Short-Term Actuarial Mathematics Exam—June 2020

The Short-Term Actuarial Mathematics exam is a three-and-a-half hour exam that consists of 35 multiple-choice questions and is administered as a computer-based test (CBT).

For additional details, please refer to Exam Rules. The syllabus for this examination provides an introduction to modeling and covers important actuarial methods that are useful in modeling. A thorough knowledge of calculus, probability, and mathematical statistics is assumed.

The candidate will be introduced to a variety of frequency, severity, and aggregate models that are useful for short-term actuarial applications. The candidate will learn the steps involved in the modeling process and how to apply these steps. The candidate should be able to: 1) analyze data from an application in a business context; 2) determine a suitable model including parameter values; 3) provide measures of confidence for decisions based upon the model; and 4) estimate losses using credibility procedures. The candidate will be introduced to a variety of tools for the calibration and evaluation of the models. The candidate will also be introduced to the fundamental principles of pricing and reserving of some of the more common short-term insurance and reinsurance coverages.

A variety of tables are available below for the candidate and will be provided to the candidate at the examination. These include values for the standard normal distribution, chi-square distribution, and abridged inventories of discrete and continuous probability distributions. Candidates will not be allowed to bring copies of the tables into the examination room.

Check the Updates section on this exam's home page for any changes to the exam or syllabus.

In the learning outcomes, weights have been provided to indicate the relative emphasis on different sections. The ranges of weights shown are intended to apply to the large majority of exams administered. On occasion, the weights of topics on an individual exam may fall outside the published range. Candidates should also recognize that some questions may cover multiple learning outcomes.

Each multiple-choice problem includes five answer choices identified by the letters A, B, C, D, and E, only one of which is correct. Candidates must indicate responses to each question on the computer.

As part of the computer-based testing process, a few pilot questions will be randomly placed in the exam (paper and pencil and computer-based forms). These pilot questions are included to judge their effectiveness for future exams, but they will NOT be used in the scoring of this exam. All other questions will be considered in the scoring. All unanswered questions are scored incorrect. Therefore, candidates should answer every question on the exam. There is no set requirement for the distribution of correct answers for the multiple-choice preliminary examinations. It is possible that a particular answer choice could appear many times on an examination or not at all. Candidates are advised to answer each question to the best of their ability, independently from how they have answered other questions on the examination.

Because the CBT exam will be offered over a period of a few days, each candidate will receive a test form composed of questions selected from a pool of questions. Statistical scaling methods are used to

ensure within reasonable and practical limits that, during the same testing period of a few days, all forms of the test are comparable in content and passing criteria. The methodology that has been adopted is used by many credentialing programs that give multiple forms of an exam.

Recognized by the Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Topic: Severity Models (2.5-7.5%)
Learning Objectives
The Candidate will understand and be able to perform calculations with commonly used severity models.
Learning Outcomes
The Candidate will be able to: a) Calculate moments, percentiles, and generating functions. b) Describe how changes in the parameters affect the distribution. c) Recognize classes of distributions, including extreme value distributions, and their relationships. d) Create new distributions by multiplication by a constant, raising to a power, exponentiation, and mixing. e) Identify the applications to which each distribution may apply and explain why. f) Apply the distribution to an application, given the parameters. g) Compare two distributions based on various characteristics of their tails, including moments, ratios of moments, limiting tail behavior, hazard rate function, and mean excess function.

2. Topic: Frequency Models (2.5-7.5%)

Learning Objectives

The Candidate will understand and be able to perform calculations with commonly used frequency models.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to, for the Poisson, mixed Poisson, binomial, negative binomial, and geometric distributions, and mixtures thereof:

  a) Calculate moments and generating functions.

  b) Describe how changes in the parameters affect the distribution.

  c) Recognize classes of distributions and their relationships.

  d) Identify the applications to which each distribution may apply and explain why.

  e) Apply the distribution to an application, given the parameters.

  f) Derive and perform calculations with the zero-truncated and zero-modified versions of these distributions.

