

JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PENSION ACTUARIES

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

EXAMINATION PROGRAM

MAY 2005 BASIC (EA-1) EXAMINATION

MAY 2005 PENSION EA-2 (SEGMENT B) EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER 2005 PENSION EA-2 (SEGMENT A) EXAMINATION

January 2005

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INTRODUCTION

The Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries administers two actuarial examinations that must be successfully completed by individuals to satisfy the actuarial knowledge requirement for the designation of Enrolled Actuary. **Note that the structure of the examinations changed as of January 1, 2001.**

The actuarial knowledge requirement for enrollment is augmented by a requirement that a candidate have certain responsible pension actuarial experience. Through a combined knowledge and experience requirement, the Joint Board seeks to determine which applicants for the designation of Enrolled Actuary have the skills necessary to protect the interests of pension plan participants.

The examinations are structured as follows:

The basic (EA-1) examination tests knowledge of (1) the mathematics of compound interest and practical financial analysis and (2) the mathematics of life contingencies and practical demographic analysis.

The pension (EA-2) examination, which consists of two segments, tests

- (a) in Segment A, the selection of actuarial assumptions, actuarial cost methods, and the calculation of minimum required and maximum deductible contributions, and
- (b) in Segment B, knowledge of relevant federal pension laws (in particular, the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and related laws, regulations, and rulings) as they affect pension actuarial practice.

The EA-1 and the EA-2 (Segment B) examinations are given each May, the EA-2 (Segment A) examination is given each November.

A candidate for enrollment may be able to satisfy part of the actuarial knowledge requirement of the Joint Board regulations by earning a degree in actuarial mathematics or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. Such candidates will not have to pass the EA-1 examination. The courses in the plan of study and their successful completion must comply with guidelines adopted by the Joint Board for determining what demonstrates the requisite knowledge. The Joint Board will grant a waiver of the EA-1 examination to any candidate who received credit from the Society of Actuaries (SOA) for Courses 2 and 3 of the SOA's education and examination program.

Both the EA-1 and EA-2 actuarial examinations consist solely of multiple-choice questions. Each question will be assigned from one to five points. Point values for each question will be shown at the beginning of the question. The score on each examination is based on the questions answered correctly; no credit is given for omitted answers and no credit is deducted for wrong answers.

ALL EXAMINATIONS

Most examination questions require arithmetical computations. Each candidate should bring an electronic calculator to the examination center for use in performing computations. Calculators should be able to compute financial functions such as amortization payments, present and future values, interest rates, time periods, logarithmic functions, and exponential functions. Calculators are subject to the following conditions:

The examination supervisor will ascertain that all calculators: (a) have self-contained power sources, (b) are noiseless, and (c) do not have the capability to retain text. A candidate generally will be allowed to take the examination using a questionable calculator. However, any questions raised as to the appropriateness of a calculator will be noted on the supervisor's report along with the candidate's number and the make and model number of the calculator; a determination will be made later as to whether the calculator was permissible.

Candidates are solely responsible for the proper functioning and operation of their calculators during the examination. In addition, candidates must indicate on their examination answer sheets both the make and the model number of any calculator used.

The use of a calculator that does not meet the conditions above constitutes an irregularity and may be sufficient cause for disqualification from the examination.

In preparing the examinations, great care is taken so that each question has one and only one correct answer based on the data given. Each question is reviewed by all members of the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations and by representatives of the sponsoring organizations. Nevertheless, because mistakes can occur, a request for consideration of an alternative answer to a given question, or for disregarding a question, will be entertained by the Joint Board but only under the following conditions:

An appeal must be made in writing and postmarked not later than six months after the examination was administered.

The appellant must describe in detail the fault found with the question and an alternative answer if one is claimed.

In the case of claimed ambiguity, credence will be given to an alternative interpretation only to the extent that such interpretation is one that might be reasonably made and is not strained in the light of attendant circumstances. This policy is of positive benefit to most candidates; otherwise, it would be necessary to burden each question with numerous qualifications and stipulations that the qualified practitioner does not require and which would make the question more difficult to read.

Not all topics listed in the syllabus of this examination program are necessarily covered on any particular year's examination, nor are the examination questions necessarily confined solely to the listed topics or suggested readings. Also, it is assumed that all candidates are familiar with the basic concepts and techniques of algebra and calculus.

Candidates are urged to develop a thorough understanding of the conditions generally or specifically applicable to all examination questions as set forth later in this examination program. Conditions for each examination will be included in the applicable examination booklets.

In addition, candidates should familiarize themselves with the list of limits, tables, and formulas applicable to the EA-2 (Segment B) examination, as set forth in this program. A copy of this list will also be included in the EA-2 (Segment B) examination booklet.

Questions on both the Basic EA-1 examination and the Pension EA-2 (Segments A and B) examinations may contain commutation functions. However, sufficient information will also be provided to answer the questions without commutation functions, giving candidates their choice in method. Candidates who are not familiar with commutation functions may wish to order the Study Note "Commutation Functions" available from the SOA. An order form can be obtained at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form.

Important Notices and Changes from Previous Programs

1. For purposes of the May 2005 pension EA-2 (Segment B) examination, and the November 2005 pension EA-2 (Segment A) examination the “sunset” provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) should be ignored.
2. For purposes of the May 2005 pension EA-2 (Segment B) examination, and the November 2005 EA-2 (segment A) examination, IRS, Treasury and PBGC releases granting disaster relief should be ignored.
3. Questions on both the basic EA-1 examination and the pension EA-2 (Segments A and B) examinations may contain commutation functions. However, sufficient information will also be provided to answer the questions without commutation functions, giving candidates their choice in method. Candidates who are not familiar with commutation functions may wish to order the Study Note “Commutation Functions” available from the SOA. An order form can be obtained at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form.
4. Changes made to the exams since they were last given are marked with an asterisk (*) in the pages that follow.

