

Advanced underwriting

Purpose

To enable candidates to understand the management of the underwriting function in an insurance organisation.

Assumed knowledge

It is assumed that the candidate has the knowledge gained from a study of the relevant sections of IF1 Insurance, legal and regulatory and M80 Underwriting practice or equivalent examinations.

Summary of learning outcomes

1. Analyse key regulation and legislation affecting the underwriting function.
2. Evaluate underwriting strategy, policy and practice.
3. Analyse the principles and practices of pricing.
4. Evaluate the management of exposures in the portfolio.
5. Evaluate planning, portfolio monitoring and operational controls.

Important notes

- Method of assessment: Coursework – 3 online assignments (80 marks). Each assignment must be individually passed.
- The syllabus is 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/qualifications
 2. Select the appropriate qualification
 3. Select your unit on the right hand side of the page

1. Analyse key regulation and legislation affecting the underwriting function

- 1.1 Explain the impact of legislation and regulation on the underwriting function.
- 1.2 Examine the relationship between the underwriting function and solvency requirements.
- 1.3 Examine the issues and implications of underwriting business internationally.

2. Evaluate underwriting strategy, policy and practice

- 2.1 Analyse the relationship between the corporate, reinsurance and underwriting strategies.
- 2.2 Explain the impact of various distribution channels on the underwriting function.
- 2.3 Explain the implications of using binding authorities.
- 2.4 Explain the research required to ensure effective underwriting policy.
- 2.5 Analyse the factors to be taken into account when entering and withdrawing from classes of business and markets.
- 2.6 Explain the significance of claims reserving policy and practice on portfolio management.
- 2.7 Analyse the impact of product mix, segment mix and cover mix on portfolio management.
- 2.8 Explain underwriting considerations to be taken into account when establishing policy terms and conditions.
- 2.9 Evaluate the importance of risk acceptance, evaluation and control on the portfolio mix.

3. Analyse the principles and practices of pricing

- 3.1 Examine the internal and external data required for pricing.
- 3.2 Explain the various components to be taken into consideration for pricing.
- 3.3 Explain how the different statistical methods are used in pricing.
- 3.4 Examine the impact of the underwriting cycle on portfolio management.
- 3.5 Examine claims information in relation to setting the price, setting reserves and regulatory requirements.

4. Evaluate the management of exposures in the portfolio

- 4.1 Explain aggregation and the techniques available to measure exposure to single risks, single events and catastrophes.
- 4.2 Evaluate emerging risks, including systemic losses.
- 4.3 Explain the various means of managing exposure and enabling capacity, including reinsurance.

5. Evaluate planning, portfolio monitoring and operational controls

- 5.1 Explain the process of planning, budgeting and forecasting.
- 5.2 Explain the reasons for monitoring underwriting results.
- 5.3 Evaluate the techniques for monitoring underwriting results.
- 5.4 Evaluate the effect of monitoring and forecasting on the underwriting strategy.
- 5.5 Explain the significance of identifying the underwriting skill-set required, key performance indicators and continuing professional development.
- 5.6 Evaluate the use of underwriting licences and auditing.

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. However, it is important to read additional sources as 10% of the exam mark is allocated for evidence of further reading and the use of relevant examples.

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

The publications will help candidates 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

Advanced underwriting. London: CII.
Study text 960.

Underwriting practice. London: CII.
Study text M80.

Insurance, legal and regulatory. London: CII.
Study text IF1.

Books (and ebooks)

A practitioner's guide to Solvency II. Geoffrey et al. (eds.). London: Thomson Reuters, 2016.

Actuarial practice of general insurance. D G Hart, R A Buchanan, B A Howe. 7th ed. Sydney: Institute of Actuaries of Australia, 2007.

Analytics for insurance: the real business of Big Data. Tony Boobier. Chichester: Wiley, 2016.*

Audit and accountancy pitfalls: a casebook for practising accountants, lawyers and insurers. Emile Woolf and Moira Hindson. Wiley, 2011.*

Bank and insurance capital management. Frans De Weert. Chichester: Wiley, 2011.*

Capital requirements, disclosure, and supervision in the European insurance industry: new challenges towards Solvency II. Maria Grazia Starita, Irma Malafrente. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Capital structure and corporate financing decisions: theory, evidence, and practice H. Kent Baker and Gerald S. Martin. Wiley, 2011.*

Colinvaux's law of insurance. 11th ed. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 2016.

Corporate risk management. 2nd ed. Tony Merna and Faisal F Al-Thani. Chichester: John Wiley, 2010.*

Cyber risk. Michael Woodson. London: Risk Books, 2016.

Digital insurance: business innovation in the post-crisis era. Bernardo Nicoletti. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.*

Drafting insurance contracts: certainty, clarity, law and practice. Christopher Henley. London: Leadenhall press, 2010.

Frank Wood's business accounting. Frank Wood and Alan Sangster. 12th ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, 2012.

Handbook of insurance. Georges Dionne. New York: Springer, 2013.*

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

'Insurance intermediaries: underwriting agents' in Colinvaux's law of insurance. 11th ed. Prof. Robert Merkin. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 2016.

