

South Carolina Life Insurance Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

- 1. What portion of a non-qualified annuity payment would typically be taxed?**
 - A. The entire payment**
 - B. Only the principal**
 - C. Interest earned on principal**
 - D. Only the excess over the premium paid**
- 2. What is a statement that, if untrue, may breach an insurance contract?**
 - A. Policy exclusions**
 - B. Law of Large Numbers**
 - C. Acts of God**
 - D. Policy limits**
- 3. What are the two classifications of annuities according to the time when annuity payments begin?**
 - A. Fixed and variable**
 - B. Immediate and deferred**
 - C. Single and joint**
 - D. Life and term**
- 4. What regulates consumer reports in relation to life insurance policies?**
 - A. Fair Credit Reporting Act**
 - B. Consumer Insurance Protection Act**
 - C. Insurance Code of Ethics**
 - D. Financial Consumer Protection Act**
- 5. What type of annuity requires an agent to have a securities license?**
 - A. Fixed annuity**
 - B. Variable annuity**
 - C. Immediate annuity**
 - D. Indexed annuity**

- 6. Which of the following best describes "underwriting" in life insurance?**
- A. The assessment of risk related to an applicant**
 - B. The process of collecting premiums**
 - C. The provision of policy information**
 - D. The calculation of benefits**
- 7. What is the term for a producer who fails to segregate premium monies from personal funds?**
- A. Commingling**
 - B. Misappropriation**
 - C. Fraud**
 - D. Unethical behavior**
- 8. In life insurance, what is the term for the individual who receives the death benefit?**
- A. Insured**
 - B. Underwriter**
 - C. Beneficiary**
 - D. Policyholder**
- 9. What is the primary benefit of a life insurance policy with a return of premium feature?**
- A. Immediate cash payout upon death**
 - B. All premiums returned if no claim is made**
 - C. Guaranteed cash value accumulation**
 - D. Lower premiums than traditional policies**
- 10. What type of license is required to sell annuities?**
- A. A health insurance license**
 - B. A life insurance license and a securities license**
 - C. A business license**
 - D. A property and casualty insurance license**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What portion of a non-qualified annuity payment would typically be taxed?

- A. The entire payment**
- B. Only the principal**
- C. Interest earned on principal**
- D. Only the excess over the premium paid**

In the context of non-qualified annuities, the taxation rules determine that only the interest earned on the principal amount is subject to taxation. When an individual invests in a non-qualified annuity, they deposit after-tax dollars, meaning the initial investment (or principal) has already been taxed. Therefore, when annuity payments are received, the IRS allows the return of the principal tax-free, as taxes have already been paid on that amount. The only portion that is considered taxable is the interest earned over and above that principal. This means that during the distribution phase, the earnings (interest) that accrued while the funds were invested in the annuity will be taxed as ordinary income when withdrawn. This structure is designed to encourage long-term savings, allowing the investment to grow tax-deferred until the money is withdrawn. This understanding is crucial for individuals planning their retirement income, as they should be aware of the tax implications associated with their annuity payments. Awareness of these details helps in financial planning and ensures compliance with tax regulations.

2. What is a statement that, if untrue, may breach an insurance contract?

- A. Policy exclusions**
- B. Law of Large Numbers**
- C. Acts of God**
- D. Policy limits**

The correct answer revolves around the principle that misrepresentations can lead to a breach of contract within the context of insurance. The "Law of Large Numbers" relates to the statistical concept that, as the number of incidents or observations increases, outcomes become more predictable, thereby allowing insurers to calculate risks and set premiums accurately. However, it does not directly pertain to statements that, if untrue, could breach a contract. On the other hand, a misrepresentation or an untrue statement of material fact made by the insured can lead to a breach of the contract. For example, if an applicant fails to disclose relevant information about their health or history that is critical to assessing risk, this can render a policy void at the insurer's discretion. Misleading information during the application process is significant, as it affects the insurer's assessment and decision-making. Misrepresentations can result in denial of claims or cancellation of the policy if discovered after a claim is filed, which aligns with the concept of truthfulness required in contractual agreements. The other options pertain more to factors influencing insurance contracts rather than statements that could breach those contracts due to their untruthfulness. Each of those concepts—policy exclusions, acts of God, and policy limits—are terms and conditions