BASIC EA-1 EXAMINATION

MAY 2005

The EA-1 examination is two-and-one-half hours in length and covers (1) the mathematics of compound interest and practical financial analysis and (2) the mathematics of life contingencies and practical demographic analysis.

Questions on the Basic EA-1 examination may contain commutation functions. However, sufficient information will also be provided to answer the questions without commutation functions, giving candidates their choice in method. Candidates who are not familiar with commutation functions may wish to order the Study Note “Commutation Functions” available from the SOA. An order form can be obtained at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form.

Syllabus

Mathematics of compound interest and financial analysis (approximately 25% - 50% of the examination)

Nominal and effective rates of interest and discount, force of interest, accumulated value factors, and present value factors.

All forms of annuities including, but not limited to annuities certain, increasing and decreasing annuities, annuities in which the payment frequency is not the same as the frequency at which interest is compounded, and perpetuities.

Amortization schedules and sinking funds, including the determination of outstanding principal, the split of payments into principal and interest, and the determination of required periodic payments.

Bonds and related securities, including bond price formulas, bond accounting, the split of periodic payments into amortization and interest, mortgages, and variable interest securities.

Determination of fund yield rates and effective rates of return using time-weighted and dollar-weighted methods.

Duration and immunization of cash flows.

Asset reporting, including realized and unrealized gains/losses, book value versus market value, and receivables.

Financial analysis, including inflation and its role, elements of risk and uncertainty, yield curves and available investments, and employee compensation increases.

Mathematics of life contingencies and demographic analysis (approximately 50% - 75% of the examination)

Measurements and demographic analysis of mortality, including the definition and application of standard mortality probability symbols and force of mortality.

Approximation of fractional period mortality and survival probability.

Measurement and demographic analysis of disability, employee turnover and employee retirement.

Adjustments to mortality, disability, turnover and retirement rate tables, such as age setbacks and set forwards, select and ultimate tables, projection scales and generation adjustments.

Life annuities, including life annuities with a term certain.

Population theory, including complete and curtate expectation of life, central death rates, stationary population, and average ages in a stationary population.

Multiple life functions, probabilities and annuities.

Multiple decrement functions, including associated single decrement tables, probabilities of decrement and the construction of multiple decrement tables from associated single decrement tables.

Principles of actuarial equivalence and related calculations.

One-year term costs for ancillary benefits.

Life insurance, including basic forms, single and annual premiums, varying insurance, and insurance and annuity relationships.

Suggested Readings for EA-1

The Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations believes that most (if not all) of the topics in the syllabus are covered in one or more of the following sources. There is a great deal of overlap among the following references. Candidates do not need to use them all. The references listed below are to identify available resources from which the candidate may select. This list is not meant to describe or modify the syllabus listed above.

Batten, R.W., and London, R.L., A Guide for the Actuarial Student: Life Contingencies and Ruin Theory, (1999); Part I; ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098. **(This is *strictly* a supplement to *Actuarial Mathematics* and would be found to be of little value in the absence of a prior, detailed study of that text.)**

Bowers, N.L. et. al., Actuarial Mathematics, (Second Edition – 1997) (excluding Chapters 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, and 15); Society of Actuaries, 475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 800, Schaumburg, IL 60173-2226. [First edition (1986) may also be used (excluding chapters 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13)]

Brown, R.L., Introduction to Mathematics of Demography, (Third Edition – 1997), Chapters 3 and 5; ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098

Broverman, S.A., Mathematics of Investment and Credit, (Third Edition – 2004); ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098

Jordan, C.W., Life Contingencies, (Second Edition – 1967, Second Printing 2003)

Kellison, S.G., The Theory of Interest, (Second Edition – 1991); Irwin Professional Publishers. Available from McGraw-Hill, 6350 Crested Butte Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

London, D., Survival Models and Their Estimation, (Third Edition – 1997), Chapters 3-8; ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098

Parmenter, M.M., The Theory of Interest and Life Contingencies with Pension Applications: A Problem-Solving Approach, (Third Edition – 1999); ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098

Zima, P. and Brown, R.L., Mathematics of Finance (2001), (Fifth Edition); McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, 300 Water Street, Whitby, ON, L1N 9B6

Actuarial Standard of Practice, No. 27, “Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations”

Actuarial Standard of Practice, No. 35, “Selection of Demographic and Other Noneconomic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations”

Society of Actuaries Study Material

The Society of Actuaries has developed various study notes for the use of students preparing for its examinations on these subjects. These study notes are revised periodically, and new study notes may be added. As of December 31, 2004, the following study notes are available. An order form can be obtained at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form.

Measurement of Investment Return

Actuarially Equivalent Benefits

Commutation Functions

All candidates for the Joint Board examinations, even if not affiliated with the Society of Actuaries, can obtain an order form at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form. It should be realized, however, that such material was not necessarily drawn up with the particular nature of the Joint Board examinations in mind.

**Conditions Generally Applicable to
All EA-1 Examination Questions**

If applicable, the following conditions should be considered a part of the data for each question, unless otherwise stated or implied:

- (1) The normal retirement age is 65.
- (2) Retirement pensions commence at normal retirement age and are paid monthly for life at the beginning of each month.
- (3) There are no pre-retirement death or disability benefits.
- (4) Actuarial equivalence is based on the mortality table and interest rate assumed for funding purposes.
- (5) Interest rates that are compounded more frequently than annually are expressed as nominal rates.
- (6) Where multiple lives are involved, future lifetimes are assumed to be independent of each other.
- (7) The term “gross single premium” is equivalent to “contract single premium;” the term “net single premium” is equivalent to “single benefit premium;” the term “gross annual premium” is equivalent to “annual contract premium;” the term “net annual premium” is equivalent to “annual benefit premium.”
- (8) There are no policy loans in effect.
- (9) For a bond, the face amount and the redemption value are the same.
- (10) Interest rate equals yield rate.