3. Topic: Aggregate Models (2.5-7.5%)

Learning Objectives

The Candidate will understand and be able to perform calculations with aggregate models.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to, for aggregate risk models:

  a) Define collective and individual risk models and calculate their expectation and variance.

  b) Use the normal distribution to approximate the aggregate distribution.

  c) Use the recursive formula to calculate the values of the collective risk models with discrete distributions of severities.

  d) Calculate the expected aggregate payments in the presence of an aggregate deductible.

  e) Evaluate the effect of the coverage modifications on the expected aggregate payments.

  f) Perform the exact calculation of aggregate loss distribution in case of the normal distribution of severities, exponential and gamma (Erlang) distribution of severities and a compound model with negative binomial frequency and exponential distribution of severities.

4. Topic: Coverage Modifications (2.5-7.5%)
Learning Objectives
The Candidate will understand and be able to perform calculations with respect to coverage modifications.
Learning Outcomes
The Candidate will be able to, for frequency, severity, and aggregate models: a) Evaluate the effect of coverage modifications, in particular, deductibles, limits, and coinsurance.   b) Calculate loss elimination ratios and increased limits factors.   c) Evaluate the effects of inflation on losses.

5. Topic: Risk Measures (2.5-7.5%)
Learning Objectives
The Candidate will understand and be able to perform calculations with common risk measures.
Learning Outcomes
The Candidate will be able to: a) Calculate Value at Risk and Tail Value at Risk.   b) Explain the desirable properties of a risk measure and determine whether a given risk measure has these properties.

6. Topic: Construction and Selection of Parametric Models (20-30%)

Learning Objectives

The Candidate will understand and be able to construct and estimate parameters for parametric models.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:

a) Estimate the parameters for severity, frequency, and aggregate distributions using Maximum Likelihood Estimation for:

- Complete, individual data
- Complete, grouped data
- Truncated or censored data

b) Estimate the variance of the estimators and construct confidence intervals.

c) Use the delta method to estimate the variance of the maximum likelihood estimator of a function of the parameter(s).

d) Estimate the parameters for severity, frequency, and aggregate distributions using Bayesian Estimation.

e) Perform model selection using:

- Graphical procedures.
- Hypothesis tests, including Chi-square goodness-of-fit, Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Likelihood ratio (LRT) tests.
- Score-based approaches, including Schwarz Bayesian Criterion (SBC), Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) and Akaike Information Criterion (AIC).

7. Topic: Credibility (20-25%)
Learning Objectives
The Candidate will understand and be able to estimate losses using credibility procedures.
Learning Outcomes
The Candidate will be able to: a) Apply and critique limited fluctuation (classical) credibility.   b) Explain and apply Bayesian credibility.   c) Apply conjugate priors in Bayesian credibility.   d) Apply Bühlmann and Bühlmann-Straub models and understand their relationship to Bayesian models.   e) Explain and apply empirical Bayesian method in the nonparametric and semiparametric cases.

8. Topic: Insurance and Reinsurance Coverages (5-10%)
Learning Objectives
The Candidate will understand the basic insurance and reinsurance coverages for short-term insurances.
Learning Outcomes
The Candidate will be able to: a) Describe different types of short-term insurance coverage including auto, homeowners, liability, health, disability, and dental.   b) Describe the types of policy limits and coverage modifications for short-term insurance.   c) Describe the operation of basic forms of proportional and excess of loss reinsurance.   d) Derive the distribution of claim amounts paid by the insurer and reinsurer under various forms of reinsurance.

