

25/01 560 FINANCIAL MARKETS

Course Overview

M1: Credit Risk and Financing

M2: Return and Volatility

M3: Correlation

M4: Leverage and Nonlinearity

FM Forum M4

LESSON 1: DERIVATIVES, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON OPTIONS

Required Readings

Lesson Notes

LESSON 2: LEVERAGE AND NON-LINEARITY

Required Readings

Lesson Notes

LESSON 3: HOME EQUITY AS AN OPTION

Required Readings

Lesson Notes

LESSON 4: OPTION STRATEGIES AND SCENARIOS

Required Readings

Lesson Notes

MODULE 4 SUMMARY

Leverage and Nonlinearity Screencast

ASSESSMENTS

FM Collaborative Review Task 2

FM Practice Quiz M4

FM Graded Quiz M4

M5: Liquidity and Regulation

M6: Model Failure and Crises

M7: Integrating Ethics with Financial Challenges

Final Test

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FM Practice Quiz M4

Question 1

Which of the following best describes the primary purpose of hedging with options?

- ☒ To minimize risk by reducing the uncertainty of outcomes
- ☐ To guarantee a specific return on investment
- ☐ To maximize profits through leverage
- ☐ To eliminate all potential losses

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QUESTIONS



Question 2

What is the definition of leverage in the context of investments?

- ☐ Using complex financial instruments to reduce risk
- ☐ Borrowing money to pay for bond interest payment
- ☒ Borrowing capital to invest more deeply than with cash on hand
- ☐ Diversifying investments across multiple asset classes

Question 3

Why is volatility considered the most important factor in option pricing?

- ☐ It determines the strike price of the option
- ☒ It affects the probability of the option being in-the-money at expiration
- ☐ It directly determines the intrinsic value of the option
- ☐ It influences the expiration date of the option

Question 4

If a stock is currently trading at \$75 and a put option with a strike price of \$80 has a premium of \$8, what is the maximum loss for the put buyer?

- ☒ \$8
- ☐ \$80
- ☐ \$0
- ☐ \$75

Question 5

What is the main similarity between mortgages and options discussed in the lesson?

- ☐ They both involve exchange rates
- ☐ They both require regular payments
- ☐ They both have expiration dates
- ☒ They both exhibit non-linearity

Question 6

If a house with a \$200,000 mortgage increases in value by 10%, what is the percentage return on the homeowner's investment if they put 20% down?

- ☐ 40%
- ☐ 10%
- ☐ 20%
- ☒ 50%

Question 7

A farmer buys a call option on seed at a strike price of \$50 per bushel. If the market price of seed rises to \$60 per bushel at expiration, what is the farmer's net gain per bushel if the option premium was \$2?

- ☒ \$8
- ☐ \$12
- ☐ \$10
- ☐ \$6

Question 8

If you invest \$10,000 in a stock using 2:1 leverage and the stock price increases by 15%, what is your leveraged return?

- ☐ 45%
- ☒ 30%
- ☐ 22.50%
- ☐ 15%

Question 9

How does the use of options for speculation differ from their use in hedging?

- ☐ Speculation always results in profits, while hedging always results in losses
- ☐ Speculation is only used by individual investors, while hedging is only used by institutions
- ☐ Speculation and hedging both aim to reduce risk
- ☒ Speculation aims to increase risk for potential higher returns, while hedging aims to reduce risk

Question 10

What is the primary risk associated with using high leverage in investments?

- ☐ Increased regulatory scrutiny
- ☐ Reduced liquidity
- ☒ Potential for catastrophic losses
- ☐ Higher transaction costs

Question 11

A US company expects to receive €5 million in 3 months and wants to hedge against currency risk. The current EUR/USD rate is 1.12. What type of derivative would be most appropriate for this situation?

- ☐ Sell a EUR/USD Call option with strike at 1.12
- ☒ Enter a 3-month Forward contract to sell EUR/USD at 1.12
- ☐ Enter a 3-month Futures contract to buy EUR/USD at 1.12
- ☐ Sell a EUR/USD Put option with strike at 1.12

Question 12

According to the Merton model, what does stock value represent?

- ☐ The market value of a company's outstanding shares
- ☒ A call option on the assets of the firm with a strike price at the debt of the firm
- ☐ The total value of a company's assets
- ☐ The difference between assets and cash

Question 13

In a bull spread strategy, how does selling a call at a higher strike price affect the overall strategy?

- ☒ It limits the potential profit but reduces the cost of the strategy
- ☐ It has no effect on the potential profit or cost of the strategy
- ☐ It increases the potential loss but increases the cost of the strategy
- ☐ It increases the potential profit and reduces the cost of the strategy

Question 14

Which of the following is NOT a factor that options depend on?

- ☒ Company's market capitalization
- ☐ Underlying stock price
- ☐ Time to expiration
- ☐ Stock's volatility

Question 15

How does a futures contract differ from a forward contract?

- ☐ Futures contracts have no standardized terms
- ☒ Futures contracts are traded on exchanges
- ☐ Forward contracts are traded on exchanges
- ☐ Futures contracts have no expiration date

Question 16

How does the lender's position in a mortgage resemble an option?

- ☒ The lender is short a put option on the house value
- ☐ The lender is long a call option on the house value
- ☐ The lender is short a call option on the house value
- ☐ The lender is long a put option on the house value

Question 17

If a call option has a strike price of \$50 and the current stock price is \$45, how would this option be categorized?

- ☒ Out-of-the-money (OTM)
- ☐ Near-the-money (NTM)
- ☐ At-the-money (ATM)
- ☐ In-the-money (ITM)

Question 18

How does leverage affect investment returns?

- ☐ It reduces the potential for losses
- ☐ It always guarantees positive returns
- ☒ It magnifies both gains and losses
- ☐ It only affects long-term investments

Question 19

What is the primary characteristic that distinguishes a derivative from a spot security?

- ☐ It always has a maturity date under 1 year

- ☒ Its value depends on the value of another security
- ☐ It can only be traded on regulated exchanges
- ☐ Its value is independent of its underlying securities

Question 20

How might offering non-recourse mortgages with no money down impact the housing market?

- ☐ It would reduce the number of homeowners
- ☐ It would result in more stable home values
- ☒ It could lead to increased speculation and potential asset bubbles
- ☐ It would lead to a decrease in home prices

SUBMIT