3. What are the two classifications of annuities according to the time when annuity payments begin?

- A. Fixed and variable**
- B. Immediate and deferred**
- C. Single and joint**
- D. Life and term**

The classification of annuities based on the timing of when annuity payments begin is divided into immediate and deferred categories. Immediate annuities start making payments to the annuitant right after a lump-sum payment is made. This means that the individual who purchases the annuity begins to receive regular payments almost immediately, typically within one year of the purchase. This type of annuity is ideal for those who want to secure an income stream right away, such as retirees looking to generate regular income from their savings. On the other hand, deferred annuities begin their payments at a future date, which can be several years after the initial investment. During the accumulation phase, the funds in the annuity can grow on a tax-deferred basis until the owner decides to start receiving payouts. This can be beneficial for individuals who are saving for retirement or those who want their investment to grow before they start drawing from it. This distinction is essential for understanding how annuities function and choosing the right type based on financial goals and timelines.

4. What regulates consumer reports in relation to life insurance policies?

- A. Fair Credit Reporting Act**
- B. Consumer Insurance Protection Act**
- C. Insurance Code of Ethics**
- D. Financial Consumer Protection Act**

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) is the legislation that regulates consumer reports, particularly in relation to life insurance policies. This act governs how consumer reporting agencies collect, disseminate, and use consumer information. It ensures that individuals are treated fairly when their credit history or other personal information is evaluated for life insurance applications and policies. Under the FCRA, consumers have the right to know what information is being reported about them, dispute inaccurate information, and understand how their data influences decisions made by insurance companies. The act is significant in promoting transparency and fairness in consumer lending and insurance underwriting processes, which directly impacts the issuance of life insurance policies. While the other options might address various aspects of consumer protection in financial contexts, they do not specifically regulate consumer reports in the manner that the Fair Credit Reporting Act does. Thus, it is the FCRA that plays a crucial role in ensuring that consumers are informed and have recourse related to their consumer reports as they pertain to life insurance.

5. What type of annuity requires an agent to have a securities license?

A. Fixed annuity

B. Variable annuity

C. Immediate annuity

D. Indexed annuity

A variable annuity requires an agent to have a securities license because it is considered a security under federal law. This type of annuity allows for investment in various financial instruments such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, which can lead to varying returns based on market performance. Given that the investment aspect introduces more risk than other types of annuities, specific regulations mandate that agents selling variable annuities be appropriately licensed to ensure they understand the complexities and potential risks involved in these products. In contrast, fixed annuities provide a guaranteed return and do not involve investment in the stock market; hence, they do not require a securities license. Immediate annuities are typically structured to start paying income right away, and indexed annuities, while linked to stock market indexes, also do not require a securities license because they primarily function like fixed annuities with some modifications based on index performance. Therefore, the unique characteristics of variable annuities necessitate specialized licensing for agents, highlighting the importance of understanding the regulatory landscape surrounding different financial products.

6. Which of the following best describes "underwriting" in life insurance?

A. The assessment of risk related to an applicant

B. The process of collecting premiums

C. The provision of policy information

D. The calculation of benefits

Underwriting in life insurance is fundamentally concerned with the assessment of risk associated with an applicant for coverage. This process involves evaluating various factors, including the applicant's age, health status, lifestyle choices, and family medical history. The underwriter's goal is to determine the likelihood of the applicant filing a claim in the future and to assess whether the risk falls within the insurer's acceptable limits. The correct answer highlights that underwriting is not merely about collecting premiums or providing policy information, nor is it focused on calculating the benefits to be paid out. Instead, it serves as a critical first step in the policy issuance process, ensuring that the insurer has a clear understanding of the risk they are taking on when providing coverage to an individual. By effectively managing risk through underwriting, insurance companies can maintain financial stability and offer fair pricing for their policies.

