

HOW TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

2008

**Presented By:
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ARRL VE Liaison**

HOW TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

TOPICS:

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

THE DAY OF THE TEST

AFTER THE TEST

FAQ's

- **THE NEW LICENSE STRUCTURE**
- **THE NEW ULS**

HOW TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

GENERAL INFORMATION

**Exam Schedule: Saturday, Saturday September 13th
Beginning At 9:00 AM Thru 12:00
(You Won't Be Turned Away)**

Location: Here at the S/W Div Convention PALO VERDE ROOM #1 Room

**Your ARRL V E Team: Comprised Of ARCA Club Representatives From:
Catalina Radio Club, Tucson, RST, CARBA, SARBA, Cochise,
Cholla Amateur Remote Base Assn, Tucson Repeater Assn,
Scottsdale A.R.C., West Valley A.R.C., and Other VEs**

Fee: Standard ARRL VEC Test Fee: \$ 14.00 Cash or Check to ARRL-VEC

**What To Bring: COPY OF YOUR LICENSE & ORIGINAL
IDENTIFICATION Driver's License Or Birth Certificate
COPY OF ANY CSCE's & ORIGINALS (CSCE's expire in 365 days)
EXAM STUDY BOOKS / CALCULATOR
MONEY**

HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

THIS IS THE BEST STRATEGY ! IT WORKS !

USE ONE OF THE AVAILABLE STUDY GUIDES:

ARRL Study Guide Publications

ARRL Web Page www.ARRL.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml

Gordon West's Study Courses

QRZ.COM www.QRZ.com

AA9PW.COM

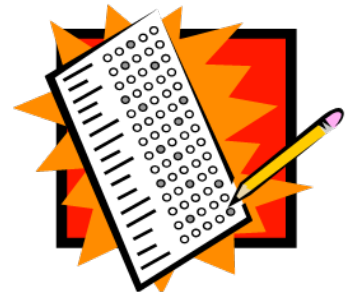
HAMTESTONLINE.COM

Dan Romanchick's Excellent "No-Nonsense" Study Guides.

<http://kb6nu.com/2007GeneralStudyGuide.pdf>

<http://kb6nu.com/2007TechnicianStudyGuide.pdf>

BUT MAKE SURE THE ONE YOU USE IT IS CURRENT !!!!!!





HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

THIS IS THE BEST STRATEGY ! IT WORKS !

NEW EXTRA EXAMS BEGAN JULY-2008

DON'T USE AN OLD TEST GUIDE TO STUDY !!!!!

i.e. (Older than Feb 2008 for Extra, Feb 2007 for Gen)

NEW FREQUENCIES /Privileges Effective: FEBRUARY, 2007.

ALL VE TESTS HAVE UPDATED QUESTIONS ON THE NEW PRIVELAGES !!

Study ONLY The Test, Learn The Rest of HAM Radio LATER !

Study ONLY the CORRECT answers. Don't try to learn the theory.

MINIMIZE The Things You Need To Learn.....MEMORIZE.

FOCUS ONLY On The Test Material. Avoid other Books, Magazines etc.

DO NOT assume that just because someone is a Ham ... They know the correct answer.

CLEAR YOUR MIND FOR A DAY (Or Two)..... CRAM !

Hide The Kids ... Hide The Radios ... Take A Day Off

DON'T TRY TO SPREAD IT OUT 2 WEEKS IS MAXXX.



HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

QUESTION POOLS

Exams are taken from a set of questions called a Question Pool.

5 different versions of exams are made from the common question pool

Exams are grouped into topic areas. Operation, Theory, Rules, Practices, SAFETY

EVERY EXAM QUESTION IS WORDED EXACTLY AS IT WAS IN THE STUDY GUIDES.

EVERY ANSWER CHOICE IS WORDED EXACTLY AS IT WAS IN THE STUDY GUIDES.

BUT !

The Answer Choices may be in different order than they were on the Study Guides.

If you retest the same day, the VEs WILL give you a different version of the Exam.

In the new version the questions are asked differently, but cover the same topics.

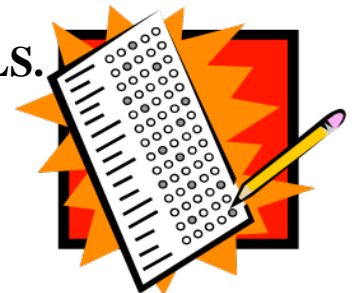
There is no “Easy” version, they all ask the same types of questions.

Question Pools and exams are changed every couple of years.

