

HINTS FOR AMATEUR LICENCE MULTIPLE CHOICE TESTS

by Chris VK2ACD

Multiple choice tests seem to be easy to pass, mainly as you know that ONE of the answers must be correct. So even if you guess, you have a 25% chance of getting an answer right.

The trouble, though, is that you have to get 70% correct, or to look at it a different way, no more than 30% wrong.

The best way to ensure success is to study with an aim to get 100% right, then you can get away with a few mistakes. Make sure that you have the syllabus when you begin your study. Work your way through and make sure you work extra hard at any weak points.

So you have studied and are about to sit the test. Even if you are confident in your knowledge, it is normal to be nervous as you open the test paper.

HINT 1: At the word GO, start always at the first page. Work steadily from Q.1. If you find after about 2 minutes you don't have the answer to a question, skip it and move on.

Note down the number of the unanswered question. If you have narrowed the selection down to 3 or 2, note this down also. Don't spend a long time grappling with really difficult questions, leave them to last.

When you get to the end, you may find that you already have a good % of answers you are confident with. Then start on the difficult ones.

HINT 2: Read each question carefully. Make sure you understand what it is asking.

HINT 3: Wherever possible, answer the question without looking at the 4 alternatives. This particularly applies to calculations, where it is easy to take a stab at a wrong answer. Then look at the answers to see which one best matches what you worked out.

HINT 4: If you can't come up with the right match first off, use a process of elimination. Rule out the answers that are obviously wrong, to improve your chances if you have to make a best guess.

HINT 5: Use all the time available, if possible reserve 5 or 10 minutes to check over your answers, and to make guesses where you're just not sure. If you do have to guess, usually your first guess will be the best chance.

A FEW FURTHER POINTS:

Supposedly, the questions are randomly chosen from a 'question bank' by a computer. But there may be 2 questions that essentially ask the same thing, but perhaps worded a bit differently, or with the alternatives in a different order. So if you come across this, don't

assume that the 2 questions must have different answers.

You might expect that there would be about equal numbers of answers A B C D. However I have seen tests where there are a lot more of one letter! And also, you sometimes get runs of a particular letter, for example – B B B D B C B A. Don't let this throw you, don't start changing them for no reason. You may end up changing answers that you got right!