
SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES
Enterprise Risk Management – Retirement Benefits Extension

Exam ERM-R

Date: Friday, May 6, 2016
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

General Instructions

1. This examination has a total of 80 points.

This exam consists of 9 questions, numbered 1 through 9.

The points for each question are indicated at the beginning of the question. Questions 8 and 9 pertain to the extension readings and/or the Case Study, which is enclosed inside the front cover of this exam booklet.

2. Failure to stop writing after time is called will result in the disqualification of your answers or further disciplinary action.
3. While every attempt is made to avoid defective questions, sometimes they do occur. If you believe a question is defective, the supervisor or proctor cannot give you any guidance beyond the instructions on the exam booklet.

Written-Answer Instructions

1. Write your candidate number at the top of each sheet. Your name must not appear.
2. Write on only one side of a sheet. Start each question on a fresh sheet. On each sheet, write the number of the question that you are answering. Do not answer more than one question on a single sheet.
3. The answer should be confined to the question as set.
4. When you are asked to calculate, show all your work including any applicable formulas.
5. When you finish, insert all your written-answer sheets into the Essay Answer Envelope. Be sure to hand in all your answer sheets because they cannot be accepted later. Seal the envelope and write your candidate number in the space provided on the outside of the envelope. Check the appropriate box to indicate Exam ERM-R.
6. Be sure your written-answer envelope is signed because if it is not, your examination will not be graded.

Tournez le cahier d'examen pour la version française.

CASE STUDY INSTRUCTIONS

The case study will be used as a basis for some examination questions. Be sure to answer the question asked by referring to the case study. For example, when asked for advantages of a particular plan design to a company referenced in the case study, your response should be limited to that company. Other advantages should not be listed, as they are extraneous to the question and will result in no additional credit. Further, if they conflict with the applicable advantages, no credit will be given.

****BEGINNING OF EXAMINATION****

- 1.** (7 points) Arbutus Life sells 5-Year Guaranteed Investment Contracts (GICs), guaranteeing a fixed crediting rate that is determined at issue.

Its current product, Classic GIC, can be surrendered after two years at book value. Its reserves and capital are invested in investment grade bonds. Profitability is determined primarily from the spread between asset earnings and interest credited.

To combat the low interest rate environment, Arbutus has developed Enhanced GIC, which has similar profitability expectations to Classic GIC. It offers a higher crediting rate by investing a modest portion of the supporting assets into higher-yielding corporate bonds issued by Riley, Inc. In exchange for the higher crediting rate, Enhanced GIC cannot be surrendered.

Your role is to review the following Risk Based Capital (RBC) components for Arbutus:

- I. Asset Risk – Other
- II. Insurance Risk
- III. Interest Rate Risk
- IV. Business Risk

- (a) (1 point) Explain how each of the four RBC risk components pertains to the Classic GIC portfolio and its supporting assets.
- (b) (1.5 points) Explain how the RBC profile for Enhanced GIC differs from that of Classic GIC for each of the four RBC risk components.
- (c) (1 point) Explain why the introduction of Enhanced GIC may not generate a diversification benefit in total RBC for Arbutus.
- (d) (2 points) Arbutus calculates Economic Capital for the GIC block of business based on a prescribed Conditional Tail Expectation (CTE) measure of the modeled present value of profits over a large number of scenarios.

Explain how each of the four RBC risk components can be captured in such a model.

- (e) (1.5 points) Arbutus management is trying to decide whether to focus on RBC or Economic Capital for capital management purposes.

Recommend a course of action for Arbutus. Justify your response.

- 2.** (10 points) Marpole Insurance Company (MIC) sells Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) primarily in the state of California. U.S. lenders require that borrowers purchase PMI for new mortgage loans when the loan is more than 80% of the property value.

MIC's PMI product has the following characteristics:

- Level premiums are paid annually by the borrower based on the initial size of the loan. Premium rates are a function of the borrower's credit score.
- A claim equal to the outstanding loan balance is paid to the lender in the event that the borrower defaults.
- The insurance can be cancelled upon request of the borrower once the outstanding loan balance is less than 75% of the property value.

MIC invests the supporting assets primarily in short-term U.S. treasuries and high quality corporate bonds.

PMI is simple to administer and is sold by general agents who receive a modest commission based on premium.

MIC has repurposed its cash flow testing model to determine Economic Capital (EC). The model has been modified to run numerous economic scenarios as required for the EC calculation.