PENSION EA-2 (SEGMENT B) EXAMINATION

MAY 2005

The EA-2 (Segment B) examination is two-and-one-half hours in length and covers relevant pension laws (in particular the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and related laws, regulations, and rulings) as they affect pension actuarial practice. The EA-2 (Segment B) examination presupposes knowledge of the topics covered in the EA-1 examination and in the EA-2 (Segment A) examination.

Questions on the Pension EA-2 (Segment B) examination may contain commutation functions. However, sufficient information will also be provided to answer the questions without commutation functions, giving candidates their choice in method. Candidates who are not familiar with commutation functions may wish to order the Study Note “Commutation Functions” available from the SOA. An order form can be obtained at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form.

Syllabus

Requirements with respect to reporting and disclosure, including underfunded plans, reductions in future benefit accruals, and reportable events.

Nondiscrimination requirements including those related to plan participation, coverage, and permitted disparity.

Requirements with respect to vesting, service credits, employee contributions, accrued benefits, normal retirement, early retirement, postponed retirement, joint and survivor annuities, and pre-retirement death benefits.

Maximum benefit limitations and the effect on the funding standard account.

Additional requirements with respect to top-heavy plans and the effect on the funding standard account.

Requirements with respect to mergers and spin-offs, including those in the Internal Revenue Code, Title IV of ERISA and the effect on the funding standard account.

PBGC premium requirements.

Plan termination requirements including standard and distress terminations, involuntary terminations, missing participants, guaranteed benefits, allocation of assets, plan liability and employer liability.

Withdrawal liability under multiemployer plans.

Excise taxes other than for funding requirements.

Prohibited transactions and fiduciary standards.

Standards of performance and professional conduct for enrolled actuaries.

Suggested Readings for EA-2 (Segment B)

New or revised sources, if any, are asterisked. Pension law and IRS promulgations can be found in publications of Warren, Gorham & Lamont, Commerce Clearing House, Maxwell Macmillan, Research Institute of America, and similar organizations. This list is not meant to describe or modify the syllabus listed above.

For purposes of this examination, the “sunset” provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) should be ignored.

For purposes of this examination, IRS, Treasury and PBGC releases granting disaster relief should be ignored.

Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended through December 31, 2004.

Internal Revenue Code sections, all as amended through December 31, 2004:

318	Constructive Ownership of Stock
401	Qualified Plans – definition Excluding subsections – (f),(g),(i),(m),(n),(o)
410	Minimum Participation Standards Excluding subsections – (c),(d)
411	Minimum Vesting Standards Excluding subsections – (e)
413	Collectively Bargained Plans, etc.
414	Definitions and Special Rules – controlled group, multiemployer, mergers, HCE, SLOB, compensation Excluding subsections – (d),(e),(o),(t),(u)
415	Limitations on Benefits & Contributions Excluding subsections – (m),(n)
416	Top Heavy Rules
417	Minimum Survivor Annuity Requirements
420	Transfers of Excess Pension Assets to Retiree Health Accounts
1563	Definitions and Special Rules
4974	Excise Tax on Certain Accumulations in Qualified Retirement Plans
4975	Tax on Prohibited Transactions
4980	Tax on Reversion of Qualified Plan Assets to Employer
4980F	Failure of Applicable Plans Reducing Benefit Accruals to Satisfy Notice Requirements
6057	Annual Registration
6058	Information Required in Connection with Certain Plans of Deferred Compensation
6059	Periodic Report of Actuary

Joint Board regulations (20 CFR Part 901.20) governing the performance of actuarial services under ERISA

Treasury Department Circular No. 230 (31 CFR Part 10) Section 10.3

IRS Promulgations:

Regulations

1.401(a)(4)	Nondiscrimination requirements
1.401(a)(17)	Limitation on annual compensation
1.401(a)(26)	Minimum participation requirements
1.401(I)	Permitted disparity
1.410(b)	Minimum coverage requirements
1.411(d)-4	Section 411(d)(6) protected benefits
1.414(I)	Mergers and consolidations of plans or transfers of plan assets
1.414(s)	Definition of Compensation
1.414(q)-1T	Highly compensated employees
1.415	General rules with respect to limitations on benefits and compensations under qualified plans
1.416-1	Questions and answers to top-heavy plans
1.417(a)(3)-1	Disclosure on relative values of optional forms of benefit
1.417(e)-1	Restrictions and valuations of distributions from plans subject to sections 401(a)(11) and 417
54.4980F	Final regulations implementing section 659 of EGTRRA
301.6057-1	Employee retirement benefit plans; identification of participant with deferred vested retirement benefit
301.6057-2	Employee retirement benefit plans; notification of change in plan status
301.6058-1	Information required in connection with certain plans of deferred compensation
301.6059-1	Periodic report of actuary

Revenue Rulings

81-11	Minimum accrued benefits; fractional rule; break-in service
81-140	Suspension of Benefits due to reemployment
81-195	Effect of 415 limits on minimum and maximum contribution levels, and inability to project future increases in limits for funding purposes
81-212	Funding standard account, with spin-off (see revenue ruling 86-47)
81-215	Effect of 415 limits after valuation date but within plan year
85-131	Reasonable allocation of past and future liabilities under unit credit method when 415 limit is involved
86-47	(Sequel to revenue ruling 81-212)
86-48	Determining "Benefits on a Termination Basis" for the purpose of a spin-off. (i.e. early retirement benefits, optional forms, ...)
89-60	Interest rates used in determining employees' "accumulated contributions"
89-87	Terminated plans must distribute as soon as administratively feasible after plan termination
92-66	Must an early retirement window benefit be provided permanently to all employees under a plan where the employer amends its plan to make the benefit available for substantially consecutive, limited periods of time?
98-1	Limitations on benefits and contributions, as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreement Act, and taking into account the applicable provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996
2001-51	Limitations on benefits and contributions under qualified plans
2001-62	Mortality tables prescribed under section 415(b)(2)(E)(v) and the applicable mortality table under section 417(e)(3)(A)(ii)(I)
2002-42	Partial termination merger or conversion of money purchase plan: IRC §4980F notice and 204(h) of ERISA
2002-43	General rules relating to excise tax on prohibited transactions