Managing systemic exposure: risk management framework for SiFis and their markets. Federico Galizia. London: Risk Books, 2013.

Non-life insurance pricing with generalised linear models. Esbjorn Ohlsson, Bjorn Johansson. Heidelberg: Springer, 2015.*

ORSA: Design and implementation. Bogie Azdemir. London: Risk Books, 2015.

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

Portfolio construction and risk budgeting. 5th ed. Bernd Scherer. London: Risk Books, 2015.

Reinsurance: the nuts and bolts. Keith Riley. London: Witherby, 2012.

Reinsurance underwriting. Robert Kiln, Stephen Kiln. 2nd ed. London: LLP, 1996.

'Reinsurance contracts, markets and participants' in Reinsurance practice and the law. Barlow Lyde & Gilbert LLP. London: Informa, 2009.

Risk management for insurers: risk control, economic capital, and Solvency II. Rene Doff. 3rd ed. London: Risk Books, 2015.

Twin Peaks for Europe: state-of-the-art financial supervisory consolidation. Rethinking the Group Support Regime under Solvency II. Olivia Johana Erdélyi. Switzerland: Springer, 2016.*

Smarter outsourcing: an executive guide to managing successful relationships. Jean-Louis Bravard and Robert Morgan Harlow: FT/Prentice Hall, 2006.

Solvency II handbook: practical approaches to implementation. Rene Dorf. London: Risk Books, 2014.

The Financial Times guide to using and interpreting company accounts. Wendy McKenzie. 4th ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, 2010.

The Financial Times guide to mastering operational risk. Tony Blunden & Jon Thirlwell. Harlow: FT/Prentice Hall, 2010.

The Iskaboo guide to Part VII Transfers. Barbara Hadley, Dewi James (eds.). London: Iskaboo Publishing Ltd., 2016.

The law of insurance contracts. Malcolm A Clarke. 6th ed. London: Informa, 2009.

Ebooks

The following ebooks are available through Discovery via www.cii.co.uk/discovery (CII/PFS members only):

Big data revolution: what farmers, doctors and insurance agents teach us about discovering big data patterns. Rob Thomas, Patrick McSharry. Wiley, 2015.

Fundamental aspects of operational risk and insurance analytics: a handbook of operational risk. Marcelo Cruz, et al. New Jersey: Wiley, 2015.

Fundamentals of actuarial mathematics. 2nd ed. David Promislow. Chichester: Wiley, 2015.

Managing risk and opportunity: the governance of strategic risk taking. Torden Juul Andersen et al. Oxford: Oxford Scholarship Online, 2014.

Handbook in Monte Carlo simulation: applications in financial engineering, risk management and economics. Paolo Bradimarte. Hoboken: Wiley, 2014.

Fundamentals of risk management: understanding, evaluating and implementing effective risk management. Paul Hopkin, Kogan Page, 2014.

Risk modelling in general insurance: from principles to practice. Roger J. Gray, Susan M. Pitts. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Treatises on Solvency II. Meinrad Dreher. Heidelberg: Springer, 2015.

Uncertainty in risk assessment: the representation and treatment of uncertainties by probabilistic and non-probabilistic methods. Terje Aven. Hoboken: Wiley, 2014.

Factfiles and other online resources

CII factfiles are concise, easy to digest but technically dense resources designed to enrich the knowledge of members. Covering general insurance, life and pensions and financial services sectors, the factfile collection includes key industry topics as well as less familiar or specialist areas with information drawn together in a way not readily available elsewhere. Available online via www.cii.co.uk/ciifactfiles (CII/PFS members only).

- Alternative risk transfer (ART). Alan Punter.
- Risk control. Ian Searle.
- Risk identification. Ian Searle.
- Recent developments to Solvency II. Brad Baker.
- Specialist general insurance pricing and advanced techniques. Pietro Parodi.
- The general insurance pricing process: basic concepts and techniques. Pietro Parodi.
- Insurance accounting (general business). Ian Hutchinson, updated by Alex Barnes.

AIRMIC. www.airmic.com.

Institute of Risk Management www.theirm.org.

Journals and magazines

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

Post magazine. London: Incisive Financial Publishing. Monthly. Also available online at www.postonline.co.uk.

The Economist. London: Economist Newspaper. Weekly.

Financial times. London: Financial Times. Daily. Also available online at www.ft.com.

Further periodical publications are available at www.cii.co.uk/journalmagazines (CII/PFS members only).

Reference materials

Code of ethics. London: CII, 2014. Available online at www.cii.co.uk.

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.

International Financial Reporting Standards. IFRS Foundation. London: IFRS Foundation. Annual.

Lamont's glossary: the definitive plain English money and investment dictionary. Barclay W Lamont. 10th ed. London: Taxbriefs, 2009. Also available online via www.cii.co.uk/lamont (CII/PFS members only).

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

Specimen guides

Specimen guides are available for all coursework units.

These are available on the CII website under the unit description / purchasing page. You will be able to access this page from the Qualifications section of the CII website: www.cii.co.uk/qualifications.

These specimen guides are also available on the RevisionMate website www.revisionmate.com after you have purchased the unit.

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).