Attributes of the repurposed model include:

- Economic scenarios are generated from an internal economic scenario generator (ESG), which models equity values, credit spreads, U.S. treasuries, CPI inflation, U.S. home prices, and U.S. unemployment rates.
 - The claims assumption, based on previous company experience, is modeled as a function of the projected unemployment rate and loan-to-value (LTV) ratio.
 - The assumed time step in the model is one month and the projection period is the average loan maturity.
- (a) (1 point) Assess whether the PMI EC model is fit for its intended purpose.
- (b) (1 point) Describe aspects of model governance that MIC should have in place.
- (c) (3 points) Identify which specific aspects of the PMI EC model warrant most of the validation effort. Justify your response.

2. Continued

- (d) (3 points) Explain how you would apply each of the following model input validation tests to the key drivers of the PMI EC model:
- (i) Static Validation
 - (ii) Back-testing established distributions
 - (iii) Benchmarking
- (e) (2 points) Explain how you would apply each of the following model calculation validation tests to the key drivers of the PMI EC model:
- (i) Sensitivity testing parameters
 - (ii) Dynamic validation

3. (10 points) A trader holds 10,000 shares of XYZ. At time $t = 0$, she must calculate the 99% Value at Risk (VaR) of the potential 1-day loss in market value of the portfolio. She will use one of the two following models for the daily return. Daily return is defined as $Y_t = \frac{S_t}{S_{t-1}} - 1$, where S_t is the price of one share in XYZ at time t (measured in days).

Model 1: Daily returns are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.), with

$$Y_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2), \quad \sigma = 0.016$$

Model 2: Daily returns follow a GARCH process, with

$$Y_t = \sqrt{h_t} \varepsilon_t$$

$$\varepsilon_t \text{ are i.i.d. with } \varepsilon_t \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$h_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 Y_{t-1}^2 + \beta h_{t-1}$$

$$\alpha_0 = 7.7 \times 10^{-6}, \alpha_1 = 0.2, \beta = 0.77$$

You are also given the following initial conditions:

$$S_0 = 10.0, h_0 = 0.016^2, \text{ and } Y_0 = 0.05$$

- (a) (3 points)
- (i) Calculate the mean and standard deviation of Y_1 under the GARCH model. Show your work.
 - (ii) Show that the unconditional standard deviation of daily returns under the GARCH model is 0.016 to the nearest 0.001.
 - (iii) Show that the daily returns Y_t and Y_{t+1} are uncorrelated under the GARCH model.
 - (iv) State with reasons whether the daily returns Y_t and Y_{t+1} are independent under the GARCH model.

3. Continued

(b) (3 points)

- (i) Calculate the 1-day 99% VaR at time zero using Model 1. Show your work.
- (ii) Show that the 10-day 99% VaR for Model 1 is approximately $\sqrt{10} \times (1\text{-day } 99\% \text{ VaR})$.

(c) (2.5 points)

- (i) Calculate the 1-day 99% VaR at time zero using Model 2. Show your work.
- (ii) Explain whether the 10-day 99% VaR will be greater than, less than or equal to $\sqrt{10} \times (1\text{-day } 99\% \text{ VaR})$ for Model 2 based on the initial conditions provided in the stem above.

(d) (1.5 points) Explain why the GARCH model generates a higher 1-day 99% VaR than Model 1, even though the models have the same mean and long term variance.

- 4.** (8 points) A U.S. university maintains a large endowment fund (UEF). Investment income is used to support student scholarships and infrastructure expenditure, which require a regular, predictable income stream. The fund is managed by a Trustee Board appointed by the university.

The trustees have been working closely with a Local Investment Bank (LIB). Currently, the UEF has entered into the following contracts with LIB to manage or mitigate financial risk.

- I. An interest rate swap, under which the university pays the short term floating rate and receives a fixed rate of 4% at each year end. The nominal principal is \$100 million. The contract has three years remaining.
 - II. Credit Default swaps with 2 years to maturity. The current Market Value (MV) is \$2 million.
 - III. A European put option on the S&P 500 index with 3 months term to maturity. The option is far out-of-the-money. The current MV is \$5 million.
 - IV. A currency swap, under which the UEF pays 5% per year in Euros (€) on notional principal of €100 million and receives 4% per year in US Dollars (\$) on notional principal of \$100 million. Payments are made at each year end. The contract has three years remaining.
- (a) (2 points) Each of the contracts with LIB was put in place to mitigate particular risks, based on the portfolio that the UEF has in place.