2003-65	Vesting service upon resumption of accruals
2003-85	Application of IRC section 4980 excise tax
*2004-65	Election of enhanced pension benefit under IRC section 420

Notices

83-10	Questions and answers relating to the amendment of the limitations on benefits and contributions by the TEFRA of 1982
87-20	Temporary Guidance On Interest Rate Used In Calculating Defined Benefit Plan Present Value And Benefits
87-21	Guidance with respect to the effect of certain provisions TRA'86 dealing principally with the new limitations on contributions and benefits under Code section 415
88-25	No year of service (including years of service before the effective date of the OBRA 1986 provisions) may be disregarded because of the attainment of any age in determining benefits payable to employees from certain employee benefit plans
88-126	Regulation On Continued Benefit Accruals Will Depart From EEOCs; Pre-1988 Service May Not Be Ignored Because Of Age
97-75	Guidance relating to the amendments to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Code made by section 1404 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-188
99-44	Section 415 Limitation on benefits and contributions under qualified plans.
2001-56	Effective dates for certain amendments made by EGTRRA
*2004-78	Distributions under the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004

PBGC Promulgations:

Regulations:

4001	General and Definitions
4006	Computing Premiums
4007	Paying Premiums
4010	Notification to PBGC
4011	Participant Notices
4022	Guaranteed Benefits
4041	Terminations
4043	Reportable Events
4044	Allocation of Assets
4050	Missing Participants
4062	Termination Liability for Sponsor
4211	Multiemployer Plan Withdrawal Liability
4219	Multiemployer Plan Withdrawal Liability

PBGC Technical Updates:

96-3	Annual Financial and Actuarial Information Reporting
97-6	Waiver for Small Employer Reporting of Missed Quarterly Contributions
00-4	2000 PBGC's Full Funding Limit Exemption from the Variable Rate Premium
00-7	Increased Guarantee Limit for Multiemployer Plans

Society of Actuaries Study Material

The Society of Actuaries has developed various study notes for the use of students preparing for its examinations on these subjects. These study notes are revised periodically, and new study notes may be added. As of December 31, 2004, the following study notes are available.

A Practical Approach to Section 415 Limits

Multiemployer Pension Plans Amendment Act of 1980

Pension Plan Terminations with update

Contributory Pension Plans after OBRA '89

Update for the Pension Plan Terminations Study Note

Reportable Events and Form 200 Requirements

Circular No. 230 (Section 10.3)

Tax Forms and PBGC Contacts

Summary of Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA)
Provisions Relating to Pension and Profit-Sharing Plans

Penalty Taxes under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code

Commutation Functions

All candidates for the Joint Board examinations, even if not affiliated with the Society of Actuaries, can obtain an order form at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form. It should be realized, however, that such material was not necessarily drawn up with the particular nature of the Joint Board examinations in mind.

American Society of Pension Actuaries Study Materials

The following book is available from the American Society of Pension Actuaries (ASPA). This book, while not designed specifically for the examination, covers much of the syllabus and more. Information can be found on the ASPA website at www.aspa.org/pubs/erisa.htm.

Tripodi, Sal L., The ERISA Outline Book, (2003 Edition)

Conditions Generally Applicable to All EA-2 (Segment B) Examination Questions

If applicable, the following conditions should be considered a part of the data for each question, unless otherwise stated or implied.

For purposes of this examination, the “sunset” provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) should be ignored.

For purposes of this examination, IRS, Treasury and PBGC releases granting disaster relief should be ignored.

General Conditions Regarding Plan Provisions

- (1) “Plan” or “pension plan” means a defined benefit pension plan.
- (2) The plan is qualified under IRC section 401. Thus, for example, any benefit formulas should be understood to be limited by other plan provisions required by the Code.
- (3) The plan is sponsored by a single employer; the sponsoring employer is a taxable entity and is not a member of a controlled group.
- (4) The plan is not established or maintained in connection with a collectively bargained agreement.
- (5) The plan year, the employer's limitation year, and the employer's tax year are all the calendar year.
- (6) The normal retirement age is 65.
- (7) Retirement pensions commence at normal retirement age and are paid monthly for life at the beginning of each month.
- (8) The plan covers all active employees of the employer; there is no age or service requirement for participation. Thus, when referring to active employees, the terms “employee” and “participant” are synonymous.
- (9) There are no, and never have been, mandatory or voluntary employee contributions.
- (10) Service for purposes of vesting and benefit accrual is credited on the basis of time elapsed since date of hire.
- (11) When the normal retirement benefit is computed as a dollar amount, or as a percentage of compensation, for each year of service, the accrued benefit is defined likewise.
- (12) Actuarial equivalence is based on the mortality table and interest rate assumed for funding purposes.
- (13) Qualified joint and survivor annuities and qualified preretirement survivor annuities are provided in such manner that they result in no cost to the employer.
- (14) The plan has not been top-heavy in any year.
- (15) The plan has not been amended since its effective date.

