TECEP® Test Description for FIN-331-TE

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MARKETS

This exam assesses students' knowledge of financial institutions and systems as well as the relationship of U.S. capital markets to global markets. This involves the effects of interest rates and asset demand including stocks, bonds, options, and futures, and their fundamental relationships within the financial market structure. The exam also assesses students' ability to analyze the efficiency of financial markets and the role of central banks (especially the Federal Reserve System); in addition, the exam also evaluates the conduct of monetary policy to determine its effect on financial markets. The exam emphasizes the bond, stock, and money markets, and their relationship to the management of financial institutions and financial regulations. It also assesses students' understanding of the functions of the mutual fund industry, insurance companies, and pension funds and their evaluation for risk and ethical considerations. (3 credits)

- **Test format:** 100 multiple choice questions (1 point each).
- **Passing score:** 60% (60/100 points).Your grade will be reported as CR (credit) or NC (no credit).
- **Time limit:** 2 hours.

OUTCOMES ASSESSED ON THE TEST

- Analyze the functions of financial markets and financial instruments.
- Discuss the role of interest rates and their usage in securities valuation.
- Explain the effects of interest rate change and risk structure.
- Characterize an efficient market.
- Analyze the functions of various financial institutions in the economy, the financial industry, and for individual investors.
- Distinguish among the roles of the Federal Reserve System and interpret the effects of monetary policy on financial markets.
- Compare the functions of different investment vehicles, distinguishing between the bond, stock, mutual fund, mortgage, and foreign exchange markets.
- Explain the connection between the ethical responsibility of the banking industry and the management of financial institutions

TOPICS ON THE TEST AND THEIR APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION

The table below indicates the main topics covered by this exam and the approximate percentage of the exam devoted to each main topic. Under the main topic heading is a list of related–but more specific–topics. It is important to review these topics to determine how much prior knowledge you have and/or how much additional study is necessary.

Topic	Percentage
Financial Markets ● Financial markets and financial instruments ● Interest rates and financial market analysis ● Structure of interest rates	**(35%)**
Financial Institutions ● Banks and other financial intermediaries ● The flow of funds through financial intermediaries ● Regulation of financial institutions	**(35%)**
International Finance ● Determination of foreign-exchange rates ● International financial institutions and markets ● Current issues in international finance	**(10%)**
Current Issues ● Deregulation and regulatory reform ● The mortgage market ● Futures and options ● Branch banking ● Deposit insurance ● Money and interest-rate relationships ● Inflation and income policies ● Other issues	**(20%)**

STUDY MATERIALS

Below is a list of recommended study materials to help prepare you for your exam. Most textbooks in this subject include the topics listed above and will prepare you for the test. If you choose another text, be sure to compare its table of contents against the topic list to make sure all topics are covered.

Title
Mishkin, F. S., & Easkins, S. G. *Financial Markets & Institutions*. Current or last edition. Boston: Pearson/Prentice-Hall
Madura, J. *Financial Markets and Institutions*. Current or last edition. Mason, OH: South-Western/Cengage Learning

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed to help you study for your TECEP. Answering these questions does not guarantee a passing score on your exam.

Please note that the questions below **will not** appear on your exam.

1. What is the primary function of large, diversified brokerage firms in the money market?

    a. To sell money market securities to the Federal Reserve for its open market operations
    b. To buy money market securities from corporations that need liquidity
    c. To make a market for money market securities by maintaining an inventory from which to buy or sell
    d. To buy T-bills from the U. S. Treasury Department

2. If bad credit risks are those that most actively seek and receive loans from financial intermediaries, what problem does this cause the financial intermediaries to face?

    a. Moral hazard
    b. Adverse selection
    c. Free-riding
    d. Costly state verification

3. All financial intermediary institutions in the intermediation market

    a. buy primary securities and sell secondary securities
    b. borrow short and lend long
    c. borrow in small denominations and lend in large
    d. buy from brokers and dealers and sell to the public

4. What are Federal funds?

    a. Treasury notes
    b. Commercial bank deposits at the Federal Reserve
    c. Federal Reserve assets
    d. Vault cast of the Federal government

5. Which of the following statements always describes the relationship between current yield and yield to maturity?

    a. The current yield is higher.
    b. The two yields are the same.
    c. The yield to maturity reflects the total return; the current yield only the cash return.
    d. The yield to maturity should be used in comparing bonds which are to be held to maturity; the current yield for comparing bonds which are to be sold before maturity.