Explain a potential risk that the UEF could have been intending to mitigate for each of the four contracts.

- (b) (1 point) The UEF currently operates separate agreements for each of the four contracts. LIB is proposing that the separate agreements be replaced with a Master Agreement.

Explain the advantages and disadvantages, if any, to the UEF of this change.

4. Continued

(c) (3 points) The value of an interest rate swap to the party who receives an annual fixed rate of $c\%$ and pays the floating rate, with remaining term n years, is the difference in value between an n -year, $c\%$ annual coupon bond and an n -year floating rate note.

- (i) Explain why this description gives the market value of the swap.
- (ii) You are given that the current risk free rate of interest is 3% per year, compounded continuously.

Show that the current market value of the interest rate swap to the UEF is \$2.7 million to the nearest \$0.1 million.

- (iii) You are given that the Euro payments under the currency swap are valued at a flat rate of interest of 1% per year, compounded continuously. The U.S. dollar payments are valued at a flat rate of interest of 3% per year, compounded continuously. The current exchange rate is \$1.06 to €1.00.

Show that the current market value of the currency swap is \$-2.7 million, to the nearest \$0.1 million.

(d) (2 points) The UEF is concerned about counterparty risk.

- (i) Define “current exposure” and “expected potential exposure” in the context of the UEF’s credit risk exposure to LIB.
- (ii) Calculate the current exposure of the UEF to LIB assuming full netting applies. Show your work.
- (iii) Calculate the current exposure of the UEF to LIB assuming no netting. Show your work.
- (iv) Explain the underlying premise that justifies using a netting approach.

- 5.** (9 points) You work as a risk analyst for an insurance company offering two products: Level Premium Whole Life Insurance and Single Premium Immediate Annuity (SPIA).

Assets are invested 60% in a combination of corporate and government bonds and 40% in equities.

Liabilities are valued on a market consistent basis. The liabilities are split 55% for the Whole Life business and 45% for the SPIA business.

- (a) (2 points) Describe the company's exposure to the following risks:
- (i) Interest rate risk
 - (ii) Equity asset value risk
 - (iii) Catastrophic mortality risk
 - (iv) Trend mortality risk (also known as longevity risk)
- (b) (2.5 points)
- (i) A colleague suggests combining single factor sensitivity test results for each of the items in (a) to assess economic capital for the firm.

Critique this suggestion.
 - (ii) Explain why the company's liability valuation model may not be appropriate to use to evaluate the economic capital.

The firm decides to assess economic capital based on a 1-year stress test. You plan to stress test the asset values using a copula to generate a 1-in-200 year stress scenario.

The current value of the bond portfolio is 600. The bond portfolio value in one year is assumed to follow a normal distribution with parameters $\mu_b = 630$ and $\sigma_b = 60$.

The current value of the equity portfolio is 400. The equity portfolio value in one year is assumed to follow a lognormal distribution with parameters $\mu_e = 6.0$ and $\sigma_e = 0.35$.

5. Continued

You assume that the dependency between the bond and equity portfolio values is modeled with a t copula with $\rho = 0.8$ and with 4 degrees of freedom. You are given the following table of values for the t copula:

		v					
		0.005	0.006	0.007	0.008	0.009	0.010
u	0.005	0.0026	0.0028	0.0030	0.0031	0.0033	0.0034
	0.006	0.0028	0.0030	0.0033	0.0035	0.0037	0.0039
	0.007	0.0030	0.0033	0.0036	0.0039	0.0040	0.0042
	0.008	0.0031	0.0035	0.0039	0.0041	0.0044	0.0046
	0.009	0.0033	0.0037	0.0040	0.0044	0.0050	0.0052
	0.010	0.0034	0.0039	0.0042	0.0046	0.0052	0.0054
		t copula, $C(u,v)$					

- (c) (1 point) Describe the t copula and explain its main features.
- (d) (2.5 points) You generate a 1-in-200 year stress event assuming each portfolio lies at its q -quantile for some q (the same q is used for both portfolios).
 - (i) Determine the quantile q which exactly satisfies this constraint. Show your work.
 - (ii) Calculate stressed values of the bond and equity portfolios in one year using q from (i). Show your work.
- (e) (1 point) Your colleague suggests using a Gaussian copula with $\rho = 0.8$.