7. What is the term for a producer who fails to segregate premium monies from personal funds?

A. Commingling

B. Misappropriation

C. Fraud

D. Unethical behavior

The correct term for a producer who fails to segregate premium monies from personal funds is commingling. This term specifically refers to the unauthorized mixing of a client's funds with the producer's personal or business funds. In the insurance industry, it is crucial for producers to maintain a clear boundary between these funds, as this helps prevent any potential misuse or mismanagement of client premiums. Commingling can lead to severe issues, including financial irregularities and legal consequences. It can undermine trust in the insurance profession and possibly expose producers to disciplinary action from regulatory boards. This practice is strictly regulated and is considered a breach of ethical standards within the industry. While misappropriation, fraud, and unethical behavior are also serious infractions, they encompass broader and often more malicious actions. Misappropriation can imply dishonesty or theft, while fraud involves deceit for personal gain. Unethical behavior is a general term that could apply to various actions but does not specifically address the issue of mixing funds. Hence, commingling most accurately captures the scenario of failing to separate premium funds from personal finances.

8. In life insurance, what is the term for the individual who receives the death benefit?

A. Insured

B. Underwriter

C. Beneficiary

D. Policyholder

In life insurance, the individual who receives the death benefit upon the death of the insured is referred to as the beneficiary. This term specifically identifies the person or entity designated in the policy to receive the funds, ensuring that the intent of the policyholder is honored when the insured passes away. The beneficiary can be a person, a trust, a charity, or any other entity specified by the policyholder, and the designation can usually be amended as needed while the policyholder is alive. Understanding this term is crucial, as it delineates who has the legal right to claim the benefits from the life insurance policy after the insured's death, reflecting the essence of how life insurance serves as a financial protection mechanism for dependents or beneficiaries. The roles of the insured, underwriter, and policyholder, while integral to the structure of life insurance, do not directly pertain to the receipt of the death benefit in the same manner that the beneficiary does.

9. What is the primary benefit of a life insurance policy with a return of premium feature?

- A. Immediate cash payout upon death**
- B. All premiums returned if no claim is made**
- C. Guaranteed cash value accumulation**
- D. Lower premiums than traditional policies**

The primary benefit of a life insurance policy with a return of premium feature is that it returns all premiums paid if no claim is made. This characteristic makes such policies highly appealing to consumers who are concerned about the possibility of not using the death benefit during their lifetime. It effectively allows policyholders to maintain the security provided by life insurance while also having the peace of mind that they will receive their money back if they outlive the policy term. This feature can be particularly attractive to individuals who view life insurance as a long-term financial commitment and want assurance that their investment is not lost if they do not pass away within the coverage period. In contrast, immediate cash payouts upon death pertain to traditional life insurance coverage but do not reflect the unique return of premium benefit. Guaranteed cash value accumulation applies to whole life or certain types of permanent policies but is not specific to the return of premium feature. Lastly, lower premiums than traditional policies is not a benefit tied to this feature; policies with a return of premium are often more expensive compared to standard term policies due to the guaranteed return aspect.

10. What type of license is required to sell annuities?

- A. A health insurance license**
- B. A life insurance license and a securities license**
- C. A business license**
- D. A property and casualty insurance license**

To sell annuities, an individual must possess a life insurance license because annuities are considered life insurance products. Additionally, if the annuities being sold are variable annuities, a securities license is also required. This regulatory requirement ensures that agents are qualified to inform customers about the complexities and risks associated with these financial instruments. This combination of licenses ensures that consumers are adequately protected and that agents have the necessary knowledge to provide sound financial advice related to annuities. The other options do not meet the requirements for selling annuities. A health insurance license is specific to health insurance policies and does not cover life insurance products. A business license refers to a general permission to operate a business in a specific jurisdiction and does not pertain to the nuances of selling insurance products. A property and casualty insurance license is necessary for selling property and casualty insurance products and would not authorize an individual to sell life insurance or annuities.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!