ONLY USE STUDY GUIDES DERIVED FROM THE CURRENT POOLS.

There May Be More Than One “VALID” Answer/Choice to a question.

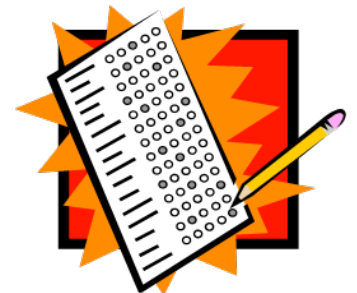
The RIGHT ANSWER is the one that is MOST CORRECT.



HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL CATEGORIES

- **Radio and Electronics Fundamentals**
- **Electrical and RF Safety**
- **Radio Waves, Propagation, And Antennas**
- **Communication Modes and Methods**
- **Station Setup And Operation**
- **Operating Practices**
- **FCC Rules and Station License Responsibilities**
- **Control Operator Duties**
- **Emergency and Public Service Communications**
- **Special Operations**



HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS

“THE METHOD”

Get a Set Of Colored Markers Or Just Use A Pencil.

Review and Answer The Test Questions In The Study Guide... One At A Time

After Answering, Use the answer sheet and **Highlight The Correct Answer,**

Then Go Back And Note The Result:

Mark The Different Categories With Colored Markers (Or Whatever) In Your Book.

RANK

ACTION

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Knew It | Highlight the correct answer with one color (Solved) |
| 2. Solved It (Even If A Bit Rusty) | Highlight the correct answer with a different color (Review) |
| 3. Understood But Got Wrong Answer | Highlight the correct answer with a different color (Memorize) |
| 4. Not A Clue | Need A Hint/Clue |

Rank #3 and #4 Answers Require Memorizing (Frequencies, Modes, Formulas)

Use A Mnemonic / Hint : Look For Something Unique In The Answer : Associate

Write Down Your Hint or Clue Next To The Correct Answer - Study It Often.

Caution! The Answers in the FCC exam are worded exactly as in the Study Guides

BUT !!! The Order Of Answers May Be Different.



HOW TO STUDY TO PASS THE HAM EXAMS



“THE METHOD”

Now, go back and review the same questions Again.

Work on the #2, and #3 questions. Get them into a lower category

Then, work on the #4 (Not A Clue) questions:

Improve Your Odds - Eliminate Wrong Answers:

Stupid Answer

Opposite Answer

Close (Almost Correct) Answer

Look for clues in the correct answer. (i.e. Shortest, Longest, Simplest, etc...)

Write your clues down in the Study Guide **RIGHT NEXT TO THE CORRECT ANSWER**

Tackle As Many #4's As You Can (You WON'T Get 'Em All).

KEEP IT SIMPLE AVOID THE FACTS !!! MEMORIZE!!! USE YOUR CLUES!!!

DONT CHANGE YOUR METHOD ! Keep Reviewing the #3's and the #4'

CRAM THE NIGHT BEFORE ! 2- Hours

CRAM BEFORE THE EXAM ! 1- Hour MAX !





THE DAY OF THE EXAM



Relax..... You'll Pass It Sooner Than You Think

Cram The Night BeforeBUT Get A Good Night's Sleep

Be Sure To Have A Good Breakfast Even If You Normally Don't

Set Everything Out The Night Before:

License & Copy, CSCE & Copy, Money, ID, Book

Show Up Early If you pass, take the next element for free!

If you fail you can retest the same day - But it COSTS !

Bring Your Book WARMUP For 3/4 Hour. Review EVERY #3 and #4 TWICE

Scan The # 4 (Memory) Questions LAST read the correct answer and the clue **ALLOUD**.

COMPLETELY FILL OUT THE EXAM HEADER INFORMATION

Be Meticulous When Marking The Answer Sheet AVOID MISTAKES !!!

First Pass Only Answer The Ones That You KNOW.

DON'T Mark An Answer You Aren't Sure Of On This Pass

Second Pass... Do The Mnemonic And Association Answers. Use Your Hints/Clues

Third Pass ***RECHECK ALL ANSWERS*** - Answer EVERY question again

Find Mistakes Make "SMART" Guesses.

Don't Dwell On ANY Answer More Than **3** Minutes.

AFTER THE TEST



IF YOU PASSED:

BE SURE YOU SIGN YOUR CSCE!

You can take the next test(s) FOR FREE !