Explain whether the resulting stress test would be more severe or less severe than the results using the t -copula above.

6. (10 points) Grandview Insurance is a property and casualty insurer operating in a country prone to earthquakes. A recent series of earthquakes has strained its surplus level due to major losses from the commercial line. The commercial line insures losses from property damage and business interruption (“PDBI”). The CRO is considering PDBI reinsurance coverage to transfer some of the risk arising from earthquake claims and associated earnings volatility.

(a) (2 points) Describe the following types of reinsurance and assess the suitability of each for PDBI risks.

- (i) Quota Share
- (ii) Stop Loss

The following is an excerpt from an ordered sample of 200 simulated annual losses for Grandview’s PDBI line, in millions.

i	L_i
\vdots	\vdots
195	43.8
196	47.5
197	50.2
198	57.5
199	65.6
200	90.0

Grandview is considering the following three options:

- I. No reinsurance coverage
- II. A quota share reinsurance arrangement under which Grandview cedes 35% of the risk
- III. A stop loss reinsurance arrangement with a 12 million priority and 40 million capacity

(b) (2.5 points) Calculate the 98% CTE of the net losses after reinsurance recoveries for each reinsurance option. Show your work.

6. Continued

You are given the following formula for the standard error of the CTE, where \widehat{Q}_α is the estimate of the α -quantile of the loss, using the simulations, and \widehat{CTE} is the estimated α -CTE of the annual loss in (b) above. Var denotes the variance.

$$\left(\frac{\text{Var} \left[L | L > \widehat{Q}_\alpha \right] + \alpha \left(\widehat{CTE} - \widehat{Q}_\alpha \right)^2}{N(1-\alpha)} \right)^{0.5}$$

(c) (1.5 points)

- (i) Estimate the standard error of the CTE estimator in (b) for the Quota Share Reinsurance.
- (ii) Estimate the standard error of the CTE estimator in (b) for the Stop Loss Reinsurance.

Show your work.

(d) (2 points) You are given the following:

Reinsurance	Premium	Expected Recoveries
Quota Share	2.0 million	1.5 million
Stop Loss	2.5 million	1.4 million

The CFO reviews the risk measure calculations and premiums, and sends the following email:

“The expected payouts from the two reinsurance contracts are close. The Quota Share is cheaper, so we don’t need any further analysis. We should go with the Quota Share.”

- (i) Explain why the Quota Share contract is cheaper than the Stop Loss, per unit of expected reinsurance claim.
 - (ii) Critique the CFO’s statement.
- (e) (2 points)
- (i) Explain briefly how Grandview could use securitization instead of reinsurance for its earthquake risk.
 - (ii) State one advantage and one disadvantage of using securitization instead of reinsurance for Grandview’s earthquake risk.

7. (6 points) Oakridge is a multi-line insurance company with the following product lines:

- Term Life
- Universal Life
- Long-Term Disability
- Auto Insurance

Oakridge has just developed the following guiding principle for its Risk Appetite Statement (RAS).

All material risks shall be actively managed and controlled to withstand a 1-in-100 year event.

You have been asked to reevaluate the company's liquidity policy in view of the new RAS guiding principle.

The current liquidity policy states:

- Cash and equivalents shall be no less than the maximum weekly cash outflows during the past 3 months
- Liquid assets cannot be less than 50 percent of the total assets

(a) (1 point) Explain three high-level weaknesses of the current liquidity policy.

You have been asked to update the liquidity risk policy. You start by examining the liability liquidity risk profile.

You have been given the following product information:

- Term Life: 30-year fixed premium term life with no cash surrender value
- Universal Life: Flexible premium UL with minimum guaranteed interest; cash surrender benefit is subject to 7-year surrender charge schedule
- Long-Term Disability: Benefits payable from date of disability to age 65
- Auto Insurance: Yearly-renewable with average claim settlement period of 3 years.

7. Continued

You focus on the following key sources of liquidity risk:

- Credit rating downgrade impact
- Normal operational cash flow volatility
- Catastrophe risk
- Interest rate risk
- Adverse mortality, morbidity and claim experience

(b) (2.5 points)

- (i) Describe how each of the five sources impacts liquidity risk.
- (ii) Determine whether each of the sources of risk is high, medium, or low impact for each of the above four product lines. Justify your responses.

