

# In the US there are three amateur radio license classes: Technician, General and Extra.

**The Technician class license** is the entry-level license of choice for most new ham radio operators. To earn the Technician license requires passing one examination totaling 35 questions on radio theory, regulations and operating practices. The license gives access to all Amateur Radio frequencies above 30 megahertz, allowing these licensees the ability to communicate locally and most often within North America.

This allows you to use the VHF and UHF bands and the repeaters. You can participate in local emergency communications and tornado spotting as well as talk to local ham and check into nets. See Indianapolis Net Listing on the IRC operating website.

It does have limited privileges on the HF bands (also called "short wave") used for international communications.

**The General class license** grants some operating privileges on all Amateur Radio bands and all operating modes. This license opens the door to world-wide communications. Earning the General class license requires passing a 35 question examination. General class licensees must also have passed the Technician written examination.

**The Amateur Extra class license** conveys all available U.S. Amateur Radio operating privileges on all bands and all modes. Earning the license is more difficult; it requires passing a thorough 50 question examination. Extra class licensees must also have passed all previous license class written examinations.

You will need to pass each one in succession to upgrade to the next class license.

A good place to get information about amateur radio is the ARRL. It is the national organization for amateur radio operators. [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## Introduction to Ham Radio Videos

**ARRL offers free sample Amateur Radio Magazines.** On The air a one geared for new hams. You can check it out at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines>

**Studying for and taking the exam for the Technician class license.**

**The current Technician License question pool is for test given between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2022.**

The Technician license is the entry level exam and the first of three you can earn. The Technician exam is made up of 35 multiple-choice questions (only 26 correct answers are required to pass)

## **The two most popular license manuals are: The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual and The Gordon West Technician Class**

The difference is ARRL book give you a understanding of electronics and Amateur Radio while the Gordon West book give an explanation that is enough to answer the questions.

The **ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Level 1 Technician** contains all the information needed to pass the Technician Class license exam: questions, answers and a well written explanation of the topics necessary for an understanding of the principles underlying the questions, as well as Ham radio in general. It can be read in a short time and, if read once or twice along with a thorough review of all the possible exam questions listed in the Appendix, it almost assuredly will lead to a successful completion of the exam.

ARRL Free Exam review that work with the License manual  
<http://arrlexamreview.appspot.com/>

The ARRL License Manual (Technician) can be purchased from the ARRL and on Amazon.

**Technician Class by Gordon West** - study guide contains answer explanations with highlighted keywords and "Ham Hints" and hundreds of related website links.

Sometimes you can find better prices for them on Amazon, but be sure you get the current edition.

## Free Study Material

Hamstudy.org

<https://hamstudy.org/tech2018>

Free Flash Cards and Practice Exams – **The Flash Cards are good**

### AD7FO Study Guides (Free PDF Online)

**The AD7FO License Syllabus is great to use for review before the exam going over every question in the pool.**

Technician, General and Extra license syllabus (Free online)

<https://www.ad7fo.com/training.html>

## Practice Exams

Once you have studied the questions and believe you are ready to take the exam, it is a good idea to test your understanding on several practice exams. Fortunately, there are numerous resources that provide these. *Once again make certain this is the latest question pool.*

<http://www.eham.net/exams/> popular amateur radio site with practice exams

<http://www.arrl.org/exam-practice> ARRL practice exams

<http://qrz.com/hamtest> popular amateur radio site with practice exams

There are a lot of you tube videos for getting a ham license, and many are out of date, but still can help with the general information.

**Finding an exam session near you, use the ARRL exam session**

**locator:** <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

**Also Check Laurel VEC site for test sessions in Indiana:**

<https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

**There are also online amateur radio license tests offered:**

For ARRL online test session: <http://www.arrl.org/findonlineexam>

For additional examination dates and teams here: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions>

**ARRL Information for new hams:** <http://www.arrl.org/get-on-the-air>

## **Indianapolis Radio Club**

If you have time while staying in Indianapolis, I would like to invite you to attend one the Indianapolis Radio Club meetings.

## **Amateur Radio Dealers:**

Ham Radio Outlet <https://www.hamradio.com/>

R and L Electronics

Universal Electronics <https://www.universal-radio.com/>

DX Engineering <https://www.dxengineering.com/>

GigaParts <https://www.gigaparts.com/>