

This Class

The purpose of this class is to prepare you to pass the Amateur Radio Technician license exam, and impart some general knowledge. Whether you attend the classes or participate in them is up to you. I expect a good deal of self-study. Bring your questions to class, otherwise I will bore you with 'sea stories'. I will try to keep us on schedule and on subject.

I recommend you purchase the *Gordon West Technician Manual* as soon as you can. It contains the entire Question Pool with a short explanation of each question, and is available from the following retailers:

_Ham Radio Outlet; Portland, OR: 1-800-854-6046 <http://www.hamradio.com> (GWTM \$18.95)

_Amateur Electronic Supply; Las Vegas, NV: 1-800-634-6227 <http://www.aesham.com> (W5Y GWTM06 \$18.95)

_K1CRA Radio Store <http://stores.ebay.com/The-K1CRA-Radio-Store> or <http://www.k1cra.com> (\$17.25)

The Exam

The Exam consists of 35 multiple-choice questions. You must correctly answer 74% (26 questions). That means you can miss 9 questions and still pass. For each test question there are approximately 10 alternates. The questions on **your** test will be selected by computer from the Question Pool of 392 questions. The questions are grouped in the Pool. Many are similar. The questions and answers on the test will appear **exactly** as they are in the pool, except that the **order of the answers** may change.

On Test Day:

Bring a calculator and two pencils (with erasers). Bring photo ID and \$15 (cash, or check made out to "ARRL VEC"). You will also need your Social Security Number (just the number, not the card). If you have an Amateur license, bring the original **and a photocopy I can keep**. If you have a CSCE, bring it.

Make one pass through the exam, only answering the questions that seem obvious. Save anything that requires figuring out, or that you are the least bit unsure of, for a second pass. If the answer doesn't jump out at you, move on and come back. This lets you knock out the greatest number of questions while you are fresh. Some other question may jog your memory.

Be alert for questions that ask "Which of the following is **NOT**...". They are asking for the one 'wrong' answer. There are 20 of these questions in the pool. Be careful of the answers that include "Never", "None of the above", or "All of the above". The answer "Never" is correct 3 times and wrong 3 times. "None of the above" appears in two questions and is wrong both times. "All are correct" or something like it appears 22 times in this pool, and is the correct answer 19 times (it is wrong in questions: T2C08; T3B06 and T5B03).

Once you have answered a question, **DON'T CHANGE IT!** All too often, people will change an answer from right to wrong. Unless you are really sure it's wrong, you are usually better going with your first impression. Be careful to mark your answer sheet in the correct place. It is very easy to put an answer in the wrong place. Once you do, all subsequent answers may end up in the wrong place too. There is no time limit for the test. Don't rush. Take your time and get it right.

Be sure to mark an answer for **EVERY** question. If an answer is not marked, it is 100% wrong. If all else fails, **GUESS**. You have a one-in-four (25%) chance of being right. If it comes to guessing, and you can eliminate one (33%) or two (50%) obviously wrong answers you increase your odds. Another trick; look for the one answer that is noticeably longer (or shorter) than the rest. The longest answer is right 36% of the time; the shortest is correct only 17% of the time. Trust yourself. Go with your instincts.

How do I know how I'm doing with my studying? Take a practice version of the exam, as many times as you like at: <http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl> No, it doesn't count for credit, but when you are consistently getting 80% or better, you are probably ready for the real exam.

Some Internet Resources:

The Question Pool is available on line at:

Pacific County Amateur Radio Club

Sunset Empire ARC, Astoria

Pacific County's "BeachNet" repeater network:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>

<http://www.qsl.net/w7rdr>

<http://w7bu.org>

<http://www.qsl.net/nm7r>

Problems? Questions? I'd be happy to help!

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