

The basic rules for calculators allowed in AMC amateur radio exams are that they can't be programmable or communications devices. You can't use a calculator function in your mobile phone even if you've put it in non-communications mode.

That leaves you with a wide range of calculators you can take into the exams. The most important thing is that you feel comfortable using the calculator of your choice. An Exam is not the time or place to learn how to work your calculator – especially as you won't have access to the instruction manual.

Here's some advice from SARC Education on choosing a calculator. The choice is yours but following our recommendations increases the level of support we can provide.

### **Foundation**

None? Not an unreasonable choice, as long as you can do simple calculations in your head or on paper. The Foundation level questions are invariably simple numbers that you should be able to do in your head (a sheet of paper is provided). It also help you keep track of decimal points and zeros when doing converting from one set of units to another.

Any five function calculator is recommended. (Plus, Minus, Multiply, Divide and Square Root) Avoid more complex calculators unless you feel very comfortable with them. You won't need their extra features and may be confusing if mathematics isn't your thing. Avoid a very basic four function calculator – the square root button can be very handy. In 2021 the 12-digit Canon LS123K Calculator was selling for \$17. It fills all the requirements and the extra digits can be very useful when dealing with large numbers.

### **Standard**

None? Not recommended. The calculations don't require anything more difficult than the basic five functions required for the Foundation level but the numbers are a bit harder. A calculator will make life easier.

Either stick with your Foundation level calculator if you think you're starting to push your limit or make the move to the Advanced level calculator. Otherwise it might be a good time to move up to the recommended Advanced level calculator. It's got the additional features of being able to review or change calculations. The reciprocal key is handy also.

### **Advanced**

None? A brave decision. A possibility if your calculator fails as you start the exam. You would have to be proficient at reducing equations and making approximations on paper. The only additional function beyond the basic five is the need to do logarithms. The reciprocal key is increasingly useful. The calculations are a bit more complex than those in the Standard exam. Also a calculator with the ability to review a complex expression is very useful.

It's time to move up to a scientific calculator. The Casio *fx-82AU* series of calculators have been recommended for High School students for years. There's a lot of help available and it will see you well beyond your Advanced exam. In Nov. 2021 Officeworks is selling the Casio *fx-82AU Plus II 2<sup>nd</sup>* Edition for \$30. SARC Education can help you take advantage of its features.