

# The Infinite Actuary Joint Exam 1/P Online Seminar

## General Tips and Frequently Asked Questions

### Recommendations for getting the most out of the seminar:

#### 1. Take advantage of the pause button.

Math is best learned by doing rather than watching. In a traditional math class, I regularly present problems and then pause the lecture to let students work on the problems before talking about the solutions. For the online seminar, I recommend doing the same thing. When I start a new example in the lecture, pause the video and try to solve the problem yourself. You may not be able to because the examples are often showing you new ideas, but if you think about each example before I talk about it, you will get more out of each lecture.

#### 2. Consider looking at the video solution of practice problems even if you solved them correctly.

Most problems have multiple solutions, so even if you got the problem right the solution may still have some different ideas than what you used. This is particularly important with problems that require complex computations, as often I might use a shortcut that you should know. You can usually tell from looking at the typed solutions whether or not my solution is the same as yours, so you can save time by figuring out which ones you have to watch that way.

#### 3. Don't turn to the solutions too quickly.

You will remember how to do problems much better if you are able to solve them yourself, and so while you don't want to get bogged down and spend 30 minutes on one problem, you don't want to give up and turn to the solutions too easily. Also, many problems from a section will be closely related to each other. If you are stuck on a group like that, then you first look at the solution to just one of them and then see if that helps you solve the others.

#### 4. Calculators, exam rules, and all that.

I recommend the TI-30XS MultiView calculator. It is inexpensive (about \$15) and has data and stat modes that can save you a lot of time. Whichever calculator you choose, you should use it exclusively for a few weeks before the exam to get used to all of its features. For more questions about the exam, look at the rules at <http://www.soa.org/files/edu/edu-rules-reg-instructions-new.pdf> or see the 1/P section at <http://www.soa.org/education/exam-reg/edu-exam-p-detail.aspx> (which includes both a copy of the exam distribution tables and the current exam syllabus). You will have 3 hours and there will be 30 questions, all of which are effectively equally weighted (some questions are "pilot questions" and don't count towards your score, but from a strategy point of view you should ignore that). Over the past few sittings, the pass mark has ranged from 62% to 63%.

### Other frequently asked questions:

#### Where can I find video solutions to the practice problems?

See the solutions tab on the lessons page for all of the video solutions.

#### How can I fast forward/rewind the videos?

Once the video is buffered, you can just move the slider at the bottom to jump forward/backwards to wherever you want.

#### Is there any way to talk to other students?

Yes – that is a big part of why we set up our own internal forums at <http://www.theinfiniteactuary.com/mb/viewforum.php?f=37> If you have more general questions about actuarial careers and other things that are beyond the scope of the seminar, you can also look at the Actuarial Outpost ([http://www.actuarialoutpost.com/actuarial\\_discussion\\_forum/forumdisplay.php?f=30](http://www.actuarialoutpost.com/actuarial_discussion_forum/forumdisplay.php?f=30)), which is also where many of the people involved with the Infinite Actuary met each other.

#### Where can I go with my questions?

The best way to ask questions on the material is to post on our internal forums (see previous questions). There are two big advantages of that: one is that someone else may have already

asked your question, so you can find the answer immediately, and the other is that your fellow students can benefit from your questions.

If you need an extension or have other account related questions, then you should e-mail [customerservice@theinfiniteactuary.com](mailto:customerservice@theinfiniteactuary.com).

**What formulas do I need to memorize?**

I don't focus much on what you should and shouldn't memorize during the bulk of the seminar because I view pure rote memorization as something that you want to do relatively late in the game. If you want to get a jump on memorization, you can take a look at the formula sheets in the review section.

**If I don't pass the exam, do I need to re-purchase the seminar?**

For the long answer, see [http://www.theinfiniteactuary.com/files/TIA\\_Extension\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.theinfiniteactuary.com/files/TIA_Extension_Policy.pdf) .

The short answer is that we are currently giving one free extension for six months, and charging 50% for further sittings. If you need such an extension, contact customer service and they will assist you. The extensions last for 6 months from the date when started, so you are better off waiting until near the end of your initial subscription before taking an extension.