

Thinking of writing your Canadian Amateur Radio Exams?

Here are a few pointers for you:

1. There are 3 Amateur Radio exams in Canada - Basic, Morse and Advanced. Everyone must start with Basic. When you pass the basic exam (minimum pass = 70%), you are issued a call sign. You can then take the Morse (optional) and Advanced exams.
2. The BASIC exam is 100 questions multiple choice. RIC-7 is the document that provides what is known as the Question Bank, which is a list of all possible questions.
3. If you are ready for the challenge, you may write all exams at the same sitting, and I will submit them to Industry Canada in the correct sequence.
4. Morse Code is optional. If you attain 80% on your Basic exam, you have attained the Honours level and are allowed to operate on HF without having a Morse qualification. If you attain a Basic Exam score of 70% to 79%, you require Morse to use HF. I can discuss this with you.
5. Industry Canada updated RIC-7, RIC-8 and the Exam Generator Program in the Spring of 2007. Be sure you use current documents.
6. Go to the Industry Canada Amateur Radio Service web site http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/smt-gst.nsf/en/h_sf01709e.html.
7. Click on *Certification* and review the Amateur Radio Certification Fact Sheet
8. Click on *Related Publications* and read the following key documents: RIC-1, RIC-2, RIC-3, RIC-7, RIC-8 (for Advanced level) and RIC-9.
9. I will provide you with a printed copy of [IC-2381: Application and Report](#) for Amateur Radio Operator Certificate and Call Sign after you take the exam. Your callsign must begin with the VE7 prefix, and have a 3-letter suffix. You may select your own callsign from a list of available callsigns. Go to callsign.ca to check the list.
10. Download Industry Canada's Exam Generator program and use it to practice the exam. This program has a charting function that you can use to create a graph of your exam scores, (showing improvement with each successive attempt!)
11. Download the free ExHammer program from www.rac.ca and try it too. It provides same questions as Industry Canada's but has a slightly different user interface. After you answer a question using ExHammer, the program gives you a short explanation of the correct answer for the question.
12. I recommend a book by Ron Kolody "Ham Study Notes for the Basic Exam". These are sold at Muir Communications on Douglas St. Cost about \$28. It is very focused on studying the specific material you need to pass the exam.
13. RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) offers a Basic Study Guide for \$50. It has received some good reviews and is useful.
14. Consider attending the ham classes put on by Westcoast Amateur Radio Association (WARA). Check the web www.ve7vic.ca for more info. Cost is \$200. Well worth it but depends on your needs and timing.
15. My fee for the amateur radio exams is \$25 per attempt. For that fee, I provide a comfortable lowest pressure possible environment to write the exam and some degree of pre-exam coaching to make sure you are ready.

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