The Risk Management Department has proposed a revised liquidity policy, based on industry best practices for liquidity risk management, as follows:

Available Liquidity must be no less than 110% of the Required Liquidity, where

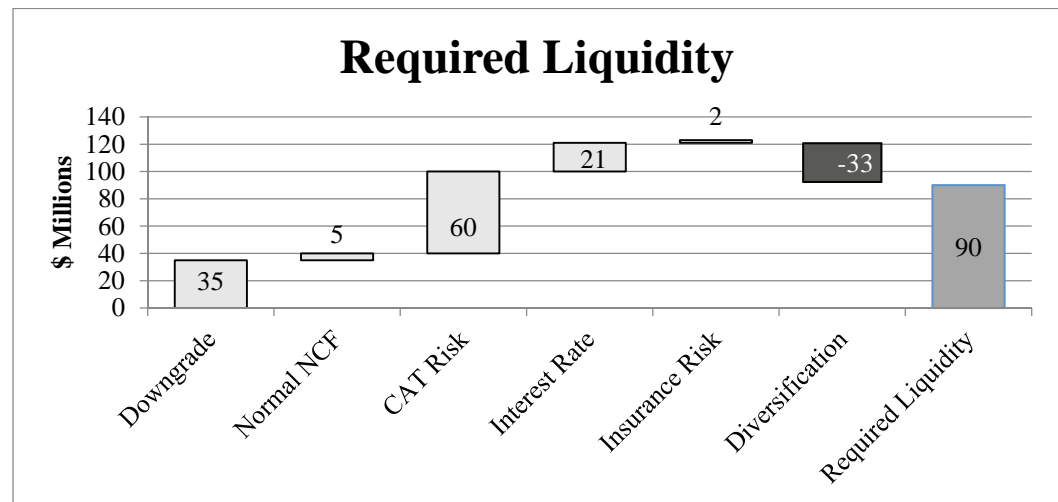
- Available Liquidity is provided by the Investment Management Department per industry common practice.
- Required Liquidity is the projected cash outflows for 3 continuous months in a 1-in-100 year event

Question 7 continued on next page.

7. Continued

You are given:

- Total assets = \$189 million
- Liquid assets = \$96 million



(c) (1 point)

- Describe Oakridge's liquidity position relative to the current policy.
- Describe Oakridge's liquidity position relative to the proposed policy.

(d) (1.5 points) Oakridge decides to adopt the proposed liquidity policy.

Explain three actions that Oakridge could take to improve its liquidity risk position.

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*Questions 8-9 pertain to the Case Study and/or extension readings.
Each question should be answered independently*

8. (10 points) During a benchmark study of the SLIC Pension Plan (“Plan”), it was noted that many competitors have changed their pension plans from traditional Final Average Pay (FAP) plans to cash balance plans. SLIC is considering making a similar change.

(a) (2 points)

- (i) Describe two transition methods which plan sponsors commonly use to handle previously earned benefits when changing from a FAP plan to a cash balance plan.
- (ii) Describe one significant advantage and one significant disadvantage of each method in (i).

(b) (1 point) Explain how changing to a cash balance plan will impact the accounting liability duration compared to SLIC’s FAP plan.

(c) (2 points) You plan to examine three crediting rates for the proposed cash balance plan. For your analysis you will use an individual cash balance account and the following assumptions:

- The current account balance is \$10,000
- The benefit is paid as a lump sum at retirement in 10 years
- There are no other decrements
- Future payments into the account are ignored
- Benefits are discounted at an annual rate of 4.5%

Crediting Rate	Actuarial Value	Modified Duration
Flat 4%		
Flat 5%		
Same as the discount rate		

- (i) Compute the missing values in the table above. Show your work.
- (ii) Interpret the results in relation to the accounting rate risk.

8. Continued

- (d) (2 points) Karl Palomino, Director and former CFO, has looked at the proposed crediting rates and states, “We should not value the liability at less than the notional account balance, for vested benefits, because of the demographic risk. What if many employees terminate at once?”
- (i) Explain whether this is a reasonable critique.
 - (ii) Explain the impact on the duration calculations if the liability valuation is set to be the greater of the present value of discounted benefits and the current notional account balance.
- (e) (2 points) Assume SLIC plans to use a crediting rate equal to the yield on 30-year Treasuries, reset annually. A proposal is made to hedge the interest rate risk by holding 30-year Treasuries.
- Critique this strategy and recommend an alternative. Justify your recommendation.
- (f) (1 point) Explain two risks (other than accounting risks) that should be considered in determining whether SLIC should convert to a cash balance plan.

