

Series 3 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

120 Scored questions	2h 30m Time limit	70% each part Passing score
\$140 Exam fee	NFA Governing body	

Exam Snapshot

- 120 scored questions
- 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes) time limit
- 70% passing score required on each part
- \$140 registration fee

Time Management Formula

$150 \text{ minutes} \div 120 \text{ questions} = 1.25 \text{ minutes per question on average}$. Budget roughly 75 seconds/question; flag and move on if you exceed that to protect time for the full set.

Pass/Fail Math

70% of 120 questions = 84 correct answers needed to pass ($120 \times 0.70 = 84$). You can miss up to 36 questions and still pass.

Must-Remember Checklist

- Score threshold is 70% — know this cold; it drives your practice-test target (aim for 80%+ in practice to build a buffer).
- Fee of \$140 is due at registration — confirm this is current on FINRA's site before paying, as exam fees can change.
- Time pressure is real: 150 minutes / 120 questions leaves little room for lengthy calculations — practice speed drills on any computation-heavy question types.

Quick-Reference Table

- Questions: 120
- Duration: 150 min
- Pass mark: 70% (~84/120)
- Fee: \$140

Official sources

- NFA — Series 3 Exam Overview: <https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/series3>
- FINRA — Schedule an Exam: <https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/schedule-exam>
- National Futures Association (NFA) — Proficiency Requirements: <https://www.nfa.futures.org/registration-membership/how-to-register/proficiency-requirements.html>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/securities/series-3