



REAL ESTATE

General Content Outlines

MAINE

Real Estate State Content Outlines

General Exam Content Outline for Sales Agents

Effective: June 01, 2020

The general portion of the real estate exam is made up of eighty (80) scored items, which are distributed as noted in the following content outline. The general examination also contains five (5) pretest items that are not counted toward the score. These items are used to gather statistics on performance and to help assess appropriateness for use on future examinations. Because pretest items look exactly like items that are scored, candidates should answer all the items on the examination.

I. REAL PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS, LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS, AND PROPERTY USE (9 ITEMS)

A. Real property vs. personal property

1. Fixtures, trade fixtures, emblements
2. Attachment, severance, and bill of sale

B. Characteristics of real property

1. Economic characteristics
2. Physical characteristics

C. Legal descriptions

1. Methods used to describe real property
2. Survey

D. Public and private land use controls – encumbrances

1. Public controls – governmental powers
 - a. Police power, eminent domain, taxation, escheat
 - b. Zoning ordinances
2. Private controls, restrictions, and encroachments
 - a. Covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs), HOAs
 - b. Easements
 - c. Licenses and encroachments

II. FORMS OF OWNERSHIP, TRANSFER, AND RECORDING OF TITLE (8 ITEMS)

A. Ownership, estates, rights, and interests

1. Forms of ownership
2. Freehold estate
 - a. Fee simple absolute
 - b. Fee simple defeasible, determinable, and condition subsequent
 - c. Life estate
 - d. Bundle of rights
3. Leasehold estates and types of leases
 - a. Estate for years and from period to period (periodic estate)
 - b. Estate at will and estate at sufferance
 - c. Gross, net, and percentage leases
4. Liens and lien priority
5. Surface and sub-surface rights

B. Deed, title, transfer of title, and recording of title

1. Elements of a valid deed
2. Types of deeds
3. Title transfer

- a. Voluntary alienation
 - b. Involuntary alienation
4. Recording the title
 - a. Constructive and actual notice
 - b. Title abstract and chain of title
 - c. Marketable title and cloud on title
 - d. Attorney title opinion, quiet title lawsuit, and title insurance

III. PROPERTY VALUE AND APPRAISAL (11 ITEMS)

A. Concept of value

1. Market value vs. market price
2. Characteristics of value
3. Principles of value

B. Appraisal process

1. Purpose and steps to an appraisal
2. Federal oversight of the appraisal process

C. Methods of estimating value and Broker Price Opinions (BPO)

1. Sales comparison approach (market data)
2. Cost approach
 - a. Improvements and depreciation
 - b. Physical deterioration, functional, and economic obsolescence
 - c. Reproduction or replacement costs
3. Income approach
4. Gross rent and gross income multipliers
5. Comparative Market Analysis (CMA)
6. Broker Price Opinion (BPO)
7. Assessed value and tax implications

IV. REAL ESTATE CONTRACTS AND AGENCY (16 ITEMS)

A. Types of contracts

1. Express vs. implied
2. Unilateral vs. bilateral

B. Required elements of a valid contract

C. Contract performance

1. Executed vs. executory
2. Valid vs. void
3. Voidable vs. unenforceable
4. Breach of contract, rescission, and termination
5. Liquidated, punitive, or compensatory damages

6. Statute of Frauds
7. Time is of the essence

D. Sales contract

1. Offer and counteroffer
2. Earnest money and liquidated damages
3. Equitable title
4. Contingencies
5. Disputes and breach of contract
6. Option contract and installment sales contract

E. Types of agency and licensee-client relationships

F. Creation and termination of agency

G. Licensee obligations to parties of a transaction

V. REAL ESTATE PRACTICE (14 ITEMS)

A. Responsibilities of broker

1. Practicing within scope of expertise
2. Unauthorized practice of law

B. Brokerage agreements between the broker and principal (seller, buyer, landlord, or tenant)

1. Seller representation – Types of listing agreements
 - a. Exclusive right-to-sell and exclusive agency listing
 - b. Non-exclusive or open listing
 - c. Net listing (conflict of interest)
 - d. Multiple listing service (MLS)
2. Buyer representation
3. Property management agreement
 - a. Accounting for funds
 - b. Property maintenance
 - c. Leasing property
 - d. Collecting rents and security deposits
4. Termination of agreements
5. Services, fees, and compensation

C. Fair Housing

1. Equal opportunity in housing
2. Protected classes
3. Fair housing laws
4. Illegal practices, enforcement, and penalties
5. Prohibited advertising
6. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
7. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

D. Risk management

1. Supervision
2. Compliance with federal regulations; including Privacy and Do Not Contact
3. Vicarious liability
4. Antitrust laws
5. Fraud and misrepresentation
6. Types of insurance
 - a. Errors and Omissions
 - b. General Liability

VI. PROPERTY DISCLOSURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (8 ITEMS)

A. Property conditions and environmental issues

1. Hazardous substances
 - a. Lead-based paint
 - b. Asbestos, radon, and mold
 - c. Groundwater contamination and underground storage tanks
 - d. Waste disposal sites and brownfields
 - e. Flood plains, flood zones, and flood insurance
2. Clean Air and Water Acts
3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - a. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
 - b. Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA)
 - c. Environmental site assessments (including Phase I and II studies) and impact statements
 - d. Wetlands protection

