

# The Infinite Actuary – Group and Health Exams – Notecard Introduction

## Introduction

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This document is designed to guide you through using and printing the flashcards, if you prefer to have a printed copy in addition to the flashcard features on the TIA app and study platform on the website.

### What Flashcards Cover and What They Don't Cover

**\*NOTE – the flashcards are not designed to cover every item you need to know for the exam.** The idea is to cover items that are easily broken into lists and potentially testable in that way. As there are so many lists, creating and learning flashcards will help that memorization process if these items come up on the exam. However, you should also focus on learning the key topics from the outlines and videos. As you get closer to the exam date, the Condensed Outline can be very helpful in highlighting the key ideas of each chapter without the full detail of the Detailed Outline.

## Formats

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Notecards are provided for each syllabus section in two different formats, in addition to being available on the app and website. Each card is numbered, and the header on the back tells you the outline chapter of the source material. Each format is described below:

- **Printable:** This version has 3 cards per page. If you print this PDF double-sided on U.S. letter (8.5"x11") paper, the front and back of the card will be aligned. This format also works well on Avery 5388 3x5" index cards, which can be purchased on Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/Avery-Laser-White-Index-Cards/dp/B00006HPWA/>). See the next page for instructions on printing to the Avery cards
- **Phone Viewing:** There is a separate .pdf containing the flash cards with just 1 card per page. This is often easier to view on your phone, where you can view the full page version of one card with the list title, and the next page is the full page version of the actual list. (This may be a little redundant with the new Flashcard app being released, but we are leaving this in the materials in case it is useful for some students)
- **Apps:** The flashcard feature is a part of the TIA app available on iOS and Android. The app is free to subscribers to the online seminar and related materials. Features include the ability to study all cards or filter down to specific sections, randomize the selection of the cards to study, use the app offline and sync results when you get back to an internet connect, and track the progress of the cards you know using the Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down feature

## Using the Lists

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The graders want you to know not just the list on the notecard, but the sentence of detail behind the list. Here is the approach I would take when reviewing:

- Read the question side, then think about the answer or even write it down (Writing down the answer helps your mind memorize in multiple parts of your brain as you go through the process of recall and writing.)
- Flip the card over to read the solution

- Before putting the card away, try recalling 1 piece of detail for each item on the back of the notecard. It doesn't have to be perfect, just something to make the grader happy and maximize your points on the exam
- Go through the lists multiple times and try to focus on the areas where you need to improve instead of staying on the cards that you have already memorized. Use the app functionality with the Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down, ANKI or your own organizational tracking to keep track of the cards that you know well and the cards where you need more review
  - Some students of mine will shuffle the printed cards and write out the lists within each objective. They then organize the cards into four categories, based on how well they did: Perfect, Good, Bad, and Terrible. You should go back and review the Bad and Terrible cards more than the Good and Perfect cards. This helps focus on the ones where you need more help and not spend too much time on the ones you already know. If you can go through multiple iterations of this process, you'll see where you are improving and start to pick up on the cards that you struggled with earlier

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#### *Instructions for Printing to Avery 5388 3x5 Index Cards*

1. Purchase the Avery 5388 Index Cards (<http://www.amazon.com/Avery-Laser-White-Index-Cards/dp/B00006HPWA/>)
2. If you have a duplex printer, load with Avery 5388 and print. Make sure that your PDF viewer is set up to print "actual size" (which is an option in the print dialog box), so that it doesn't rescale things and put them in the wrong place on the page. Sometimes printer dialog boxes call this "Choose paper source by PDF page size" or something similar. The main idea is to make sure the printer prints the PDF exactly as-is without any scaling
3. If you don't have a duplex printer, you would need to print a single page, then reload that sheet and print to the back side. This is admittedly pretty tedious. If you have access to a duplex photocopier, then you could print the pages single-sided on ordinary paper, load Avery 5388 in the photocopier, and run your printed copies through the copier in the duplex "2 to 1" setting

I highly recommend printing just a handful of pages initially to ensure that your printer settings are correct!

If you decide to try this approach or any others, I would be interested in hearing from you. Please send me your comments ([derek@theinfiniteactuary.com](mailto:derek@theinfiniteactuary.com)).