General Conditions Regarding Funding

- (16) Any actuarial valuation encompasses not only all active employees but also retired employees, beneficiaries, and former employees entitled to vested deferred pensions.
- (17) The valuation date is the first day of the plan year; i.e., participant data, present values, asset values, etc. are as of that date. Also, normal costs are payable annually, the first being due on the valuation date.
- (18) Unless otherwise specified, the assumed retirement age is the normal retirement age.
- (19) The terms “actuarial value of assets” and “market value of assets” mean the values developed for purposes of IRC section 412, before being adjusted as required under funding methods of the aggregate type for items such as the existing credit balance or the outstanding balances of certain bases.
- (20) All actuarial assumptions are deemed “reasonable” and meet the “best estimate” criterion.
- (21) The adoption date of any plan or amendment is the same as its effective date.
- (22) The term “minimum required contribution” means the smallest contribution for a plan year which will prevent a funding deficiency at the end of that plan year, without regard to the alternative minimum funding standard account. Amounts to be amortized are not combined or offset against one another.
- (23) The employer is taxable, and all employer contributions for each prior plan year have been deducted by the employer for its tax year coincident with such plan year.
- (24) The full funding limitation has never applied.
- (25) The full funding limitations based on current liability shall be disregarded if sufficient information to determine such limitations is not provided.
- (26) For purposes of determining the deductible limit, the unfunded current liability shall be disregarded if sufficient information to determine such liability is not provided.
- (27) Unless separate current liabilities are provided, the current liability is the same for all purposes.

Miscellaneous General Conditions

- (28) All plan provisions and funding comply with all temporary and final regulations under the Internal Revenue Code and ERISA, as amended through December 31, 2004.
- (29) For multiemployer plans, disregard any industry-specific rules.
- (30) The employer has never maintained a defined contribution plan. No employee has been covered by a defined contribution plan that is required to be aggregated with his employer’s plans for purposes of IRC section 415.
- (31) The terms “applicable mortality (table)” and “applicable interest (rate)” are as defined in IRC section 417(e)(3).

- *(32) For purposes of nondiscrimination testing under 401(a)(4), grouping of allocation rates or accrual rates has not been used unless there is specific reference to it.
- (33) For purposes of coverage testing under IRC section 410(b), “snapshot” testing is not used and permitted disparity is not imputed.
- (34) Transition rules under Rev. Rul. 98-1 shall be disregarded unless there is specific reference to such rules.
- (35) Where IRC section 401(a)(17) applies, compensations do not exceed these limits unless sufficient information to apply the limits is provided.
- (36) Benefits do not exceed IRC section 415 limits unless sufficient information to apply these limits is provided.
- (37) Unless otherwise specified, the plan is covered by the PBGC.
- (38) All union plans are collectively bargained and all union employees are subject to collective bargaining.
- (39) References to law and regulation section numbers are for clarity and can be assumed to be correct.

If applicable, the preceding conditions should be considered a part of the data for each question, unless otherwise stated or implied.

LIMITS, TABLES AND FORMULAS
(Included with the 2005 EA-2 (Segment B) examination)

Compensation Limit IRC section 401(a)(17)	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Limit</u>
1989	200,000
1990	209,200
1991	222,220
1992	228,860
1993	235,840
1994-1996	150,000
1997-1999	160,000
2000-2001	170,000
2002-2003	200,000
2004	205,000
2005	210,000

Maximum Benefit Limit IRC section 415(b)	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Limit at SSRA</u>
1983-1987	90,000
1988	94,023
1989	98,064
1990	102,582
1991	108,963
1992	112,221
1993	115,641
1994	118,800
1995-1996	120,000
1997	125,000
1998-1999	130,000
2000	135,000
2001	140,000
<u>Year</u>	<u>Limit at 65</u>
2002-2003	160,000
2004	165,000
2005	170,000

Highly Compensated Employee Compensation IRC section 414(q)	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Limit</u>
1997-1999	80,000
2000-2001	85,000
2002-2004	90,000
2005	95,000

Nondiscriminatory Classification Test IRC section 410(b)		
Nonhighly compensated employee concentration <u>percentage</u>	Safe harbor <u>percentage</u>	Unsafe harbor <u>percentage</u>
0-60	50.00	40.00
61	49.25	39.25
62	48.50	38.50
63	47.75	37.75
64	47.00	37.00
65	46.25	36.25
66	45.50	35.50
67	44.75	34.75
68	44.00	34.00
69	43.25	33.25
70	42.50	32.50
71	41.75	31.75
72	41.00	31.00
73	40.25	30.25
74	39.50	29.50
75	38.75	28.75
76	38.00	28.00
77	37.25	27.25
78	36.50	26.50
79	35.75	25.75
80	35.00	25.00
81	34.25	24.25
82	33.50	23.50
83	32.75	22.75
84	32.00	22.00
85	31.25	21.25
86	30.50	20.50
87	29.75	20.00
88	29.00	20.00
89	28.25	20.00
90	27.50	20.00
91	26.75	20.00
92	26.00	20.00
93	25.25	20.00
94	24.50	20.00
95	23.75	20.00
96	23.00	20.00
97	22.25	20.00
98	21.50	20.00
99	20.75	20.00

LIMITS, TABLES AND FORMULAS
(Included with the 2005 EA-2 (Segment B) examination)

Permitted Disparity Tables IRC section 401(f)				
Annual factor in maximum excess allowance and maximum offset allowance percent				
Age at benefit <u>Commencement</u>	<u>SSRA 65</u>	<u>SSRA 66</u>	<u>SSRA 67</u>	Simplified <u>Table</u>
70	1.209	1.101	1.002	1.048
69	1.096	0.998	0.908	0.950
68	0.996	0.907	0.825	0.863
67	0.905	0.824	0.750	0.784
66	0.824	0.750	0.700	0.714
65	0.750	0.700	0.650	0.650
64	0.700	0.650	0.600	0.607
63	0.650	0.600	0.550	0.563
62	0.600	0.550	0.500	0.520
61	0.550	0.500	0.475	0.477
60	0.500	0.475	0.450	0.433
59	0.475	0.450	0.425	0.412
58	0.450	0.425	0.400	0.390
57	0.425	0.400	0.375	0.368
56	0.400	0.375	0.344	0.347
55	0.375	0.344	0.316	0.325