9. Topic: Pricing and Reserving for Short-Term Insurance Coverages (15-25%)
Learning Objectives
The Candidate will be able to use basic methods to calculate premiums and reserves for short-term insurance coverages.
Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:
 	
  a) Explain the role of rating factors and exposure.
 	
  b) Describe the different forms of experience rating.
 	
  c) Describe and apply techniques for estimating unpaid losses from a run-off triangle, using the following methods:
 	
     • Chain ladder
 	
     • Average cost per claim
 	
     • Bornhuetter-Ferguson
 	
  d) Describe the underlying statistical models for the methods in (c).
 	
  e) Calculate premiums using the pure premium and loss ratio methods.

Readings

- *Loss Models: From Data to Decisions*, (Fifth Edition), 2019, by Klugman, S.A., Panjer, H.H. and Willmot, G.E., Wiley, ISBN: 978-1-119-52378-9

    Chapter 3
    Chapter 4
    Chapter 5
    Chapter 6
    Chapter 8
    Chapter 9, Sections 9.1–9.8 (excluding 9.6.1 and 9.8.3)
    Chapter 11
    Chapter 12 (excluding 12.5)
    Chapter 13
    Chapter 15 (excluding 15.4.2)

    [Candidates may also use the Fourth Edition of Loss Models: From Data to Decisions,* ISBN: 978-1-118-31532-3*. The chapter references are below.]

    Chapter 3
    Chapter 4
    Chapter 5
    Chapter 6, Sections 6.5, 6.6

Chapter 8
Chapter 9, Sections 9.1–9.7 (excluding 9.6.1), Sections 9.8.1, 9.8.2
Chapter 13, Sections 13.2, 13.3, 13.4
Chapter 14, Sections 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.6
Chapter 15
Chapter 16 (excluding 16.4.2 and 16.5.3)

- STAM-21-18 Replacement pages for Section 16.5.3 from *Loss Models: From Data to Decisions,* Fourth Edition
  [Only required for candidates using the Fourth Edition of Loss Models: From Data to Decisions, **ISBN: 978-1-118-31532-3***.]*

- STAM-22-18 *Foundations of Casualty Actuarial Science* (Fourth Edition), 2001, Casualty Actuarial Society

  Chapter 8, Section 1 (background only) Sections 2–5

- STAM-23-18 *Topics in Credibility* by Dean, C.G.

- *Introduction to Ratemaking and Loss Reserving for Property and Casualty Insurance* (Fourth Edition), 2015, by Brown and Lennox, ACTEX, ISBN: 978-1625424747

  Chapter 2
  Chapter 3
  Chapter 4
  Chapter 5

- STAM-24-18 Supplement to Chapter 3 of *Introduction to Ratemaking and Loss Reserving for Property and Casualty Insurance,* Fourth Edition

- STAM-25-18 *Individual Health Insurance* (Second Edition), 2015, by Bluhm and Leida, Chapter 2, Sections 2.1, 2.9

Note: The choices of parameterization for several probability distributions differ in the *Foundations of Casualty Actuarial Science* and *Topics in Credibility* study notes when compared to *Loss Models: From Data to Decisions* by Klugman, Panjer and Willmot.

Various probability distributions are given on pages 132 to 134 of the *Foundations of Casualty Actuarial Science*. For example, the parameters of the gamma distribution are α and λ, where E[x] = α / λ. In the *Loss Models* text, the parameters of the gamma distribution are α and θ, where E[x] = $\alpha\theta$.   When comparing the two distributions, one can see that $\lambda = 1/\theta$.

Please keep in mind that the tables given to candidates during the exam follow the format of Appendices A & B of *Loss Models: From Data to Decisions*, and therefore candidates are responsible for understanding how the parameterizations in these tables relate to the results derived in the *Foundations of Casualty Actuarial Science*.

- [STAM-26-18 Terminology and Notation Note for STAM Exam](#)

Other Resources
[Tables for Exam STAM](#)

All released exam papers since 2000, can be found at:
[Past Exam Questions and Solutions](#)

Exam STAM Sample [Questions](#) and [Solutions](#).

[Corrections and Comments for *Loss Models,* Fourth Edition](#)