



**UNSW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FIN2624: PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

2023 Term 2

**Assignment 7 due Week 8 Tutorial**

**Q1** Which of the following observations violate the weak form of the efficient market hypothesis (EMH)? Which violate semi-strong form efficiency? Which violate strong form efficiency? Explain your reasoning.

- (a) The average rate of return on assets is significantly greater than zero.
- (b) The correlation between returns during a given week and returns the following week is zero.
- (c) An investor could make superior abnormal returns by buying a stock after a 10% appreciation in price. Similarly, an investor could make superior abnormal returns by selling a stock after a 10% decrease in price.
- (d) One could have generated higher-than-average capital gains by buying those stocks with low dividend yields (i.e., dividend/price). Information regarding planned dividends is generally disclosed in the annual reports.
- (e) Some fund managers at investment banks are able to obtain quarterly earnings data from corporate executives before that information is announced publicly. They can trade on this information before the earnings announcement and generate superior investment performance.

**Q2** Explain why each of the following phenomena are either consistent with or a violation of the efficient market hypothesis?

- (a) Nearly half of all professionally managed mutual funds are able to outperform the S&P500 in a typical year.
- (b) Money managers that outperform the market on a risk-adjusted basis in one year, earning positive alphas, are likely to outperform the market on a risk-adjusted basis in the following year.
- (c) Stock prices tend to be more volatile in January than in other months.
- (d) Stock prices of companies that announce increased earnings in January tend to outperform the market in February.
- (e) Stocks that perform well in one week perform poorly in the next week.

**Q3** Consider a market with two types of investors: rational investors and overconfident investors. Both investors correctly estimate the expected return and volatility of the market portfolio, but they differ in their estimates about stock X, which is mispriced. The risk free rate is 4%. Estimates on the market and stock X are given below.

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