

Series 79 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

75 Scored questions	2h 30m Time limit	73% Passing score
\$395 Exam fee	FINRA Governing body	

Series 79 Cheat Sheet — Investment Banking Representative Exam

Fast-reference facts, rules, and study reminders. Bold = must-memorize.

Exam Logistics (memorize these)

- 75 scored questions
- 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes)
- Passing score: 73%
- Fee: \$395

Quick Math to Have Ready

- At 73% passing on 75 scored questions, you need roughly 55 correct ($0.73 \times 75 \sim 54.75$) — aim for a margin above this.
- $150 \text{ min} \div 75 \text{ questions} = 2 \text{ minutes per question}$ as your pacing benchmark. Flag-and-return on anything that eats more time.
- The exam may also contain unscored pretest questions in addition to the 75 scored — treat every question as if it counts.

Test-Day Rules of Thumb

- The 73% threshold leaves little room for error — banking on ~55 correct means you can miss ~20 and still pass, so triage aggressively rather than getting stuck.
- Budget the first pass at under 2 min/question to bank time for flagged items on a second pass.

Content Areas (typical Series 79 scope)

- Collection, analysis, and evaluation of data
- Underwriting / new financings (debt & equity offerings)
- Mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, and financial restructurings

Confirm the current content outline and question weighting against FINRA's official Series 79 page before your exam.

Official sources

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2025 — Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents (SOC 41-3031): <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes413031.htm>
- FINRA — Series 79 Exam Overview: <https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/series79>
- FINRA — Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) Exam: <https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/securities-industry-essentials-exam-sie>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/securities/series-79