CSCE + License = New License Privileges

Use Of New Call/ License

Logon To See Your Status / New Call FCC.GOV / ARRL.ORG / QRZ.COM

RETURN THE FAVOR ** Join The ARRL **** BECOME A V.E.***

IF YOU DIDN'T PASS:

You CAN take the test again the same day. (But – It'll cost another \$ 14.00)

It will be a different set of questions but from the same exam pool.

Go back and study your exam guide FIRST!

Easiest Way To Pass The Next Time Do **Exactly** The Same Thing Again

Study The # 3's Move Them Up To 2's Or 1's

Re-Take As Soon As Possible ... Within One Month





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I HAVE to upgrade? No, you can stay with your existing priveleges;
To advance, you must enter the new structure.**

Are there time limits on the “Automatic Upgrades” Not for now.

I am a Pre-1987 Tech am I now a General? No: Only after you file.

I am a Tech Plus, Am I now a general? No: You need to take the General written.

I am a Tech can I operate on the HF Bands Now? Yes: BUT Tech-Plus Limits Apply

I Passed the General Written but not the code, Am I now a General? No: Needed to file < 1yr

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

So what do I need to do to upgrade?

OLD LICENSE STRUCTURE	NEW LICENSE STRUCTURE	
NOVICE = EI-1 (5) + EI-2		
↓	TECHNICIAN = EI 2	TECHNICIAN = EI-2
TECHNICIAN = EI-4 + 5 wpm (Thru 1987)	TECH+ = EI 2+ 5 wpm	
No-Code TECH = EI-3		
TECH PLUS = EI-3 + 5 wpm		
↓	GENERAL = Tech + EI-3 + 5 wpm	
GENERAL = Tech + EI-4 + 13wpm		GENERAL = Tech + EI-3
ADVANCED = Gen + EI-5		
EXTRA = Adv + 20wpm	EXTRA = Gen + EI-4 + 5wpm	EXTRA = Gen + EI-4

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL EXAM QUESTION POOL: EFFECTIVE July 1, 2007

EXTRA EXAM QUESTION POOL: EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

UPDATED POOLS ARE ON WEBSITES.

BE SURE TO USE NEWEST VERSION OF EXAM STUDY GUIDES

ALL EXAMS HAVE QUESTIONS ON NEW FREQUENCIES

CSCE'S MUST BE LESS THAN << 1-YEAR OLD.

\$14 INITIAL FEE ALLOWS TAKING ADDITIONAL TESTS.

RETESTS OF FAILED EXAMS REQUIRE ANOTHER \$14 EXAM FEE.

AUTO-UPGRADE AND FORM 605 RENEWAL PROCESSING = \$14.00 FEE.

EVIDENCE OF PRIOR STATUS (I.E. LICENSE, DATE, CODE

PASSED, ETC) CAN BE VIA CALLBOOK CD OR CALLBOOK

OR INTERNET.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

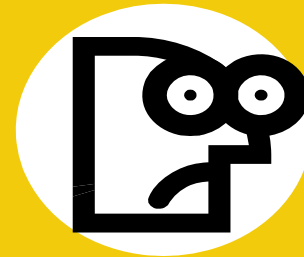
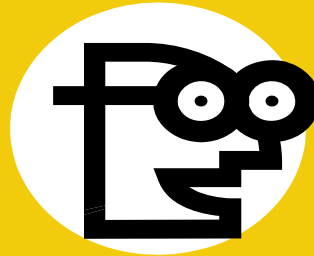
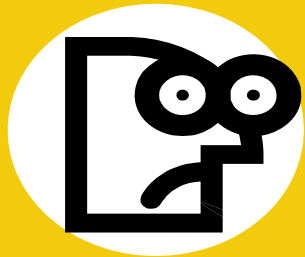


- **EXAMS GIVEN SATURDAY 13 SEPT 09:00 - 12:00
PALO VERDE #1 CONFERENCE ROOM**

- **BRING: PHOTO ID Or Birth Certificate
ORIGINAL OF YOUR CURRENT LICENSE
A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT LICENSE
ORIGINAL OF ANY C.S.C.E.s
(CSCEs MUST BE LESS THAN 1-YEAR OLD)
AND A COPY OF YOUR C.S.C.E.s
\$ 14 CASH - OR CHECK PAYABLE TO "ARRL-VEC"
KNOW YOUR F.R.N. T.I.N. (S.S.N.) OR L.IDN.**

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



It's QUESTION TIME!!



**IF SHE CAN DO IT SO CAN YOU.....
6 -Year Old Annalisa Gugler from Tucson
Just Passed her Technician Class Exam Three Weeks Ago**

GOOD

LUCK

!!!