FICA Taxable Wage Base	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Limit</u>
1992	55,500
1993	57,600
1994	60,600
1995	61,200
1996	62,700
1997	65,400
1998	68,400
1999	72,600
2000	76,200
2001	80,400
2002	84,900
2003	87,000
2004	87,900
2005	90,000

Key Employee Compensation IRC section 416			
<u>Year</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Officer	130,000	130,000	135,000
1% owner	150,000	150,000	150,000

LIMITS, TABLES AND FORMULAS
(Included with the 2005 EA-2 (Segment B) examination)

Maximum PBGC Guaranteed Life-Only Annuity at Age 65	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Monthly Benefit</u>
1999	3,051.14
2000	3,221.59
2001	3,392.05
2002	3,579.55
2003	3,664.77
2004	3,698.86
2005	3,801.14

**FACTORS USED TO ADJUST MAXIMUM PBGC GUARANTEED BENEFITS
FOR PAYMENTS OTHER THAN AS A SINGLE LIFE ANNUITY AT AGE 65**

Commencement Age	
<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>
75	3.04
74	2.76
73	2.48
72	2.21
71	1.93
70	1.66
69	1.49
68	1.34
67	1.21
66	1.10
65	1.00
64	0.93
63	0.86
62	0.79
61	0.72
60	0.65
59	0.61
58	0.57
57	0.53
56	0.49
55	0.45
54	0.43
53	0.41
52	0.39
51	0.37
50	0.35
49	0.33
48	0.31
47	0.29
46	0.27
45	0.25

Form of Payment Certain & Life*	
<u>Years</u>	<u>Factor</u>
1	0.995
2	0.990
3	0.985
4	0.980
5	0.975
6	0.965
7	0.955
8	0.945
9	0.935
10	0.925
*Reduction decreases by 0.01 per year in excess of 10.	

Form of Payment Joint & Contingent		
<u>Percent</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Certain</u>
50%	0.900	× 0.960
66 2/3 %	0.867	× 0.970
75%	0.850	× 0.975
100%	0.800	× 0.990

Form of Payment Joint & Survivor	
<u>Percent</u>	<u>Factor</u>
50%	1.00
66 2/3 %	0.93
75%	0.90
100%	0.80

Age Difference For J&S Beneficiary		
<u>Difference</u>	<u>Younger</u>	<u>Older</u>
1	0.99	1.005
2	0.98	1.010
3	0.97	1.015
4	0.96	1.020
5	0.95	1.025
6	0.94	1.030
7	0.93	1.035
8	0.92	1.040
9	0.91	1.045
10	0.90	1.050

LIMITS, TABLES AND FORMULAS
(Included with the 2005 EA-2 (Segment B) examination)

PBGC ADJUSTMENTS TO VESTED BENEFITS TO DETERMINE VARIABLE PREMIUM

$$VB_{adj} = VB_{pay} \times 0.94^{(RIR-BIR)} + \left[VB_{Nonpay} \times 0.94^{(RIR-BIR)} \times ((100 + BIR) / (100 + RIR))^{(ARA-50)} \right]$$

ARA = Assumed retirement age

RIR = Required interest rate

BIR = Current Liability interest rate

VB_{adj} = Adjusted vested benefits

VB_{pay} = Retiree vested benefits

VB_{nonpay} = All other vested benefits

PENSION EA-2 (SEGMENT A) EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER 2005

The EA-2 (Segment A) examination is four hours in length and covers the selection of actuarial assumptions and calculation of minimum required and maximum tax-deductible contributions under current pension law, along with the related actuarial mathematics. The EA-2 (Segment A) examination presupposes knowledge of the topics covered in the EA-1 examination.

Questions on the Pension EA-2 (Segment A) examination may contain commutation functions. However, sufficient information will also be provided to answer the questions without commutation functions, giving candidates their choice in method. Candidates who are not familiar with commutation functions may wish to order the Study Note “Commutation Functions” available from the SOA. An order form can be obtained at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form.

Syllabus

Actuarial cost methods, including unit credit, projected unit credit, entry age normal, individual level premium, aggregate, individual aggregate, attained age normal, frozen initial liability, shortfall, one-year term, and variations thereof.

Selection of actuarial assumptions.

Determination of experience gains and losses and analysis by source.

Effect on valuation results of various patterns of experience, including experience with respect to investment earnings, changes in asset value, mortality, disability, employee turnover, changes in compensation, retirement, choice of retirement options, and Social Security.

Effect on valuation results of changes in plan provisions, actuarial cost methods, asset valuation methods, and actuarial assumptions.

Valuation of ancillary benefits.

Valuation techniques for handling employee contributions and split-funded life insurance arrangements.

Minimum funding requirements including, but not limited to:

- The basics of the funding standard account including amortization periods, where applicable, and the credit balance

- The full funding limitation

- Required quarterly contributions and liquidity shortfall

- The additional funding charge and accumulated reconciliation account

- Waivers of funding deficiencies, and the alternative minimum funding standard account

Special funding requirements for multiemployer plans.

Maximum deductible contributions for federal income tax purposes including the treatment of contribution carryovers and contributions for a plan year which are deducted for the prior taxable year.

Penalty taxes for failures to meet minimum funding standards and for contributions in excess of tax-deductible limits.

Valuation of plan assets.

