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# **LICENSING EXAMINATION STUDY OUTLINE**

**For January to June 2024 Examinations  
(Issued in November 2023)**

## **Module 18 Securities and Derivatives Trading [Products and Analysis]**

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(This document consists of 16 pages including the cover page)

**STUDY OUTLINE**  
**MODULE 18: SECURITIES AND DERIVATIVES TRADING**  
**[PRODUCTS AND ANALYSIS]**

This examination is designed to test a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the Malaysian capital market. This is one of the dual-activity examination modules intended to facilitate individuals who wish to apply for a Capital Markets Services Representative's Licence (CMSRL) to undertake both of the following regulated activities:

- Dealing in securities
- Dealing in derivatives

It is also an alternate examination module to Module 7 - Financial Statement Analysis & Asset Valuation (one of the examination modules to be passed by (i) individuals who intend to apply for a CMSRL for the regulated activity of dealing in securities; (ii) who intend to hold the position of Head of Operations, Head of Compliance or Compliance Officer in a firm which is a holder of a Capital Markets Services Licence (CMSL) for carrying on the business of dealing in securities; or (iii) who intend to be employees of registered persons who carry out the capital markets activities as stipulated in Item 1, Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007) and to Module 14 - Derivatives (one of the examination modules for the regulated activity of dealing in derivatives). Candidates are advised to refer to the Licensing Handbook for detailed combination of examinations required for each regulated activity.

Candidates are expected to possess good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter provided in this study outline and specified reference. In addition, candidates will be tested on the ability to analyse and apply the information at a basic level. It is estimated that this module will require a minimum of 160 hours of study time. Candidates may need less or more depending on the education background and work experience.

Candidates are expected to update themselves with the latest changes relevant to this examination as all questions will be continuously updated to reflect these changes. Module 18 examination is a closed-book test and candidates are not allowed to use any reference material during the examination.

Candidates are required to comply with the terms and conditions of the SC licensing examination. Severe penalties will be taken against candidates for any misconduct during the examination.

At the end of this study outline are 10 sample questions used in the Module 18 examination. The samples provided do not in any way reflect the level of difficulty or the subject-matter

distribution of the actual examination. They are merely intended to familiarise candidates with the styles of multiple-choice questions used in the examination.

## EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Details of this examination are as follows:

<b>Types of Questions</b>	Multiple-Choice
<b>Number of Questions</b>	100 questions
<b>Passing Mark</b>	70%
<b>Time Allocated</b>	150 minutes
<b>Reference/Text</b>	<p><b><u>Study Guides</u></b>                      eGuide Module 7: (First Edition 2022)                      eGuide Module 14: Derivatives (First Edition 2022)</p> <p><b><u>Prescribed Reference Material</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional Reading Material on Gold Futures Contract</li> <li>2. Additional Reading Material on USD RBD Palm Olein Futures Contract</li> </ol>

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

The relevant references (acts and guidelines,) for this examination can be obtained from Securities Commission Malaysia website at [www.sc.com.my](http://www.sc.com.my) and relevant eGuide for this examination can be purchased from [www.sidc.com.my](http://www.sidc.com.my).

The latest contract specifications for all derivatives contracts traded on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Berhad are available on Bursa Malaysia website at [www.bursamalaysia.com](http://www.bursamalaysia.com).

For more information, please visit the SIDC website at [www.sidc.com.my](http://www.sidc.com.my).

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Candidates are expected to have good knowledge, understanding and ability to apply in the following areas:

### Part A : Financial Statement Analysis and Asset Valuation

- Users and uses of financial statements in financial and investment analysis
- Important accounting policies or choices and treatment of accounting information for financial reporting purposes including explaining the reasons for usage and demonstrating the ability to deal with adjustments necessary for purposes of comparability
- Company financial and company information or other crucial factors such as industry position and economic outlook, necessary for relevant and reliable assessment of the company's performance
- Limitations of the use of financial statements and related important accounting issues when interpreting financial statements for informed investment decision making
- Elements and characteristics of fixed income and equity securities which is linked to the purposes of financial and investment planning
- Concepts of time value of money in pricing and the valuation of fixed income and equity securities
- Methods and indicators, including their required adjustments, to assess the company financial performance or gain greater insight into company operating results
- Fixed income and equity securities, including derivatives based on various methods of valuation and examining the factors affecting pricing

### Part B : Derivatives

- Concepts and structure of the derivatives markets
- Product knowledge on contracts traded on the derivatives exchange and over-the-counter
- Hedging, arbitraging and speculative trading strategies using derivatives contracts
- Derivatives trading strategies including pay-off diagrams
- Valuation of derivatives instruments
- Derivatives pricing models and their uses in derivatives trading
- Technical and fundamental analysis

**EXAMINATION SYLLABUS**

The syllabus for this examination is divided into 2 parts and the maximum composition of questions from each part/section is as follows:

