

# General insurance business

## Objective

To provide knowledge and understanding of basic insurance products and practice, including underwriting and policy wordings, claims, customer service and information and communication technology.

Summary of learning outcomes	Number of questions in the examination*
1. Know insurance products and associated services for general insurance business	36
2. Understand underwriting and policy wordings for general insurance business	31
3. Know how to apply knowledge of principles of premium calculation of general insurance business to a given set of circumstances	2
4. Understand claims within the context of general insurance business	21
5. Know how to apply knowledge of principles concerning the operation of policy conditions affecting claims for general insurance business to a given set of circumstances	2
6. Understand information and communication technology, security, confidential information and data protection within general insurance business	5
7. Understand customer service within general insurance business	3

\*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 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020.
- Candidates will be examined on the basis of English 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/learning/qualifications/unit-general-insurance-business-if2/](http://www.cii.co.uk/learning/qualifications/unit-general-insurance-business-if2/)
  2. Select qualification update on the right hand side of the page.

- 1. Know insurance products and associated services for general insurance business**
  - 1.1 Describe the basic features and outline of typical cover of:**
    - motor: private car, motorcycle, commercial
    - health: personal accident, sickness, medical expenses
    - combined comprehensive or packaged policies: household, travel and commercial packages
    - property: fire and special perils, all risks, theft, money
    - pecuniary: legal expenses, business interruption
    - liability: employers', public, products, directors' and officers', professional indemnity, trustees' indemnity
    - extended warranties
    - cyber insurance
  - 1.2 Describe in outline the non-insurance services available, specifically:**
    - help lines and advice
    - authorised repairers and suppliers
    - risk control/advice
    - uninsured loss recovery services
- 2. Understand underwriting and policy wordings for general insurance business**
  - 2.1 Explain why an underwriter wishes to be aware of material circumstances in assessing a risk**
  - 2.2 Explain the significance of moral and physical hazard for underwriters and how they are manifested**
  - 2.3 Describe the statutory provisions relating to the disclosure of material information to insurers and the methods used by underwriters to obtain this information**
  - 2.4 Describe the questions usually asked of proposers**
  - 2.5 Describe the legal and regulatory significance of procedures relating to quotations**
  - 2.6 Explain the legal significance of procedures relating to proposals**
  - 2.7 Explain the legal significance of procedures relating to the issue of insurance documentation including cover notes, insurance contracts, Insurance Product Information Documents and certificates of insurance**
  - 2.8 Explain the relevance of premium payment for valid cover**
  - 2.9 Describe the methods used by insurers to collect premiums**
  - 2.10 Describe the features of Insurance Premium Tax**
  - 2.11 Describe the structure, functions and contents of an insurance contract, including the schedule**
  - 2.12 Explain the meaning and use of common policy conditions and exclusions**
  - 2.13 Explain how excesses and franchises are used**
  - 2.14 Explain the distinction between warranties, conditions, representations and exclusions**
  - 2.15 Explain the legal and regulatory significance of procedures relating to renewals**
  - 2.16 Explain how cancellation clauses operate**
- 3. Know how to apply knowledge of principles of premium calculation of general insurance business to a given set of circumstances**
  - 3.1 Apply knowledge of principles of premium calculation of general insurance business to a given set of circumstances**

#### **4. Understand claims within the context of general insurance business**

- 4.1 Describe the legal requirements for a valid claim
- 4.2 Explain why a claim may be invalid or only partially met
- 4.3 Describe the insured's duties after a loss
- 4.4 Describe the documentary evidence needed relating to claims
- 4.5 Explain how alternative dispute resolutions operate, including arbitration clauses
- 4.6 Explain the ways in which claims can be settled:
  - cash payment to insured
  - repair
  - replacement
  - reinstatement
  - payments to third parties
- 4.7 Describe the role of the Motor Insurers' Bureau and the Employers' Liability Tracing Office (ELTO) in relation to claims
- 4.8 Explain in general terms how the process of reserving operates
- 4.9 Explain the role salvage plays in claims settlement
- 4.10 Describe the means of claims recovery open to insurers
- 4.11 Describe the procedures commonly used to discourage and detect fraudulent claims
- 4.12 Explain the consequences of fraudulent claims on insurers, policyholders and fraudulent claimants