Suggested Readings for EA-2 (Segment A)

The Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations believes that most (if not all) of the topics in the syllabus are covered in one or more of the following sources. There is a great deal of overlap among the books listed below. Candidates do not need to use them all. The references listed below are to identify available resources from which the candidate may select. This list is not meant to describe or modify the syllabus listed above. New or revised sources, if any, are asterisked. Pension law and IRS promulgations can be found in publications of Warren, Gorham & Lamont, Commerce Clearing House, Maxwell Macmillan, Research Institute of America, and similar organizations.

Aitken, W.H., Pension Funding and Valuation, (2nd Edition – 1996);
ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098

Anderson, A.W., Pension Mathematics for Actuaries, (2nd Edition – 1990);
ACTEX Publications, P.O. Box 974, Winsted, CT 06098

Berin, B. N., The Fundamentals of Pension Mathematics, (1989);
Society of Actuaries, 475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 800, Schaumburg, IL 60173-2226

Farrimond, W., Mayer, D., Farber, D., and Matray, G., Actuarial Cost Methods, A Review (1999);
ASPA Book Order Department, Department 417, P.O. Box 753, Waldorf, MD 02604

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 4, “Measuring Pension Obligations”

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27, “Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations”

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 35, “Selection of Demographic and Other Noneconomic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations”

*Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) section 302, as amended through December 31, 2004

*2004 Schedule B of Form 5500, including instructions

*2005 PBGC Form 1, including Schedule A and instructions

For purposes of this examination, the “sunset” provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) should be ignored.

For purposes of this examination, IRS, Treasury and PBGC releases granting disaster relief should be ignored.

IRS Promulgations:

Internal Revenue Code Sections, as amended through June 30, 2004:

401(a)(17)	Requirements for Qualification, Compensation Limit
404	Deductible Employer Contributions to a Deferred-Payment Plan
412	Minimum Funding Standards
413	Collectively Bargained Plans, etc.
4971	Taxes on Failure to Meet Minimum Funding Standards
4972	Tax on Nondeductible Contributions to Qualified Employer Plans
6059	Periodic Report of Actuary

Regulations:

1.401(a)(2)-1	Refund of mistaken contributions and withdrawal liability payments to multiemployer plans
1.404(a)-14	Special Rules in connection with ERISA – Deductible Limits
11.412(c)-12	Extension of time to make contributions
1.412(c)(1)-1	Determinations to be made under funding method
1.412(c)(1)-2	Shortfall method
1.412(c)(2)-1	Valuation of plan assets; reasonable actuarial methods
1.412(c)(3)-1	Reasonable funding methods
301.6059-1	Periodic report of actuary

Revenue Rulings:

77-2	Change in benefit structure after valuation date
78-48	Assumptions & methods specified in plan
78-331	Assumption that employees retire at normal retirement date
79-237	Terminating plan – funding standard account and penalty taxes
80-315	Supplementary benefits
81-13	Full funding limitation
81-136	Election to receive benefits less than plan provides
81-137	Separate funding account for separate plans
81-213	Experience gains & losses, amortizations
81-214	Interest charges in funding standard account
82-125	Full funding limitation and deductible limit
84-62	Deductible limit under 404(a)(1)(A)
95-28	(Unisex) mortality table, additional funding charge
95-31	Quarterly contributions and liquidity
96-7	Disability table, additional funding charge
96-20	Amortization bases in determining additional funding charge
2000-20	Minimum funding standards – funding standard account – amortization bases
2003-11	Amendment to increase limitation on compensation for former participants
2003-83	Entry age normal funding method

Notices:

87-37	Excise Tax on non-deductible contributions
89-52	Quarterly contributions
90-11	Interest rates for calculating current liability
2001-56	Effective dates for certain amendments made by EGTRRA (only as it applies to the compensation limit)

Revenue Procedures:

87-27	Plan year changes
90-49	Recovery of excess contributions
2000-40	Automatic Approval for Change of Funding Method
2000-41	Change in funding method

Announcements:

96-26	Announces rules for refund to avoid excise tax on non-deductible contributions
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Society of Actuaries Study Material

The Society of Actuaries has developed various study notes for the use of students preparing for its examinations on these subjects. These study notes are revised periodically, and new study notes may be added. As of December 31, 2004, the following study notes are available.

Pension Funding Exercises, with Addendum

Variations on Entry Age Normal Cost Methods

Alternate Minimum Funding Standard

Contributory Pension Plans after OBRA '89

Excerpt on Plan Qualification

Multiemployer Pension Plans Amendment Act of 1980

Mortality Tables for Pension Plans

Selection of Actuarial Assumptions

Asset Valuation Methods under ERISA

Penalty Taxes Under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code

Commutation Functions

All candidates for the Joint Board examinations, even if not affiliated with the Society of Actuaries, can obtain an order form at www.soa.org by selecting the Basic Education Catalog for the current session and selecting the study note order form. It should be realized, however, that such material was not necessarily drawn up with the particular nature of the Joint Board examinations in mind.

American Society of Pension Actuaries Study Material

The following book is available from the American Society of Pension Actuaries (ASPA). This book, while not designed specifically for the examination, covers much of the syllabus and more. Information can be found on the ASPA website at www.aspa.org/pubs/erisa/htm.

Tripodi, Sal L., The ERISA Outline Book, (2003 Edition)

Conditions Generally Applicable to All EA-2 (Segment A) Examination Questions

If applicable, the following conditions should be considered a part of the data for each question, unless otherwise stated or implied:

For purposes of this examination, the “sunset” provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) should be ignored.

For purposes of this examination, IRS, Treasury and PBGC releases granting disaster relief should be ignored.