Part	Section	Composition of Questions (Maximum)	Number of Questions (Maximum)
Part A	Section 1	30%	30
	Section 2	20%	20
	Section 3	20%	20
Part B	Section 1	50%	30
	Section 2	50%	30
	Section 3	20%	12

Details of the syllabus are as below:

**PART A - SECTION 1**

**1. Importance of Financial Statement Analysis**

1. Importance of Financial Statement Analysis
2. Financial Statement Analysis within a Wider Context
3. Relationship between Share Price and Company Profits
4. Introduction to Financial Statements
5. Pre-requisites for Drawing up Financial Statements
6. Financial Reporting Framework
7. Auditor’s Report
8. Other Information in the Annual Report

**2. Elements of Financial Statements**

1. Introduction to the Balance Sheet/*Statement of Financial Position*
2. Items in the Balance Sheet/*Statement of Financial Position*
3. Introduction to Income Statement/*Statement of Comprehensive Income*

4. Introduction to Statement of Changes in Equity or Comprehensive Income/*Statement of Changes in Equity*
5. Introduction to Cash Flow Statements/*Statement of Cash Flows*
6. A Brief on Consolidated Financial Statements

**3. Financial Statement Analysis**

1. Using Financial Statement Analysis to Assess Performance
2. Techniques of Analysis
3. A Working Example of Ratio Analysis
4. Limitations of Ratio Analysis
5. Advantages of Ratio Analysis
6. Accounting Issues in Financial Statement Analysis

**PART A - SECTION 2**

**4. Fixed Income and Money Markets**

**Section A**

1. Malaysian Fixed Income Securities
2. Understanding Bonds
3. Credit Rating
4. Term Structure of Interest Rates and Yield Curves
5. Theories of Interest Rate Determination
6. Economic Factors Affecting Interest Rates

**Section B**

1. Time Value of Money
2. Compounding and Discounting Techniques
3. Pricing Fixed Income Securities
4. Determining the Yield (Internal Rate of Return)
5. Valuing Money Market Securities
6. Pricing a Bond
7. Calculating Bond Yield

**8. Structured Products**

1. Introduction
2. What is a Structured Product?
3. Issuers of Structured Products in Malaysia
4. Uses and Benefits of Using Structured Products
5. Components of a Structured Product
6. Features and Payout Structures of Structured Products
7. Risks of Investing in Structured Products
8. Conclusion

**PART A - SECTION 3**

**5. Equity Markets**

1. Malaysian Equity Markets
2. Shares
3. Changes in Number of Shares Issued
4. Equity Hybrids
5. Classification of Shares for Investment Purposes
6. The Role of Valuation
7. The Valuation of Equities
8. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

**6. Technical Analysis**

1. Definition of Dividend Policy
2. Bar Charts
3. Support and Resistance Areas
4. Volume and Open Position
5. Candlestick Chart
6. Indicators

**7. Exchange-traded Funds**

1. Introduction
2. The Structure of an Exchange-traded Fund

3. Investing in Exchange-traded Funds
4. Comparative Analysis
5. Case for Malaysia



**PART B - SECTION 1**

- 1. Development of the Futures Market**
  1. Dawn of the Forward Market
  2. Types of Forward Contracts
  3. Forward Price and Cost of Carry
  4. Disadvantages of Forward Contracts
  
- 2. The Workings of the Futures Market**
  1. Futures Contract Specifications
  2. Types of Futures Contracts
  3. Advantages of Futures Market
  4. Disadvantages of Futures Contract
  5. Convergence of Futures to Spot Prices
  6. Futures Prices and Cost of Carry
  7. Market Participants: Hedgers, Speculators and Arbitrageurs
  
- 3. Trading the Futures Contract**
  1. Uses of Futures: Hedging, Speculating and Arbitraging
  2. Types of Orders
  3. Margining and Daily Settlement
  4. Open Interest and Volume
  5. Closing Out Positions
  6. Negotiated Large Trade (NLT)
  7. Exchange for Related Positions (EFRP)
  8. Technical Analysis
  9. Fundamental Analysis

- 4. Trading Futures in Malaysia**
  - 1. Overview of Regulation of Futures Trading
  - 2. Trading Commodity Futures
  - 3. Trading Equity Futures
  - 4. Trading Financial Futures

**PART B - SECTION 2**

- 5. The Options Market**
  - 1. Basic Concepts
  - 2. Underlying Instruments
  - 3. Option Contract Specifications
  - 4. Uses of Options
  - 5. Advantages and Disadvantages of Using Options
  - 6. Listed Stock Warrants and Structured Warrants
  
- 6. Options Valuation**
  - 1. Intrinsic and Time Value
  - 2. Factors Affecting Options Value
  - 3. Options Pricing Models
  - 4. Option Greeks
  - 5. Put-Call Parity
  - 6. Payoff Diagrams
  
- 7. Trading Strategies with Options**
  - 1. Directional Strategies Using Single Options
  - 2. Spread Trades
  - 3. Volatility Strategies
  - 4. Synthetic Strategies