**Questions 8-9 pertain to the Case Study and/or extension readings.
Each question should be answered independently**

- 9.** (10 points) AHA's pension committee has decided to implement a Liability Driven Investment (LDI) Strategy in an effort to reduce the exposure of the Defined Benefit Plan (the "Plan") to unrewarded interest rate risk. The Committee hired an investment consultant to design a suitable LDI solution for de-risking the Plan.

The consultant has proposed the following initial portfolio strategy for Phase 1 LDI:

- Return Seeking Asset (RSA) Allocation 60%
- Liability Hedging Asset (LHA) Allocation 40%
- LHA Benchmark: 25% Barclay's Long Duration Credit Index
75% Treasury 15+ STRIPS

The strategy would change over time, following a long glide path to de-risk the Plan.

AHA's CFO has decided to close the DB Plan to new entrants and introduce a defined contribution plan. The CFO wants to accelerate the de-risking of the DB Plan, with a view to achieving a 100% funding of the pension obligations on a Treasury basis.

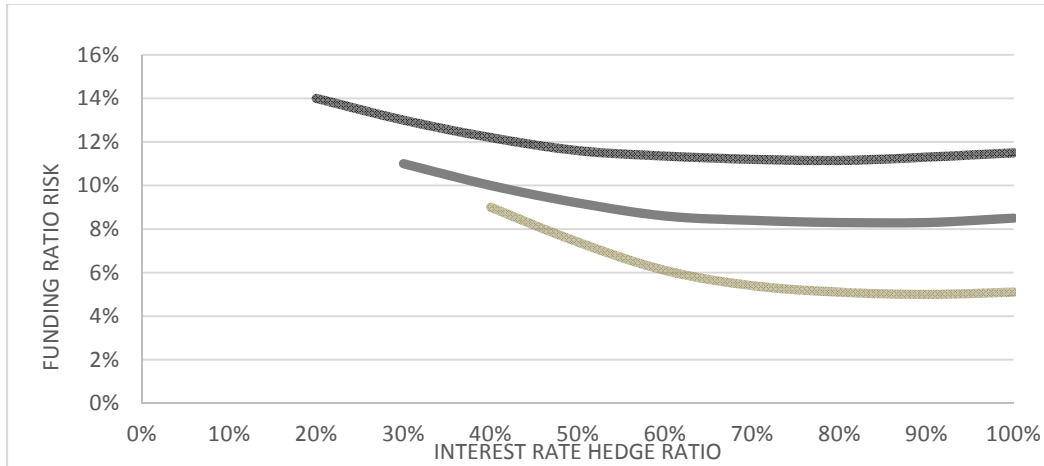
You are an actuary in AHA's Employee Benefits Department. You have been asked by the Pension Committee to modify the consultant's LDI strategy to achieve the CFO's new goals. Additionally, Interest Rate and Credit Spread Target Hedge Ratios need to be determined relative to the Plan's current RSA/LHA allocations.

(a) (2.5 points)

- (i) Explain why the modified LDI strategy should have the Plan's liabilities as the investment benchmark.
- (ii) Explain how you could use derivatives to achieve the Plan's LDI strategy risk and return goals.

9. Continued

- (b) (3 points) You have performed back-testing of historical funding ratio risk for various interest rate hedge ratios under the Plan's current 60% RSA allocation, along with alternative RSA allocations of 40% and 20%. The results for all three allocations are shown in the graph below.



- (i) Select an appropriate initial 80% target interest rate hedge ratio, based on the current 60% equity allocation. Justify your selection.
- (ii) Explain how your target interest rate hedge ratio should evolve as the Plan de-risks.
- (iii) Explain how the recommendation could change as a result of movements in the market correlations between equities and interest rates.

Question 9 continued on next page.

9. Continued

- (c) (2.5 points)
- (i) Define the credit spread hedge ratio.
 - (ii) Describe the likely impact on overall funding risk if AHA increases its credit spread hedge ratio, based on its current 60% RSA allocation.
 - (iii) Explain why AHA might increase its credit spread hedge ratio, even if doing so creates greater funding risk.
- (d) (2 points) Describe two considerations that could hinder the implementation of the modified LDI strategy for the AHA Plan.

****END OF EXAMINATION****

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