Series 26 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

110 Scored questions	**2h 45m** Time limit	**70%** Passing score
$200 Exam fee	**FINRA** Governing body	**—** Pass rate

The numbers to remember

- 110 total questions
- 165 minutes (2 hours and 45 minutes) time limit
- 70% passing score, with no separate scaled-score chart to memorize
- $200 exam fee
- Must be sponsored by a FINRA member firm (or applicable SRO member firm) to sit for the exam — you can't self-register
- Corequisite: SIE and Series 6 or Series 7 required to hold the registration
- SIE exam valid for up to 4 years; most other qualification exams stay valid for 2 years after registration termination
- Retake wait: 15 days after a first or second failure; 60 days after three or more consecutive failures within two years

Content domains and weights

- Function 2 — Supervises Associated Persons and Oversees Sales Practices: 49 questions (the largest function — nearly half the exam; covers correspondence review, sales-practice oversight, and complaint handling)
- Function 3 — Oversees Compliance and Business Processes: 45 questions (books/records, financial responsibility, AML supervision — nearly as heavy as Function 2)
- Function 1 — Personnel Management Activities and Registration: 16 questions (smallest function by count, but still fully scored toward your 70%)

High-yield review areas

- Supervisory review of correspondence, advertising, and sales literature before it goes out
- Customer complaint handling and escalation procedures
- Books and records retention requirements for principals
- Financial responsibility oversight and AML program supervision duties
- Registration and personnel-management requirements for associated persons
- Distinguishing which control or approval step would have caught a given supervisory failure in a scenario question

Top traps

- Underweighting Function 2 in study time because it feels procedural — it's nearly half the exam
- Skipping Function 3 compliance detail since it's technically smaller than Function 2 — it's only 4 questions behind
- Assuming you can retake immediately after a miss — a first or second failure still costs 15 days, and a third consecutive failure costs 60
- Forgetting that sponsorship by a member firm, not self-registration, is required to even sit for this exam
- Treating the SIE and Series 6/7 corequisites as optional add-ons rather than requirements for holding the registration
- Pacing poorly across 165 minutes and 110 questions — practice the full length under timed conditions before exam day
- Confusing knowledge gaps with careless errors when reviewing missed practice questions — the fix for each is different

Official sources

- FINRA — Series 26 – Investment Company and Variable Contracts Products Principal Exam: https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/series26
- FINRA — FINRA Rule 1210 (Registration Requirements) — Supplementary Material .06: https://www.finra.org/rules-guidance/rulebooks/finra-rules/1210
- FINRA — Qualification Exams: https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/securities/series-26