

**ASPPA**  
**A-4: Advanced Actuarial Practice**  
**2008 Syllabus**

This examination is intended to test the candidate's ability to apply the accumulated body of knowledge covered in prior examinations together with that contained in specific readings for this part in given practice situations. Frequently, there is no single correct answer to a question. Answers will be evaluated based on the candidate's ability to weigh alternatives and support any recommendations.

**Subject Matter:**

Advanced actuarial consulting topics, including:

- Comprehensive actuarial consulting topics, including selection of cost methods and assumptions, actuarial forecast valuations
- Design of retirement plans
- Actuarial considerations in providing financial accounting information for postemployment employee benefit plans
- Effect of changes in demographics and the economic environment on the cost and design of retirement benefits
- Valuation of pension assets and development of funding and investment policies
- Actuarial valuation in civil litigation including divorce and QDROs
- Applicable issues in ethics affecting the actuarial profession

**Required Readings:**

*Advanced Actuarial Practice: A-4 Compendium of readings*, 2007 ed., Arlington, VA: ASPPA.

*Statement of Financial Accounting Standards*, Numbers 35, 87, 88, 106, 112 and 132R. Hartford, CT: Financial Accounting Standards Board, [www.fasb.org](http://www.fasb.org).

*Actuarial Standards of Practice*, Numbers 4, 17, 27, 34, 35, 41. Washington, DC: Actuarial Standards Board, [www.actuarialstandardsboard.org](http://www.actuarialstandardsboard.org).

**Suggested Readings:**

*Fundamental Concepts of Actuarial Science*, revised ed., by Charles L. Trowbridge. Schaumburg, IL: Actuarial Education and Research Fund, 1989.

As part of general knowledge, a candidate is expected to be familiar with the Internal Revenue Code and ERISA (as amended through June 30 preceding the examination) as well as IRS, PBGC and DOL guidance and pronouncements related to qualified plans as promulgated prior to June 30 preceding the fall examination. Candidates have four hours to complete this examination.