General Conditions Regarding Plan Provisions

- (1) “Plan” or “pension plan” means a defined benefit pension plan.
- (2) The plan is qualified under IRC section 401. Thus, for example, any benefit formulas should be understood to be limited by other plan provisions required by the Code.
- (3) The plan is sponsored by a single employer; the sponsoring employer is not a member of a controlled group.
- (4) The plan is not established or maintained in connection with a collectively bargained agreement.
- (5) The plan year, the employer's limitation year, and the employer's tax year are all the calendar year.
- (6) The normal retirement age is 65.
- (7) Retirement pensions commence at normal retirement age and are paid monthly for life at the beginning of each month.
- (8) The plan covers all active employees of the employer; there is no age or service requirement for participation. Thus, when referring to active employees, the terms “employee” and “participant” are synonymous.
- (9) There are no, and never have been, mandatory or voluntary employee contributions.
- (10) Service for purposes of vesting and benefit accrual is credited on the basis of time elapsed since date of hire.
- (11) When the normal retirement benefit is computed as a dollar amount, or as a percentage of compensation, for each year of service, the accrued benefit is defined likewise.
- (12) Actuarial equivalence is based on the mortality table and interest rate assumed for funding purposes.
- (13) Qualified joint and survivor annuities and qualified preretirement survivor annuities are provided in such manner that they result in no cost to the employer.
- (14) The plan has not been top-heavy in any year.
- (15) The plan has not been amended since its effective date.

General Conditions Regarding Funding

- (16) Any actuarial valuation encompasses not only all active employees but also retired employees, beneficiaries, and former employees entitled to vested deferred pensions.
- (17) The valuation date is the first day of the plan year; i.e., participant data, present values, asset values, etc. are as of that date. Also, normal costs are payable annually, the first being due on the valuation date.
- (18) Unless otherwise specified, the assumed retirement age is the normal retirement age.
- (19) Unless otherwise specified, there are no pre-retirement decrements.
- (20) The actuarial cost method, or funding method, is “reasonable” within the meaning of Code section 412 and the regulations thereon.
- (21) Where the normal cost under an actuarial cost method may be computed as either a level percentage of compensation or a level dollar amount, the level percentage approach is used if the plan benefits are based on compensation, and the level dollar approach is used if they are not.
- (22) Under the frozen initial method, whenever there is a change in the plan, actuarial assumptions, or asset valuation method, the unfunded liability is adjusted by adding to it the increase (positive or negative) in the unfunded entry age normal accrued liability due to the change. Likewise, under the attained age normal method, the unfunded liability is adjusted by adding to it the increase in the unfunded unit credit accrued liability.
- (23) All funding method changes after 1999 were made in accordance with Rev. Proc. 2000-40. Bases established because of funding method changes prior to 2000 are amortized over 10 years from the date established.
- (24) Unless otherwise specified, the unit credit funding method is as defined in Rev. Proc. 2000-40.
- (25) Unless otherwise specified, ancillary benefits are funded using the same method as the retirement benefits. They are not funded on a term cost basis.
- (26) For purposes of spreading future normal costs under spread-gain methods, the present value of future compensation is not limited by IRC Section 401(a)(17).
- (27) The terms “actuarial value of assets” and “market value of assets” mean the values developed for purposes of IRC section 412, before being adjusted as required under funding methods of the aggregate type for items such as the existing credit balance or the outstanding balances of certain bases.
- (28) All actuarial assumptions are deemed “reasonable” and meet the “best estimate” criterion.
- (29) The actuarial cost method, asset valuation method, and actuarial assumptions have not been changed since the plan effective date.
- (30) The adoption date of any plan or amendment is the same as its effective date.

- (31) The term “minimum required contribution” means the smallest contribution for a plan year which will prevent a funding deficiency at the end of that plan year, without regard to the alternative minimum funding standard account. Amounts to be amortized are not combined or offset against one another.
- (32) Additional funding charges and additional interest charges due to late quarterly contributions have never applied and there is no liquidity shortfall.
- (33) No waivers of funding deficiencies or extensions of amortization periods have been granted.
- (34) Unless otherwise specified, the interest rate used for amortizing waivers and for extensions of amortization periods is the same as the valuation interest rate.
- (35) The employer is taxable, and all employer contributions for each prior plan year have been deducted by the employer for its tax year coincident with such plan year.
- (36) For purposes of determining the deductible limit for any year, the employer does not use (and has never used) the fresh-start alternative and does not combine (and has never combined) amortization bases.
- (37) The full funding limitation has never applied.
- (38) Expenses are paid directly by the employer, rather than from the assets of the plan, and therefore do not affect the funding of the plan.
- (39) Assumed compensation increases first apply to the year immediately following the latest year for which valuation compensation is shown.
- (40) The additional funding charge shall be disregarded if sufficient information to determine such charge is not provided.
- (41) The quarterly contribution requirement and the liquidity shortfall shall be disregarded if sufficient information to determine such requirement is not provided.
- (42) The full funding limitations based on current liability shall be disregarded if sufficient information to determine such limitations is not provided.
- (43) For purposes of determining the deductible limit, the unfunded current liability shall be disregarded if sufficient information to determine such liability is not provided.
- (44) Unless separate current liabilities are provided, the current liability is the same for all purposes.

Miscellaneous General Conditions

- (45) All plan provisions and funding comply with all temporary and final regulations under the Internal Revenue Code and ERISA, as amended through June 30, 2004.
- (46) The employer has never maintained a defined contribution plan.
- (47) Where IRC section 401(a)(17) applies, compensations do not exceed these limits unless sufficient information to apply the limits is provided.

- (48) IRC section 415 should be disregarded for purposes of this examination.
- (49) All union plans are collectively bargained and all union employees are subject to collective bargaining.
- (50) References to law and regulation section numbers are for clarity and can be assumed to be correct.

If applicable, the preceding conditions should be considered a part of the data for each question, unless otherwise stated or implied.