

NTC Element 1 Morse Code Exam

To obtain the NTC Class A amateur radio licence, the radio amateur has to pass the written examination and at the time this article was written also pass the NTC Element 1 - Morse Code exam.

The information provided by Anthony (DU1AU) and Tim (DU3TW) will give you an idea of what to expect when taking the morse code exam.

The following has been reproduced with permission of Anthony Urbano (DU1AU).

The NTC morse code exam gauges your ability to copy and decode Morse code at 5 wpm, letters A-Z only (no numbers, no punctuations, no sending morse code).

It follows the format:

HR HR HR AA AA word01 word02 word03 word04 word05
 AA word06 word07 word08 word09 word10
 AA word11 word12 word13 word14 word15
 AA word16 word17 word18 word19 word20
 AA word21 word22 word23 word24 word25 AR AR SK E E E

HR means "hear"

AA stands for "all after"

AR means "end of transmission" or "end of message"

SK stands for "silent key", which means "end of contact" or "end of work"

E E E indicates "end of message"

The abbreviations used are called procedure signs or prosigns.

Do not write the prosigns on your answer sheet. Prosigns are not part of the message.

Example:

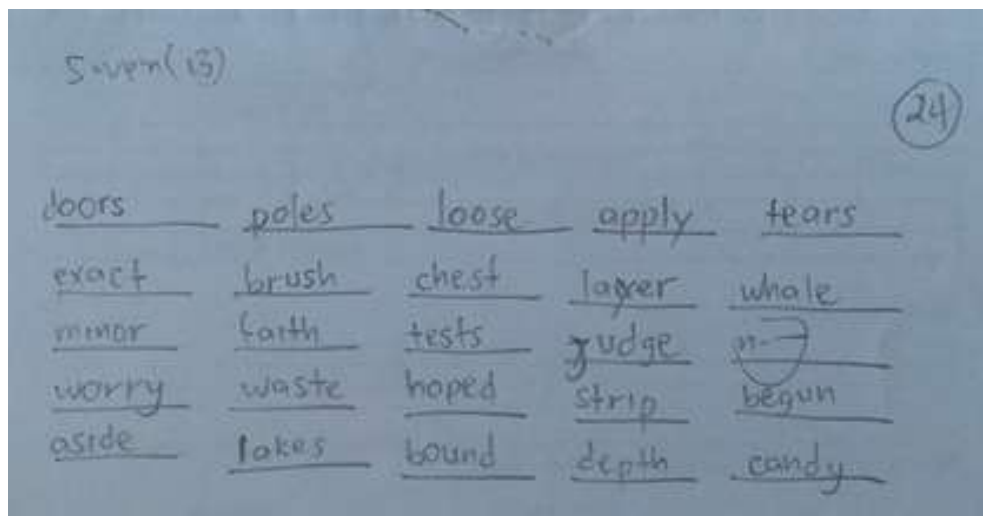
doors poles loose apply fears

exact brush chest layer whole

minor faith tests judge n....

worry waste hoped strip begun

aside lakes bound depth candy



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To pass the code requirement, you need to satisfy 2 conditions

(1) decode 18/25 words.

(2) decode all 5 words in at least one line.

Even if you get a score of 20, but missed at least one word on all of the five lines, you will not pass the code test.

The speed is 5 wpm, letters A-Z only (no numbers, no punctuations), tone is 1000 Hz, at natural spacing.

Morse code audio file will be played on an audio player (such as a laptop).

If during decoding you miss a word, skip it and use the time to get ready for the next word.

My note: If you miss a letter leave a space and you may be able to guess the letter (and the word) later.

The following has been reproduced with the permission of Tim Seed (DU3TW).
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After your theory exam, they will prepare a smaller room, where you will bring your CW test sheet - the one with your number on it. Get comfortable, and relax.

CW Report Page

On the test sheet. I suggest you draw something like this on the paper

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You can then fill this in.... as I will explain below.

Pre Sending - hearing check

The proctor will then ask you if you can hear this - and they will then start the computer program.

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I think it starts "HR AA HR AA HR AA" You do not have to copy this bit....

You will now hear 5 groups of 5 repeated 5 times...At the end of each line there is a AA.

Look above at my suggested way of filling in the sheet...

This is what the test data will look like (obviously different words will be used).

HELLO THISI SATES TEXAM SENTA AA
TFIVE WORDS AMINU TETOS EEIFY AA
OUCAN ZEBRA XYLIN THISE XAMJO AA
HNWAS QUEEN FORTO DAYUN TILAM AA
ISTAK EFORC EDHIM TOFAI LTHIS AA

So some points to note: They are sending English words. (no Tagalog/Visaya etc)...

The test is sent a 5 WPM

Each Line ends with AA

You do not need to write it - but it helps you keep track of where you are.

Tips: Keep calm, and relax

If you miss a letter - leave a gap.... you may be able to guess the letter later.

Time this takes: The exam - will take aprox 400 seconds (6 mins and 30 seconds). I think you will be surprised however just how fast this time goes.

My note: Having first memorized the morse code there are free morse code sending software which can be downloaded and set up to send mixed 5 letter groups at 5 wpm including...Just Learn Morse Code and MorseCat 2.0

73 de John (age 80) - GM4DKO (Scotland) - 4F3EW (Philippines) November 23 2022