

Award in General Insurance (Hong Kong)

Objective

At the end of this unit, candidates should be able to understand, in the context of the Hong Kong insurance market, the:

- basic principles of insurance;
- main legal principles related to insurance contracts;
- main regulatory principles related to insurance business;
- key elements of consumer protection.

Summary of learning outcomes	Number of questions in the examination*
1. Understand the nature and main features of risk and insurance	20
2. Know the structure and main features of the Hong Kong insurance market	11
3. Know the main functions of insurance professionals	11
4. Understand the main legal principles governing insurance contracts	42
5. Understand the main regulatory and legal principles applicable to the transaction of insurance business in Hong Kong	14
6. Know key aspects of ethics, corporate governance and internal controls	2

*The test specification has an in-built element of flexibility. It is designed to be used as a guide for study and is not a statement of actual number of questions that will appear in every exam. However, the number of questions testing each learning outcome will generally be within the range plus or minus 2 of the number indicated.

Important notes

- **Method of assessment:** 100 multiple choice questions (MCQs). 2 hours are allowed for this examination.
- This syllabus will be examined from 27 February 2017 to 30 April 2018.
- Candidates will be examined on the basis of Hong Kong law and practice unless otherwise stated.
- Candidates should refer to the CII website for the latest information on changes to law and practice and when they will be examined:
 1. Visit www.cii.co.uk/qualifications
 2. Select the appropriate qualification
 3. Select your unit on the right hand side of the page

1. Understand the nature and main features of risk and insurance

The nature and main features of risk

- 1.1 The concept of risk and risk perception;
- 1.2 How different risks are categorised;
- 1.3 The risk management function and process;
- 1.4 The relationship between frequency and severity of loss;
- 1.5 The types of risk that can be insured and the types of risk that cannot;
- 1.6 What is meant by a peril and a hazard and the difference between the two, as they relate to insurance;
- 1.7 How the principles defined in element 1.1 to 1.6 are applied to a given set of circumstances.

The nature and main features of insurance

- 1.8 The basis of insurance as a risk transfer mechanism;
- 1.9 How insurance operates by the pooling of risks;
- 1.10 How insurance benefits policyholders and society in general;
- 1.11 What is meant by co-insurance, dual insurance and self-insurance;
- 1.12 The main classes of insurance in outline.

2. Know the structure and main features of the Hong Kong insurance market

The Hong Kong insurance market and its global context

- 2.1 The structure of the Hong Kong insurance market and its role in the global insurance market;
- 2.2 The main features of the different types of insurers;
- 2.3 The unique structure and main features of Lloyd's;
- 2.4 The main features and services of intermediaries in the insurance market;
- 2.5 The different distribution channels used for the selling of insurance;
- 2.6 The basic purpose of reinsurance.

3. Know the main functions of insurance professionals

The insurance profession

The main functions of:

- 3.1 underwriters;
- 3.2 claims personnel;
- 3.3 loss adjusters and loss assessors;
- 3.4 actuaries;
- 3.5 risk managers;
- 3.6 compliance officers;
- 3.7 the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)

4. Understand the main legal principles governing insurance contracts

Contract

- 4.1 The essentials of a valid contract of insurance;
- 4.2 How contracts of insurance can be terminated.

Agency

- 4.3 The methods of creating an agent/principal relationship;
- 4.4 The duties of an agent to their principal and the duties of a principal to their agent;
- 4.5 The consequences of an agent's actions on their principal;
- 4.6 Suggested content of business agreements or best practice between an insurer and intermediary.

Insurable interest

- 4.7 The requirements for insurable interest in insurance contracts.

Disclosure and representation

- 4.8 How principles relating to disclosure and representation apply to contracts of insurance;
- 4.9 How duties relating to disclosure and representation operate in insurance contracts, how they are modified by policy wordings, and how they contrast with life assurance contracts;
- 4.10 Legal definitions relating to disclosure and representation and factors that might limit an insurer's entitlement to information;
- 4.11 The consequences of non-disclosure or misrepresentation of relevant information.

Proximate cause

- 4.12 How the principle of proximate cause is applied to non-complex claims.

Indemnity

- 4.13 The definition of indemnity and which types of policy are policies of indemnity;
- 4.14 How the indemnity principle is applied to contracts of insurance;
- 4.15 What is meant by agreed value, new for old, reinstatement and first-loss policies;
- 4.16 How average is applied to non-complex cases of underinsurance.

