

How to Study for your Amateur Radio License at Home

There are many ways to study for your amateur radio license, whether you are going for the technician level, or you desire to upgrade to general or the extra.

A multi-week class is a very desirable way to study. You usually have an experienced instructor, and a course syllabus, and you have the classroom camaraderie. But there are those that work shifts that don't make this possible, or live away from a more populated area.

In the last fifteen years I have taught dozens of technician, general and extra class classes. I am convinced that with the proper tools, you can rather easily study for any of these licenses on your own.

There are five key areas to studying on your own:

- 1. A good printed study guide.** One of the best is the series made by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU. These are his "No-Nonsense Study Guides". The technician study guide is a free PDF download. The general guide is \$8.00 and the extra is only \$10.00. These are a very good value, and excellent source of theory and question/answer studying. Find these at <http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>
- 2. A source of the pool of questions.** These are all over the Internet. However, I have edited the pool questions and answers for the three classes, to supply just the questions with only the correct answers. I recommend that you print out the guide for the class you are studying for, and then keep that with you. Whenever you have five to fifteen minutes of spare time, pick this guide and study and memorize the answers. These guides can be found at: http://www.hollandarc.org/?page_id=3570
- 3. An online study course.** Again, the Internet supplies many of these. One of the best, has that magic word attached to it, "Free". You do have to register so the system can keep track of you as you study the various subsections online. This site is the Hamstudy and it can be found at: <https://hamstudy.org/>
- 4. Online study videos.** Hands down, David Casler has an outstanding set of videos for all three classes. These run around 6 hours. I would recommend that you only view about an hour at a time, every other day or two.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/davecasler>.

Look for the video for the level of license you wish to study for.

5. Other online testing sites. There are many sites that will simply test you anytime, anywhere. They each operate a little differently, and moving around from one to another will help you to be ready for the actual test session.

<http://aa9pw.com/>

<http://www.eham.net/exams/>

<https://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=5626>

<http://kb0mga.net/exams/>

<http://hamexam.org/>

My recommendation is to use an online exam service from above every two or three days. Most people will start out with a low grade around 30%. This will improve every week. Do not try to test every night.

By spending a reasonable amount of time between these resources, you can easily study by yourself. Please be fair to yourself, and give yourself adequate time to study. I recommend 30-45 minutes every other day, while looking at the questions with only the correct answers about 10-15 minutes every day. Give yourself adequate time, especially for the extra class.

Tom Bosscher K8TB