5. Dynamic Hedging Using Option Delta
6. Managing an Options Portfolio
  
- 8. Trading Options in Malaysia**
  1. Warrants
  2. Options on FBM KLCI Futures Contract (OKLI)
  3. Options on Crude Palm Oil Futures Contract (OCPO)
  4. Use of Options in Portfolio Management

**SECTION 3: Over-the-Counter (OTC) Derivatives**

- 9. OTC Derivatives**
  1. Introduction to OTC Derivatives
  2. Types of the Underlying Instruments and Their Characteristics
  3. Uses of OTC Derivatives
  4. Hedge Accounting
  5. Risks Associated with OTC Derivatives
  
- 10. Forward**
  1. Basic Concepts and Features of Forward Contract
  2. Uses of Forward Contracts
  3. Risks of Forward Contracts
  4. Mechanics and Applications of Forward Contracts
  
- 11. Swap**
  1. Basic Concept and Features of Swap Contracts
  2. Uses of Swap Contracts
  3. Risks of Swap Contracts

4. Mechanics and Applications of Swap Contracts
  5. Foreign Currency Swaps
  6. Equity Swaps
  7. Commodity Swaps
  8. Credit Derivatives
  9. Credit Default Swap
  10. Total Return Swap
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- 12. Contract for Difference (CFD)**
    1. What is a CFD
    2. Features of CFDs
    3. Types of the Underlying Assets and its Characteristics
    4. Uses of CFD
    5. Risks Associated with CFD
    6. Margin Requirements and Implications for Different Underlying Assets
    7. Mechanics and Applications of the CFD
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- 13. Effects of Corporate Actions on the OTC Underlying Assets**
    1. Effects of Corporate Actions on Equity Derivatives
    2. Effects of Corporate Actions Other Derivatives

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**PART A**

**Sample Question 1**

All of the following expenses represent cash payments, EXCEPT:

- (A) advertising expense
- (B) interest expense
- (C) depreciation expense
- (D) income tax expense

**Sample Question 2**

In fundamental analysis, an analyst takes into account the following factors, EXCEPT:

- (A) economy
- (B) industry outlook
- (C) investors' sentiment
- (D) financial structure of the company

**Sample Question 3**

Which of the following BEST describes capital gains?

- (A) Taxable profit that occurs when a company decides to capitalise some of its accumulated reserves
- (B) When a company decides on an upward revaluation its fixed assets
- (C) Total dividends shareholder receive in the duration of his share holding
- (D) Profit resulting between the purchase and sale of securities

**Sample Question 4**

You have just sold RM 10 million MGS bonds, maturing in 2 years. The bonds have an 8% coupon semi-annual and the purchase yield was 10%. How much will you receive for these bonds?

- (A) RM8,098,080
- (B) RM9,645,400
- (C) RM9,814,050
- (D) RM10,570,400

**Sample Question 5**

OTC Corporation issued an AA-rated bond with nominal value of RM150 million in 5 years' time. It bears a 5% semi-annual coupon rate and a yield of 8%. What is the coupon cash flow per period for the bond issue?

- (A) RM3.75 million
- (B) RM6.00 million
- (C) RM7.50 million
- (D) RM12.00 million

**PART B**

**Sample Question 6**

Select the **CORRECT** statement about options sellers. They have:

- (A) limited risk
- (B) unlimited risk
- (C) the right to exercise their options
- (D) unlimited profit potential

**Sample Question 7**

**When investors use a derivative instrument to reduce his exposure to the price volatility of certain underlying assets, he is said to be:**

- (A) speculating
- (B) investing
- (C) arbitraging
- (D) hedging

**Sample Question 8**

**A synthetic long put position is constructed by:**

- (A) selling the underlying instrument and buying a call option
- (B) buying the underlying instrument and buying a call option
- (C) selling the underlying instrument and selling a put option
- (D) buying the underlying instrument and selling a put option

**Sample Question 9**

**A trader buys 4 crude palm oil futures contracts at RM3,100 and the price rises to RM3,130. The market then falls and the trader liquidates them at RM3,115. What is the profit from the above transaction?**

- (A) RM15
- (B) RM30
- (C) RM375
- (D) RM1,500

**Sample Question 10**

In April, company A plans to invest RM5 million in the interbank money market in three months' time. The company's treasurer, Mr Lee, has a strong feeling that interest rates will be falling.

To protect the company from an interest rate downturn, Mr Lee should:

- (A) buy 5 July KLIBOR futures contracts
- (B) sell 5 July KLIBOR futures contracts
- (C) buy 5 April KLIBOR futures contracts
- (D) sell 5 April KLIBOR futures contracts

**Answers**

**Part A**

Sample Question 1 - C

Sample Question 2 - C

Sample Question 3 - D

Sample Question 4 - B

Sample Question 5 - A

**PART B**

Sample Question 6 - B

Sample Question 7 - D

Sample Question 8 - A

Sample Question 9 - D

Sample Question 10 - A