



Society of Actuaries in Ireland


IFoA briefing in advance of the April exam sitting

18th March 2025

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter(s) and not necessarily of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland or of their employers.

Agenda

- Introduction
 - Prepared Questions
 - Technology and Equipment
 - Exam Setup and Materials
 - Exam Conditions and Timing
 - Personal Items
 - Exam Contingencies and Accommodations
 - Q&A
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Technology and Equipment

1. What will be provided to students in the exam hall? (e.g. laptop, PC, monitor, keyboard, mouse, charger)
2. Per the FAQ, students will be provided with a monitor and a laptop – but only a single screen can be used. As the exams are now in person, why can students not use both the laptop and monitor screen?
3. Can students use their own keyboard and mouse for the exam?
4. What will the operating system be on the laptop/PC provided? (e.g. Windows, MacOS, Linux)
5. Will students have access to Excel during a *Paper A* exam format, which is typically done in Word?
6. For exams requiring additional software (e.g., R Studio), how will students know the correct software and packages are installed?
7. If only particular R packages are downloaded, will the IFoA share a list of these so that students know which packages are missing?
8. Will there be screen protectors on the laptop/computer to ensure that student's won't be able to read other screens?

Exam Setup and Materials

1. Will a printed copy of the exam paper be provided to students in the exam centre?
2. Regarding the question on will the IFoA provide a paper copy of the exam paper, the FAQ mentions that the IFoA “are currently exploring other options with exam centres and will update you shortly”. What does this mean?
3. Will scrap paper or an A4 whiteboard be provided?
4. Will the IFoA provide the Actuarial Tables, or must students bring their own?
5. Can students bring their own paper copy of the Actuarial Tables to the exam, and invigilators check that these are free of any personal notes?
6. The online exam platform required 2FA. Is this removed for the in person exams?
7. For CP3, what materials can students bring to the exam? Will a copy of the pre-reading material be provided?
8. As students cannot take public transport to the exam centre, will there be reserved parking spaces for students?

Exam Conditions and Timing

1. Will time reminders be given throughout the exam (e.g, warnings of 1 hour left)?
2. Were the exam papers written with the assumption that exams would be closed-book?
3. If a student arrives up to 15 minutes late for reasons outside their control, will they still be allowed to enter the exam? Is there a grace period for late arrivals?
4. Is there a specific time during which students are not allowed to leave the exam hall after the exam starts?
5. Is there a specific time during which students are not allowed to leave the exam hall before the end of the exam?
6. What must students bring to verify identity?

Personal Items

1. Do items on the "comfort aid" list (e.g., hearing aids) require additional approval to be used?
2. What personal items are students permitted to take to the exam with them? (e.g. Watch, stop watch, timer)
3. Where can students store personal belongings during the exam?

Exam Contingencies and Accommodations

1. Are there spare laptops available in the event a laptop breaks during the exam?
2. What is the contingency in place if a laptop breaks during the exam, and their paper cannot be restored?
3. Are there any measures in place for the distraction caused by the noise levels of students typing in exam halls?
4. What contingency is in place in the event the WiFi drops in the exam hall at the start or end of the exam, when downloading or uploading their paper?
5. Are there any accommodations for students taking one exam paper in Dublin and another in Belfast, given the additional travel time and costs compared to those assigned to a single exam centre?
6. Are there any measures in place to ensure fairness between students sitting exams in person and those taking them online?
7. Will there be an appeal mechanism for candidates unable to travel due to personal reasons?



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Q&A



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Thanks for joining!