6. A bank is solvent as long as it

    a. has enough capital to pay off depositors
    b. has mostly good loans
    c. does not experience a run on its deposits
    d. is able to meet all demands by depositors for payment

7. As opposed to most other debt instruments, mortgage loans tend to

    a. charge lower interest rates
    b. be of larger denomination
    c. pay interest less frequently
    d. be repaid over the life of the loan

8. In most variable-rate mortgages, the homebuyer

    a. assumes none of the interest rate risk
    b. assumes all of the interest rate risk
    c. shares the interest rate risk with the lender
    d. does not repay the principal until maturity

9. A futures contract is an agreement to trade an asset

    a. in the future at a price determined today
    b. today at a price prevailing at some future date
    c. in the future at a price prevailing in the future
    d. today at a price determined today

10. What is the object of fixed exchange rates?

    a. To prevent exchange rates from changing
    b. To prevent misallocation of economic resources
    c. To eliminate the economic fluctuations that result from short-run, self-reversing forces
    d. To prevent the effects of one country's inflationary policies from spreading to other countries

11. If a bank has more rate-sensitive assets than rate-sensitive liabilities, then a(n) ________ in interest rates will ________ bank profits.

    a. increase; increase
    b. increase; reduce
    c. decline; increase
    d. decline; not affect

12. Which of the following has done the most to prevent bank failures?

    a. Federal deposit insurance
    b. Bank examinations
    c. Separation of investment and commercial banking
    d. Restrictions on branch offices

13. The term structure of interest rates shows

    a. how interest rates vary over time
    b. the pattern of interest rates over the long-term business cycle
    c. security yields ranked by default risk structure
    d. the relationship between maturity and yield for similar securities

14. If the yield on long-term securities is greater than the yield on comparable short-term securities, the yield curve will be

    a. positively sloped
    b. negatively sloped
    c. in the negative quadrant
    d. undefined

15. In the process of deposit deregulation in the early 1980's, banks were allowed to

    a. offer checkable deposits that paid implicit interest only
    b. pay explicit market rates on savings and time deposits and limited interest on checkable deposits
    c. pay below market explicit interest on savings and time deposits
    d. pay explicit market rates on checking accounts

16. Classical interest rate theory states that rising interest rates will

    a. increase the demand for money
    b. decrease the demand for money
    c. decrease investment expenditures
    d. increase the quantity of saving

17. A central bank sale of ________ to purchase ________ in the foreign exchange market results in an equal rise in its international reserves and the monetary base.

    a. foreign assets; domestic currency
    b. foreign assets; foreign currency
    c. domestic currency; domestic assets
    d. domestic currency; foreign assets

18. When does a negative yield curve tend to exist?

    a. During a period of unemployment
    b. During a period of inflation
    c. During a period of deflation
    d. During a period of full employment

19. Compared to future contracts, forward contracts

    a. are not standardized
    b. involve an intermediary or exchange, rather than direct contact between buyer and seller
    c. have less formal markets
    d. make delivery most often

20. Which of the following is true of restrictions on branch offices?

    a. National banks can establish branches in any state.
    b. Unit banking is more common on the West Coast.
    c. Branching laws are determined by each individual state.
    d. Statewide branching is illegal in almost every state.

ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. (**c**)
2. (**b**)
3. (**a**)
4. (**b**)
5. (**c**)
6. (**d**)
7. (**d**)
8. (**c**)
9. (**a**)
10. (**c**)
11. (**a**)
12. (**a**)
13. (**d**)
14. (**a**)
15. (**b**)
16. (**d**)
17. (**d**)
18. (**b**)
19. (**b**)
20. (**c**)