/exam sequence for each track:  
<http://www.soa.org/Education/Exam-Req/edu-new-fsa-recommended.aspx>  

This order is NOT mandated. Each candidate will determine the appropriate sequence based on factors including readiness to sit for an exam, exam administration schedules, or study time available. However, the Education committees believe that these recommendations provide the most effective guide for candidate success. An examination/module may assume familiarity with material that is covered in any requirement that is recommended to come before that examination or module.
3. The Syllabus material includes textbooks, online readings, and the study notes listed in the Appendix. Study notes listed with an asterisk (\*) will also be included in the Revision set of study notes. The Appendix also may contain additional important information regarding this exam. A complete listing of the Syllabus and Learning Objectives is located in this exam's home page on the SOA Web site.
4. Several book distributors carry some or all of the textbooks for the Society of Actuaries exams. A list appears on the SOA Web site: <http://www.soa.org/education/exam-req/resources/edu-txt-manuals.aspx>.
5. Any changes in the Syllabus for this exam will be published under "Updates" in this exam's home page on the SOA Web site.
6. Past exams, solutions and case studies are available at: <http://www.soa.org/education/exam-req/syllabus-study-materials/edu-multiple-choice-exam.aspx>
7. A case study will be used as a basis for some questions on the examination. Be sure to answer the questions asked by referring to the case study. For example, if asked for advantages of a particular plan design to a company referenced in the case study, limit your response to the specifics for that company. Other advantages should not be listed as they are extraneous to the question and will result in no additional credit. Further, if they conflict with the applicable advantages, no credit will be given. Candidates are advised to familiarize themselves with the case study. A copy will be included in the examination booklet. Candidates will not be allowed to bring their study note copy of the case study into the examination room.

8. The candidate should be very familiar with the Learning Objectives. These Learning Objectives are the first ingredient in developing the syllabus and also guide the examination committee when writing questions. The Learning Objectives set out the cognitive level needed to pass this exam. You will notice that the candidates are expected to “analyze,” “explain,” “calculate,” “describe,” “apply,” etc. While studying the syllabus material, candidates may want to refer back to the Learning Objectives to remain focused on the goals of the exam.
9. The examination questions for this exam will be based on the required readings for this exam. If a conflict exists (in definitions, terminology, etc.) between the readings for this exam and the readings for other exams, the questions should be answered on the basis of the readings for this exam.
10. Some of the required readings for this exam use commutation functions to abbreviate actuarial formulas. For example,  $D_x = v_x/l_x$ . An understanding of commutation functions will give candidates a better grasp of the concepts and formulas in the required readings, but the examination questions for this exam will not require knowledge of commutation functions. Candidates who wish to familiarize themselves with commutation functions are advised to read the following paper, available from the Society’s website: <https://www.soa.org/files/pdf/edu-2009-fall-ea-sn-com.pdf>
11. Candidates may ONLY use these battery or solar-powered Texas Instruments models: BA-35, BA II Plus\*, BAII Plus Professional\*, TI-30Xa, TI-30X II\* (IIS solar or IIB battery), and TI-30X MultiView\* (XS solar or XB battery). Candidates may use more than one of the approved calculators during the examination.

Calculator instructions may not be brought into the exam room. During the exam, the calculator must be removed from its carrying case so the supervisor can confirm that it is an approved model. Candidates using a calculator other than the approved models will have their exams disqualified.

Candidates can purchase calculators directly from: Texas Instruments, Attn: Order Entry, PO Box 650311, Mail Station 3962, Dallas, TX 75265, phone 800/842-2737 or <http://epsstore.ti.com>.

*\*The memory of the **BA II Plus, BA II Plus Professional, TI-30X II and TI-30X MultiView** calculators will need to be cleared by the examination supervisor upon the candidate’s entrance to the examination room.*

12. A list of various seminars/workshops and study manuals appears on the SOA Web site <http://www.soa.org/education/exam-req/resources/edu-sem-workshops.aspx> and <http://www.soa.org/education/exam-req/resources/edu-txt-manuals.aspx>. These seminars/workshops and study manuals do not reflect any official interpretation, opinion, or endorsement of the Society of Actuaries or its Education Committee.

Please note that the Education Committee expects candidates to read the material cited in the *Syllabus* and to use other material as a complement to the primary sources rather than a substitution for them.

13. The Society of Actuaries provides study notes to persons preparing for this examination. They are intended to acquaint candidates with some of the theoretical and practical considerations involved in the various subjects. While varying opinions are presented where appropriate, limits on the length of the material and other considerations sometimes prevent the inclusion of all possible opinions. These study notes do not, however, represent any official opinion, interpretation or endorsement of the Society of Actuaries. The Society is grateful to the authors for their contributions in preparing study notes.

The American Academy of Actuaries, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, and the Society of Actuaries jointly sponsor various examinations administered by the Society of Actuaries.

## APPENDIX

Study notes for this exam

Code	Title
FR-100-13	ASOP 23, Data Quality
FR-102-15*	Selection of Actuarial Assumptions
FR-104-13	Pension Projections
FR-105-13	Actuarially Equivalent Benefits
FR-107-13	Pension Surplus and Deficit Funding: Funding of Multi-Employer Plans
FR-108-13	Pension Funding Exercises
FR-109-13	The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Defined Benefit Plans and the Need for Counter-Cyclical Funding Regulations
FR-111-13	Guideline for Converting Plans from Defined Benefit to Defined Contribution
FR-112-13	Filing Requirements and Procedure on Full or Partial Wind Up of a Pension Plan
FR-113-13	Converting Pension Plans from a Defined Benefit to a Defined Contribution Design - Issues to Consider in Canada
FR-114-15*	Ontario Pension Benefits Act, R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 909
FR-115-15*	Ontario Pension Benefits Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.8
FR-116-15*	FSCO Q&A on Agreement Respecting Multi-jurisdictional Pension Plans
FR-117-15*	FSCO Overview of Letters of Credit
FR-118-15*	FSCO Overview of Letters of Credit–FAQs
FR-119-14	CAPSA Guideline No. 7: Pension Plan Funding Policy Guideline
FR-120-14	IOPS Principles of Private Pension Supervision
FR-121-15*	Assumptions for Hypothetical Wind-Up and Solvency Valuations with Effective Dates between December 31, 2013, and December 30, 2014, CIA Educational Note Supplement

Code	Title
FR-123-15*	Pension Benefits Act–Ontario Regulation 310-13
FR-124-15*	Selecting Mortality Tables: A Credibility Approach
FR-125-15*	Determination of the Solvency Liability Adjustment–Regulation 909 ss. 1.3, 3, 13, 14 and 16
FR-126-15*	Asset Smoothing for Solvency Valuations
FR-127-15*	Rebuilding New Brunswick: The Case for Pension Reform
FR-128-15*	CIA Education Note Supplement: Guidance for Assumptions for Hypothetical Wind-up and Solvency Valuations Update–Effective December 31, 2014 and Applicable to valuations with Effective Dates Between December 31, 2014 and December 30, 2015