



**Università Commerciale  
Luigi Bocconi**

**MSc. Finance/CLEFIN  
2015/2016 Edition**

## **Advanced Tools for Risk Management and Asset Pricing**

**May 2016 Exam for Attending Students**

Time Allowed: 55 minutes

| Family Name (Surname) | First Name | Student Number (Matr.) |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|
|                       |            |                        |

Please answer all questions by choosing the most appropriate alternative(s) and/or by writing your answers in the spaces provided. You need to carefully justify and show your work in the case of “open” questions. There is only one correct answer(s) for each of the multiple choice questions. Only answers explicitly reported in the appropriate box will be considered. No other answers or indications pointing to potential answers will be taken into consideration. In the case of “open” questions, the maximum number of points is indicated.

**Question 1 (2 pts).** Which of the following statements about base correlations is TRUE?

- ☐ (A) Typically, base correlation presents a smile
- ☐ (B) It depends on pairs of detachment points
- ☐ (C) It is consistent at the level of single tranche
- ☒ (D) None of the above

**Question 2 (2 pts).** Which of the following statements about Analytically Tractable First Passage (AT1P) models is TRUE?

- ☐ (A) AT1P models assume the existence of a time-dependent stochastic barrier
- ☒ (B) Default is described by means of an endogenous process
- ☐ (C) AT1P models always allow to determine consistently short term credit spreads
- ☐ (C) None of the above

**Question 3 (2 pts).** What does the following formula represent?

$$N\left(\frac{N^{-1}(p_i) - \sqrt{\rho_i} y}{\sqrt{1 - \rho_i}}\right)$$

- ☐ (A) A single name probability of default in the single factor model
- ☒ (B) A single name probability of default conditional on the systematic factor
- ☐ (C) The limiting portfolio loss distribution according to Vasicek
- ☐ (D) The quantile of the loss distribution at level  $q = N(y)$  in the Vasicek portfolio loss model

**Question 4 (2 pts).** Which of the following statements about the One Factor Gaussian Copula model is FALSE?

- ☐ (A) Estimation of the correlation matrix for  $n$  names involves  $n(n - 1)/2$  estimates of pairwise correlation
- ☐ (B) The model relies on the assumption of independence of single names
- ☐ (C) The expected tranch loss coincides with the tranch loss
- ☒ (D) All of the above

**Question 5 (2 pts).** Which of the following statements about Mapping methods for bespoke portfolios is FALSE?

- ☒ (A) The overlap between the bespoke portfolio and the standard index is irrelevant to the pricing of the bespoke tranches
- ☐ (B) The correlation used to price the bespoke tranche is taken to be the correlation at the equivalent standard strike
- ☐ (C) The ATM method is based on the first moment of the portfolio loss
- ☐ (D) Both the TLP and the PM methods take into account the portfolio dispersion

**Question 6 (2 pts).** Which of the following statements about different approaches to price CDOs is TRUE?

- ☐ (A) The Implied Copula approach by Hull and White is not able to capture the phenomenon of clustered (sector) defaults associated to masses in the far right tail of the loss distribution
- ☐ (B) The Implied Copula approach by Hull and White solves the problems of inconsistencies across both the capital structure and maturities
- ☒ (C) Dynamic(al) Loss approaches do not allow partial hedges with respect to single names
- ☐ (D) None of the above

**Question 7 (3 pts).**

1. What is CVA? How is it defined? (2 pts)

**Answer.** See Lecture 8 “Introduction to counterparty risk”:

1. Credit Value Adjustment (CVA) tries to measure the expected loss due to missing the remaining payments. It is defined as:

- the difference between the risk-free value and the risky value of one or more trades:

$$CVA = \mathbb{E}_t[\Pi(t, T)] - \mathbb{E}_t[\Pi^D(t, T)]$$

Where  $\Pi(t, T)$  represents (the sum of) all discounted cash flows between times T and t and  $\Pi^D(t, T)$  the same quantity in the presence of counterparty risk

- the expected loss arising from a future counterparty default

$$CVA = LGD \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbb{I}_{\tau < T} D(t, T)(V(\tau))^+]$$

where  $V(\tau)$  represents the uncertain close out amount.

2. What are the risk factors generally affecting CVA? (1 pt)

**Answer.** CVA is generally affected by:

1. the OTC contract's exposure and underlying volatility
2. the correlation between the underlying and default of the counterparty
3. the counterparty credit spreads volatility.

**Question 8 (2 pts).** Considering two different Bonus Cap with the characteristics below, which statement is *the most plausible one*:

| Bonus Cap A  |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Bonus        | 113%     |
| Cap          | 113%     |
| Barrier Type | American |
| Tenor        | 3 years  |

| Bonus Cap B  |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Bonus        | 113%     |
| Cap          | 113%     |
| Barrier Type | European |
| Tenor        | 3 years  |

- ☒ (A) Bonus Cap A has a Barrier equal to 70% and Bonus Cap B has a barrier equal to 80%
- ☐ (B) Bonus Cap B has a Barrier equal to 70% and Bonus Cap A has a barrier equal to 80%
- ☐ (C) Both Bonus Cap A and Bonus Cap B have a barrier equal to 80%
- ☐ (D) Both Bonus Cap A and Bonus Cap B have a barrier equal to 70%

**Debriefing:** Correct answer is A. The barrier of certificate A is observed during the entire life of the product because it is of American type, while the barrier of certificate B is observed only

at maturity. Clearly, product B is more expensive than product A, as the probability of barrier breach is concentrated only at maturity (and so it is much lower). Consequently, product B must have a higher barrier than product A to achieve the same level of Bonus.

**Question 9 (2 pts).** Which of the following statement is correct?

- ☐ (A) A Leverage certificate implies a leverage that is function of the level of the underlying, given a fixed strike
- ☐ (B) The major drawback of a Turbo Certificate is the “compounding effect”
- ☐ (C) A Turbo certificate is characterized by a constant leverage ratio
- ☒ (D) None of the above

**Debriefing:** Correct answer is D. A Turbo certificate has a dynamic leverage that is a function of the underlying, given a fixed strike (leverage ratio is given by ratio between the underlying value and the strike). In the case of a Leverage certificate the strike is adjusted every day such that the leverage ratio is constant. A Leverage certificate shows the so called “compounding effect” (not the Turbo).

**Question 10 (2 pts).** Consider a Bonus Cap certificate with Bonus and Cap both equal to Eur 120, and an American Barrier equal to 75% of the Strike. When there is one month left to the expiry date, the underlying breaches the Barrier Level. Considering that the closing price of the certificate in the previous day was equal to Eur 85, which is likely to be the price of the certificate after that the barrier is breached?

- ☐ (A) The price of the certificate will not change, because there is still one month left to the maturity
- ☒ (B) There will be a steep drop in the price of the certificate, which will start trading around Eur 75
- ☐ (C) The price of the Certificate will drop to zero, because the investor is no more able to get the Bonus
- ☐ (D) None of the above

**Debriefing:** Correct answer is B. A Bonus Cap has a “digital” payoff feature: Either it will pay the Bonus or it will replicate the performance of the underlying. Until the Barrier is not breached the investor has the chance to get an amount equal to Eur 120. However, once the barrier has been breached, the investor is no longer entitled to get the Bonus. Consequently, after the barrier is breached, the certificate is no longer that different from a forward contract written on the underlying. Because there is just one month left to maturity, the dividend yield and the time value should only have a modest impact on the price. Therefore, the value of the certificate should be approximately equal to Underlying Value/Strike x 100 Eur (which is 75 Eur, as the barrier was 75% and this has just been touched).