

Ham Test Instructions



Step 1: Study

The entire question pool is published and available for download here: <http://www.arrl.org/question-pools>. There are many online practice exam sites and phone apps, most of which use the actual question pool.

Step 2: Find a Test Session

There are Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams holding tests across the country. You can find them at <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>. However, I'll make this easy for you. CMSARA holds a test session the **second Saturday** of every month in the 'gym' at Crossroads of Life Church, 6775 Siwell Rd, Byram MS 39272 at 1PM. The gymnasium houses an indoor basketball court, so there is always plenty of room; however, we do ask you to let us know you are coming so we can set up a table for you. The VE Liaison can be contacted at (601)741-0873 (text preferred) or email at qso.w5ssj@gmail.com.

Step 3: Exam Day

Our test sessions are overseen by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. They have a prep list at <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session> for you to check out; however, I'll give you the abridged version:

BEFORE Your Exam: The FCC no longer allows us to put your SSN on the necessary paperwork. You will have to register for an FCC Registration Number (or FRN) before we can complete the paperwork for your test. It is free and should [sic] take about 5 minutes. The site to register can be found here <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

What to Bring on TEST DAY:

- 1) Your **FRN**.
- 2) A **photo ID**. Typically a driver's license, but any government issued photo ID is fine. If you don't have one, the ARRL webpage has a list of alternatives.
- 3) \$15 **test fee**. For those under 18, the test fee is only \$5.
- 4) If you wish to bring a **calculator** it must be non-programmable, or you must sufficiently demonstrate to the VE team its memory has been erased. Cell phones are not permitted. We do have a limited number of calculators, first come first serve, and so cannot guarantee one will be available. They are typically not necessary on the Technician or General tests.
- 5) We have all the paperwork to fill out, but if you prefer, the VEC would welcome you to electronically fill in the **forms** you'll need. You will have to print it out to bring with you; however, it will save time on test day.

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Ves/NCVEC_Form_605_July_2022_INTERACTIVE.pdf

Step 4 Wait. Pay the FCC fee. Wait some more.

You'll know before leaving the building if you passed your exam, and if you're upgrading an existing license, you can use your new privileges immediately. Just remember you need to add /AG or /AE to your callsign until it shows up in the ULS database. If you've earned a new license, we will compile all the paperwork and submit it to the VEC immediately following the test session. The VEC usually processes everything Monday morning and sends it to the FCC who will email you a \$35 fee, which if you're under 18, the ARRL will reimburse. Once you've completed the transaction, you'll get another email with your license info.