LEARNING OUTCOMES

Exchange-Traded Funds: Mechanics and Applications
The candidate should be able to:
- explain the creation/redemption process of ETFs and the function of authorized participants
- describe how ETFs are traded in secondary markets
- describe sources of tracking error for ETFs
- describe factors affecting ETF bid–ask spreads
- describe sources of ETF premiums and discounts to NAV
- describe costs of owning an ETF
- describe types of ETF risk
- identify and describe portfolio uses of ETFs

Using Multifactor Models
The candidate should be able to:
- describe arbitrage pricing theory (APT), including its underlying assumptions and its relation to multifactor models
- define arbitrage opportunity and determine whether an arbitrage opportunity exists
- calculate the expected return on an asset given an asset’s factor sensitivities and the factor risk premiums
- describe and compare macroeconomic factor models, fundamental factor models, and statistical factor models
- describe uses of multifactor models and interpret the output of analyses based on multifactor models
describe the potential benefits for investors in considering multiple risk dimensions when modeling asset returns
explain sources of active risk and interpret tracking risk and the information ratio

Measuring and Managing Market Risk

The candidate should be able to:
- explain the use of value at risk (VaR) in measuring portfolio risk
- compare the parametric (variance–covariance), historical simulation, and Monte Carlo simulation methods for estimating VaR
- estimate and interpret VaR under the parametric, historical simulation, and Monte Carlo simulation methods
- describe advantages and limitations of VaR
- describe extensions of VaR
- describe sensitivity risk measures and scenario risk measures and compare these measures to VaR
- demonstrate how equity, fixed-income, and options exposure measures may be used in measuring and managing market risk and volatility risk
- describe the use of sensitivity risk measures and scenario risk measures
- describe advantages and limitations of sensitivity risk measures and scenario risk measures
- explain constraints used in managing market risks, including risk budgeting, position limits, scenario limits, and stop-loss limits
- explain how risk measures may be used in capital allocation decisions
- describe risk measures used by banks, asset managers, pension funds, and insurers

Backtesting and Simulation

The candidate should be able to:
- describe objectives in backtesting an investment strategy
- describe and contrast steps and procedures in backtesting an investment strategy
- interpret metrics and visuals reported in a backtest of an investment strategy
- identify problems in a backtest of an investment strategy
- evaluate and interpret a historical scenario analysis
- contrast Monte Carlo and historical simulation approaches
- explain inputs and decisions in simulation and interpret a simulation; and
- demonstrate the use of sensitivity analysis

Economics and Investment Markets

The candidate should be able to:
- explain the notion that to affect market values, economic factors must affect one or more of the following: 1) default-free interest rates across maturities, 2) the timing and/or magnitude of expected cash flows, and 3) risk premiums
- explain the role of expectations and changes in expectations in market valuation
- explain the relationship between the long-term growth rate of the economy, the volatility of the growth rate, and the average level of real short-term interest rates
- explain how the phase of the business cycle affects policy and short-term interest rates, the slope of the term structure of interest rates, and the relative performance of bonds of differing maturities
describe the factors that affect yield spreads between non-inflation-adjusted and inflation-indexed bonds
explain how the phase of the business cycle affects credit spreads and the performance of credit-sensitive fixed-income instruments
explain how the characteristics of the markets for a company’s products affect the company’s credit quality
explain the relationship between the consumption hedging properties of equity and the equity risk premium
explain how the phase of the business cycle affects short-term and long-term earnings growth expectations
describe cyclical effects on valuation multiples
describe the economic factors affecting investment in commercial real estate

Analysis of Active Portfolio Management

The candidate should be able to:

describe how value added by active management is measured
calculate and interpret the information ratio (ex post and ex ante) and contrast it to the Sharpe ratio
describe and interpret the fundamental law of active portfolio management, including its component terms—transfer coefficient, information coefficient, breadth, and active risk (aggressiveness)
explain how the information ratio may be useful in investment manager selection and choosing the level of active portfolio risk
compare active management strategies, including market timing and security selection, and evaluate strategy changes in terms of the fundamental law of active management
describe the practical strengths and limitations of the fundamental law of active management