#### **5. Know how to apply knowledge of principles concerning the operation of policy conditions affecting claims for general insurance business to a given set of circumstances**

- 5.1 Apply knowledge of principles concerning the operation of policy conditions affecting claims for general insurance business to a given set of circumstances

#### **6. Understand information and communication technology, security, confidential information and data protection within general insurance business**

- 6.1 Explain how information and communication technology, the internet and social media are used in the insurance industry
- 6.2 Describe the principles of data protection and the types of confidential information
- 6.3 Explain the principles of secure storage and disposal of documents
- 6.4 Explain the need for security and confidentiality of information and the types of cyber attack that may be attempted
- 6.5 Describe the regulations relating to the use of confidential information, its storage and disclosure

#### **7. Understand customer service within general insurance business**

- 7.1 Describe what a customer service standard is
- 7.2 Explain how service standards should be implemented
- 7.3 Describe the legal and regulatory obligations of organisations in the insurance industry in relation to customer service, including the fair treatment of customers

## Reading list

The following list provides details of further reading 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 resources listed here will help you keep up-to-date with developments and provide a wider coverage of syllabus topics.

CII/PFS members can access most of the additional study materials below via the Knowledge Services webpage at <https://www.cii.co.uk/knowledge-services>.

New resources are added frequently - for information about obtaining a copy of an article or book chapter, book loans, or help finding resources, please go to <https://www.cii.co.uk/knowledge-services> or email [knowledge@cii.co.uk](mailto:knowledge@cii.co.uk).

### CII study texts

General insurance business. London: CII. Study text IF2.

### Books (and ebooks)

Bird's modern insurance law. 10th ed. John Birds. Sweet and Maxwell, 2016.

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

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

Insurance theory and practice. Rob Thoyts. Routledge, 2010.\*

Pricing in general insurance. Pietro Parodi. CRC Press, 2015.\*

### Factfiles and other online resources

CII fact files are concise, easy to digest but technically dense resources designed to enrich the knowledge of members. Written by subject experts and practitioners, the fact files cover key industry topics as well as less familiar or specialist areas of general insurance, life, and pensions and financial services, with information drawn together in a way not readily available elsewhere. Available online via [www.cii.co.uk/ciifactfiles](http://www.cii.co.uk/ciifactfiles) (CII/PFS members only).

The Insurance Institute of London (IIL) podcast lecture series features leading industry figures and subject experts speaking on current issues and trends impacting insurance and financial services. Available online at <https://www.cii.co.uk/insurance-institute-of-london/> (CII/PFS members only).

- Fraudulent claims. Beverley Lyn.
- Recent developments to Solvency II. Brad Baker.
- Principles and trends in general insurance underwriting. Massimo Vascotto.

- The Financial Ombudsman Service and general insurance. Peter Tyldesley, Saira Paruk.
- The regulatory framework. Simon Collins.

Code of ethics explained. Duncan Minty. CII Faculty lecture, 2014. Available online at [www.cii.co.uk/30790](http://www.cii.co.uk/30790)

### Periodicals

The Journal. London: CII. Six issues a year. Archive available online at <https://www.cii.co.uk/search-results?q=journal> (CII/PFS members only).

Post magazine. London: Incisive Financial Publishing. Monthly. Contents searchable online at [www.postonline.co.uk](http://www.postonline.co.uk).

### 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.

Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Handbook. Available at [www.handbook.fca.org.uk/handbook](http://www.handbook.fca.org.uk/handbook).

The insurance manual. Sadler, John. Stourbridge, Worcs: Insurance Publishing & Printing Co. Looseleaf updated annually.

Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) Rulebook Online. Available at [www.prarulebook.co.uk](http://www.prarulebook.co.uk)

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](http://www.cii.co.uk/discovery) (CII/PFS members only).

### Examination guide

If you have a current study text enrolment, the current examination guide is included and is accessible via Revisionmate ([www.revisionmate.com](http://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 version of the examination guide.

### Exam technique/study skills

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