

General License Info – Hints and Tips

Now that you have passed the Technician Class license exam, the next step is for you to upgrade to the General Class license, the intermediate-level license which grants HF privileges on all amateur bands. The goal of our "ham cram" class is to help you pass the General written exam. After you pass the exam, we will help you find Elmers who will help you operate on HF using your new privileges.

Please make time to review and study the material before class. We recommend using automated tools to drill and take practice tests, and you can always read the National Question Pool directly. The version of the question pool that we are sending you is the same version we will use in class, and it lists every question with right and wrong answers. This version indicates subtly which answer is correct by putting it in parentheses, like (A). We use this version to allow you to become familiar with each question, its correct answer, and to avoid all of the tricky wrong answers.

We strongly recommend taking practice tests and drilling the question pool (especially if the raw pool is a bit much for you). There are many good resources to drill the question pool and/or take practice exams. In Drill mode, you answer each question in a sub-element of the question pool. If you make an error, the tool tells you the correct answer, then places the question back into the list, until all questions in that review segment are answered correctly. In Test mode, the tool prepares a random exam, administers it to you, and gives you your score.

There are many good websites to help you study. Some examples are:

1. <https://hamstudy.com> for drill and practice tests and explanations (web use free, phone app nominal fee).
2. <https://aa9pw.com> for practice tests (after you register).
3. <https://hameducation.org/> for drilling the questions, practice tests, and helpful references/materials.
4. <https://www.qrz.com> Look under the "Resources" menu for practice tests (after you register).

Here's a little info about the exam and question pool:

- The General Exam will have 35 questions taken from the fixed National Question Pool of about 450.
- The questions are grouped into Elements and Sub-Elements, and one question is drawn from each Sub-Element to create each exam.
- You must answer 26 of the 35 correctly for a passing score (74%).
- All questions are multiple-choice (A, B, C, or D).
- The questions on the test must be taken from the approved VEC (Volunteer Examiner Committee) national question pool at <http://ncvec.org/>
- The questions may not be altered, except for rotation of the correct answer between A), B), C), and D) and minor typographical corrections.

If you feel ready to take the exam without the class, you can use exam tools to schedule and attend an online exam session and/or find an in person exam session at various times around the county. See <https://exam.tools>.

Additional information is at our class website: <http://sandiegohamclasses.com>
and on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/San-Diego-Ham-Radio-Classes-173757259339607/>

If you have any questions, contact the instructors and/or the person managing the roster for your class.

Good Luck!

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