B. Disclosure obligations and liability

VII. FINANCING AND SETTLEMENT (7 ITEMS)

A. Financing concepts and components

1. Methods of financing
 - a. Mortgage financing – conventional and non-conventional loans
 - b. Seller financing – land contract/contract for deed
2. Lien theory vs. title theory and deed of trust
3. Sources of financing (primary and secondary mortgage markets, and seller financing)
4. Types of loans and loan programs
5. Mortgage clauses

B. Lender Requirements

1. FHA requirements
2. VA requirements
3. Buyer qualification and Loan to Value (LTV)
4. Hazard and flood insurance
5. Private mortgage insurance (PMI) and mortgage insurance premium (MIP)

C. Federal Financing Regulations and Regulatory Bodies

1. Truth-in-Lending and Regulation Z
2. TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosures (TRID)
 - a. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - b. Loan Estimate (LE)
 - c. Closing Disclosure (CD)
3. Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA)
 - a. Referrals
 - b. Rebates
4. Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)
5. Mortgage fraud and predatory lending

D. Settlement and closing the transaction

VIII. REAL ESTATE MATH CALCULATIONS (7 ITEMS)

A. Property area calculations

1. Square footage
2. Acreage total

B. Property valuation

1. Comparative Market Analysis (CMA)
2. Net Operating Income (NOI)
3. Capitalization rate
4. Equity in property
5. Establishing a listing price
6. Assessed value and property taxes

C. Commission/compensation

D. Loan financing costs

1. Interest
2. Loan to Value (LTV)
3. Fees
4. Amortization, discount points, and prepayment penalties

E. Settlement and closing costs

1. Purchase price and down payment
2. Monthly mortgage calculations- principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI)
3. Net to the seller
4. Cost to the buyer
5. Prorated items
6. Debits and credits
7. Transfer tax and recording fee

F. Investment

1. Return on investment
2. Appreciation
3. Depreciation
4. Tax implications on investment

G. Property management calculations

1. Property management and budget calculations
2. Tenancy and rental calculations

Real Estate General/National Resources

- Mastering Real Estate Principles, Gerald R. Cortesi, 7th Edition, Dearborn
- Modern Real Estate Practice, Fillmore W. Galaty, Wellington J. Allaway, Robert C. Kyle, etc., 20th edition, Dearborn
- Principles of Real Estate Practice, Stephen Mettling, 6th Edition, Performance Programs Company
- Property Management, Robert C. Kyle, 10th Edition, Dearborn
- Real Estate Finance, J. Keith Baker and John P Wiedemer, 10th Edition, OnCourse Learning Publishing
- Real Estate Fundamentals, Wade E. Gaddy, 10th Edition Dearborn
- Real Estate Law, Charles J. Jacobus, 3rd Edition, OnCourse Learning Publishing
- Real Estate Law, Elliot Klayman, 10th Edition, Dearborn
- The Language of Real Estate, John W. Reilly, 8th Edition, Dearborn

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Content Outline for Maine Real Estate Law Examinations

Effective Date: November 1, 2016

Sales Agent exam (law portion): 40 scored items, 5-15 pretest items

Maine Law exam (reciprocity/renewal): 50 scored items, 5-15 pretest items

The pretest items are not identified and will not affect a candidate's score in any way.

Please note – The Maine Law Exam does not satisfy the law portion of the Sales Agent exam.

The items are determined by the content outline that follows. The number of scored items for each topic area on each exam appears in parentheses after the topic heading. See *Recommended Reading* section of this handbook for a list of suggested study materials.

I. MAINE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION (SALES AGENT 2, MAINE LAW 2)

A. Powers

B. Investigations, hearings, appeals

C. Sanctions

II. MAINE LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING ACTIVITIES OF LICENSEES (SALES AGENT 15, MAINE LAW 18)

A. Activities requiring a license

B. Licensee and brokerage definitions

C. Designated broker-sales agent relationship

D. Listings/brokerage contracts

E. Offers to purchase/sales contracts

F. Handling of monies

1. Earnest money
2. Trust accounts

G. Material disclosures

1. Disclosure requirements
2. Maine-specific mandated property disclosures
 - a. Water supply
 - b. Heating systems
 - c. Waste disposal
 - d. Hazardous materials

H. Commissions

I. Market analysis

J. Advertising

K. Other

III. LAW OF AGENCY/BROKERAGE (SALES AGENT 10, MAINE LAW 12)

A. Types of agency relationships (buyer, seller, appointed, disclosed dual, and sub-agency)

B. Agency/brokerage contracts

C. Obligations to clients and customers

D. Creation and termination of agency relationships

E. Disclosures (incl. Real Estate Brokerage Relationships form) and acting in self-interest

F. Transaction brokerage

IV. MAINE-SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES (SALES AGENT 8, MAINE LAW 13)

A. Property ownership and transfer

1. Types of ownership
2. Methods of transfer
3. Adverse possession
4. Recording system
5. Transfer tax
6. Nonresident withholding tax

B. Sources of information in Maine

C. Maine Landlord-Tenant Act

D. Condominium law

E. Closings

V. MAINE LAND-USE LAW (SALES AGENT 5, MAINE LAW 5)

A. Subdivisions (Title 30-A)

B. Mandatory Shoreland Zoning (Title 38)

C. Site Location of Development (Title 38)

D. Underground Oil Storage Tanks (Title 38)

E. Other land use topics

1. Minimum lot size (Title 12)
2. Land Use Planning Commission (Title 12) and Department of Environmental Protection (Title 38)
3. Open Space Tax Law and Tree Growth Tax Law (Title 36)
4. Protection of Natural Resources (Title 38)
5. Transfers of Shoreland Property (Title 30-A)