



Summerland Amateur Radio Club

Recommended Calculators

Calculators:

Calculators allowed in ACMA amateur radio exams cannot be programmable or communications devices. You can't use the calculator function in your mobile phone even if you've put it in non-communications mode. There are plenty of stand-alone non programmable 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

The Foundation level questions requiring a calculation will have simple values that you may be able to work out without a calculator. A sheet of paper is provided for making calculations. However SARC Education recommends a basic 5-function calculator (Plus, Minus, Multiply, Divide and Square Root) as the minimum. Avoid more complex calculators unless you feel competent with them. Note that square root calculations are part of the syllabus.

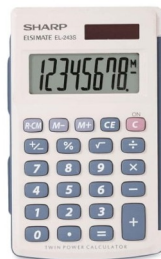
Standard

The Standard syllabus requires more complex calculations using the same basic five functions required for the Foundation level. The values will be harder and there will be more of them in the equations. Any calculator will make life much easier. Either stick with your Foundation level calculator if you think you're starting to push your limits or make the move to the Advanced level calculator. The recommended model has a lot of good features that will make life easier during the exam and later on in your amateur radio adventure. SARC Education can help you learn how to use the recommended model.

Advanced

The Advanced syllabus requires the use of the basic five functions and logarithms. The calculations are more complex than those in the Standard exam and we recommend a 'scientific' calculator, with a range of functions and the ability to review and modify the calculation, which can be very useful. A suitable model is the Casio *fx-82AU* series of calculators that have been recommended for High School students for years. They are low cost and readily available. Any model of the *fx-82* series should do and SARC Education can help you take advantage of its features.

In 2025 the Sharp 8 Digit Pocket Calculator EL-243S was selling at Officeworks for less than \$12. It satisfies the requirements for a **Foundation** level calculator and comes with one page of instructions.



In 2025 the Casio *fx-82AU Plus II 2nd Edition* was selling at Officeworks for less than \$45. It satisfies the requirements for a **Standard / Advanced** level calculator and comes with a 30 page instruction manual.