Contribution

- 4.17 The principle of contribution and when and how it applies to the sharing of claim payments between insurers in straightforward property cases.

Subrogation

- 4.18 The principle of subrogation and why it may or may not be pursued in simple circumstances.

5. Understand the main regulatory and legal principles applicable to the transaction of insurance business in Hong Kong

Regulation

- 5.1 The approach to regulation in the Hong Kong insurance industry and the role of the regulator;
- 5.2 International standard setting bodies relevant to the Hong Kong insurance industry:
 - the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS);
 - the Financial Action Task Force (FATF);
- 5.3 Prudential and market conduct regulation;
- 5.4 Tools used by regulators to supervise the industry.

Capital adequacy

- 5.5 The importance of establishing and maintaining capital adequacy;
- 5.6 The different approaches to capital adequacy;
- 5.7 The relationship between capital adequacy and solvency control levels.

Anti money laundering and counter terrorism financing

- 5.8 The regional and global problem;
- 5.9 The FATF definition of money laundering;
- 5.10 Know your client: the main principles.

Fraud

- 5.11 The different types of fraud faced by insurers;
- 5.12 Fraud management by the insurer.

6. Know key aspects of ethics, corporate governance and internal controls

Ethical standards

- 6.1 The scope and operation of the CII Code of Ethics in broad outline

Suitability

- 6.2 The objectives of 'fit and proper' requirements and the risks of unsuitability.

Internal control system

- 6.3 Risk management frameworks outlined;
- 6.4 The role of compliance and audit;
- 6.5 Establishing a customer complaints procedure.

Reading list

The following list provides details of various publications which may assist you with your studies.

Note: The examination will test the syllabus alone.

The reading list is provided for guidance only and is not in itself the subject of the examination.

The publications will help you keep up-to-date with developments and will provide a wider coverage of syllabus topics.

CII/PFS members can borrow most of the additional study materials below from Knowledge Services. CII study texts can be consulted from within the library.

New materials are added frequently - for information about new releases and lending service, please go to www.cii.co.uk/knowledge or email knowledge@cii.co.uk.

CII study texts

Award in General Insurance (Hong Kong). London: CII. Coursebook WH1.

Books (and eBooks)

A beginner's guide to the insurance profession. Johnsie Gladney. New Delhi: World Technologies, 2012.*

Insurance claims. 4th ed. Alison Padfield. Bloomsbury Professional, 2016.

Insurance law: an introduction. Robert Merkin. London: Routledge, 2014.*

Insurance theory and practice. Rob Thoitys. Routledge, 2010.*

Lloyd's: law and practice. 2nd ed. Julian Burling. Oxon: Informa Law, 2017.*

Research handbook on international insurance law and regulation. Julian Burling, Kevin Lazarus. London: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2011.*

World insurance: the evolution of a global risk network. Peter Borscheid, Niels Viggo Haueter. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.*

Reports

Governance, risk and compliance. The Hong Kong insurance industry. Timetric. Updated regularly. Available online via www.cii.co.uk/forecastreports (members only).

Non-life insurance industry in Hong Kong, key trends and opportunities. Timetric. Updated annually. Available online via www.cii.co.uk/forecastreports (members only).

Personal accident and health insurance in Hong Kong, key trends and opportunities. Timetric. Updated annually. Available online via www.cii.co.uk/forecastreports (members only).

Journals and magazines

The Journal. London: CII. Six issues a year. Also available online via www.cii.co.uk/knowledge (CII/PFS members only).

Reference materials

Concise encyclopedia of insurance terms. Laurence S. Silver, et al. New York: Routledge, 2010.*

Dictionary of insurance. C Bennett. 2nd ed. London: Pearson Education, 2004.

The insurance manual. Stourbridge, West Midlands: Insurance Publishing & Printing Co. Looseleaf, updated.

*Also available as an ebook through Discovery via www.cii.co.uk/discovery (CII/PFS members only).

Examination guides

An examination guide, which includes a specimen paper, is available to purchase via www.cii.co.uk.

If you have a current study text enrolment, the current examination guide is included and is accessible via Revisionmate (www.revisionmate.com). Details of how to access Revisionmate are on the first page of your study text.

It is recommended that you only study from the most recent versions of the examination guides.

Exam technique/study skills

There are many modestly priced guides available in bookshops. You should choose one which suits your requirements.

The Insurance Institute of London holds a lecture on revision techniques for CII exams approximately three times a year. The slides from their most recent lectures can be found at www.cii.co.uk/iilrevision (CII/PFS members only).