



ILA-LPM

Detailed Study Manual

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About This Study Manual

This detailed study manual is just one component of our ILA-LPM course, which also includes comprehensive video lessons and handouts for all of the syllabus material, practice problems, commentary on previous SOA exams, flashcards, and much more.

This study manual is organized in exactly the same order as the online course, which is not necessarily in the same order as the official syllabus. The layout of the course reflects what I believe is the most logical order for learning the material from start to finish:

- A. Product Design.** This section is anchored by two large study notes (LPM-165 and LPM-166) that describe common types of life and annuity products. This section also contains readings that introduce other product types or expand on the product types in LPM-165 and LPM-166. Understanding the ILA product landscape is helpful for understanding concepts covered in later sections.
- B. Experience Studies and Assumptions.** This section starts with traditional experience studies for common actuarial assumptions like mortality and lapse. It also covers newer techniques involving predictive analytics. There is also a subsection devoted to term-specific assumptions since term life insurance is the single most significant life insurance product in the modern marketplace and receives much attention on the LPM syllabus.
- C. Reinsurance.** This section primarily comprises chapters from the Tiller reinsurance textbook. It may appear the smallest by page count, but for most people, the reinsurance material is the most challenging material on the syllabus. Be sure to stay on schedule in Sections A and B so that you have plenty of time to digest Section C. However, don't get stuck here too long because there are plenty of important readings to cover in Section D.
- D. Regulatory and Operational Considerations.** This final section covers a range of readings related to important regulatory topics (nonforfeiture, illustrations, etc.), earnings/value measurement, and market trends. You'll probably find this material less mentally draining than the reinsurance material in Section C, and most of the topics here are best studied after completing prior sections. Section D is one of the largest sections by source reading page count, however, so it's very important to manage your time well and complete everything here.

You should download each section's detailed study manual before going through those lessons in the Study app—especially if you are using the Today view—so that you have the detailed study manual to read/reference as you go through the scheduled lessons.

This study manual is intended to help you get through the source material faster than if you had no study manual. Some of the readings are very difficult to absorb on the first attempt. The study manual will help you pick out important information more quickly.

How to Use This Study Manual With the Online Course

This detailed study manual will provide you with a detailed foundation and reference guide for the rest of the online course. It's the most detailed and verbose outline we provide with the course.

Unlike condensed outlines and flashcards, which are design to aid memorization, this detailed study manual is designed with readability in mind. You will not be able to memorize everything in this guide, nor should you.

As I explain in the Introduction section of the online course, ideally you'll have 3–4 months to prepare for the exam. You'll want to spend the first half of that time reading as much as you can and trying to learn concepts. Don't worry about memorization until the last 1–2 months before the exam.

Each summary in this detailed study manual starts with a section called "Overview of This Reading." These overviews show you the contents and most testable topics in each chapter at a glance. I recommend reviewing these sections before and after you tackle the readings on your own.

After going through the detailed study manual for a given reading, it's a good idea to watch the accompanying video lesson, which will further reinforce the big picture for that reading and provide illustrative examples to reinforce quantitative concepts.

Some people, however, prefer to watch the video lessons first. There's no right or wrong way to use the detailed study manual with the rest of the course as long as you are staying on schedule and learning key concepts. Feel free to experiment and change things up as you go.

Good Luck!

It's critically important to keep a couple of things in mind as you go through the material:

1. Keep moving forward. Don't get bogged down!
2. Remember that you are not trying to become an expert in the material. You are trying to identify and master *testable* material sufficiently to pass the exam.

If you study regularly and put in the time, you will be amazed at how much material you can pack into your head by exam day—*especially if you prioritize concept learning over memorization in the early stages of studying*. That said, a good deal of memorization is needed. Use the condensed lesson handouts and flashcards as a guide for that.

And remember one of the most important features of our online course is customer

support. Our course forum is a great place to post questions about any of the material because it gives other students a chance to answer and see answers. You can also email me anytime with any questions.

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Change Documentation

Any time the detailed study manual is updated, we post details about the changes in the “Revision History and Scheduled Updates” spreadsheet posted in the Introduction section of the online course. For example, if we update or correct a formula, we will describe the change and give the specific page(s) affected.

It’s a good idea to periodically check this revision history up through the exam date to see if a more recent version has been posted for any given section. You will find a version number on the end of the PDF file name of each section’s PDF.