



August 2011

Moratorium in 2012

The next moratorium will be from Monday 13th February to Friday 24th February 2012.

~ January 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
~ February 2012 ~						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			
~ March 2012 ~						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

This affects all examinations from the 13th February 2012 up to and including the 12th March 2012.

You **can** hold exams during this time **BUT** all applications for dates in the purple block must arrive by **Friday 27th January**.

Please submit your requests in good time.

REP and CATCE forms are available to download from the website.

<http://www.rsgb.org/tutors/general/>

Advanced Exam dates

2011		Exam Time	Closing Date for Exam Entries
Sun	9 th October	10.30hrs	16 th September 2011
Mon	5 th Dec	19.00hrs	11 th November 2011
2012			
Tue	Jan 31 st	19.00hrs	9 th Jan 2012
Sat	March 3 rd	14. 00hrs	10 th Feb 2012

Thu	May 31st	19.00hrs	9 th May 2012
Fri	July 6th	19.00hrs	14 th June 2012
Mon	Aug 20th	19.00hrs	27 th July 2012
Sun	Oct 14th	Convention	21 st September 2012
Wed	Dec 5th	19.00hrs	13 th November 2012
2013			
Wed	Jan 30th	19.00hrs	8 th Jan 2013
Sat	Mar 2nd	14.00hrs	8 th Feb 2013
Thu	May 2nd	19.00hrs	10 th April 2013
Mon	July 1st	19.00hrs	7 th June 2013
Tue	Aug 20th	19.00hrs	29 th July 2013
Sun	Oct 13th	Convention	20 th September 2013
Fri	Dec 6th	19.00hrs	14 th November 2013

Any queries? Please contact Exams Department on 01234 832718 or e-mail exams@rsgb.org.uk

Please also remember the lead time for Foundation and Intermediate examinations. It is 14 days (10 clear working days). The RCE Department have observed that several requests only give 7 days risking late deliveries.

The aim is to get papers delivered in time for a non-delivery to be queried and resolved. With only 7 working days that is not possible and any postal delay could mean no exam.

Optical marking

Optical marking will be first introduced at Advanced Level. It is anticipated that this will be in place for the Advanced examination on 5th December.

It is important to understand how this will work PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

The tick boxes on the question paper will remain. This will allow the candidate to mark their chosen answer alongside the question for ease of reference.

That tick will not count as the answer to the question.

A separate OM sheet will be provided, pre-printed with the candidate's details and coded for automatic optical reading.

It will be numbered 1 to 62 and provide boxes A to D to be shaded in HB pencil.

The candidates should be strongly advised to mark the OM sheet as they progress through the examination.

If the candidate changes their mind they must carefully rub out the shaded box and shade in the new one. A good quality clean rubber helps.

Multiple shading is automatically a wrong answer. The system can cope with rubbed out boxes. In the pilot one candidate crossed out a wrong answer, making it even darker; it was set aside for marking by hand. However poor rubbing and shading could result in no mark being awarded for that question.

It will be necessary to take some care with the OM sheet to avoid scuffs and folds to prevent it getting shredded in the automated reader.

Additional instructions will be provided for OM examinations, which must be read out to candidates.

Pass Marks

Foundation 19/26 (73%)

Intermediate 27/45 (60%)

Advanced 37/62 (60%)

Tutors should be aware that in the unlikely event of a question being invalidated, the pass mark is recalculated as the correct percentage of the number of valid questions. That does not always give the same result as giving a notional mark for the offending question.

Tutors should also note that due to delays in the software, the Foundation exam still has 25 questions with a pass mark of 18. That will change shortly and it should be assumed that the change will happen at any time.

Train the Trainers

These events are demand led. If you would like to hold a TtT session in your area or at your club please contact Brian Reay G8OSN at g8osn@yahoo.co.uk. A calendar of events and available dates is at www.g8osn.org.uk. It will be helpful if you also contact your regional representative who can help with venues and alerting other clubs in the area.

So far this year there have been sessions in South Wales, South Normanton, Dumbarton and Dover.

Typically the day starts at about 9.30 with **Session 1** on the structure of the exam system, Ofcom, RSGB and RCF together with the procedures and essential rules, the 'must do stuff' to keep the exam legal.

Session 2 leads up to lunch with some technical questions in the form of a quiz - more to get attendees thinking about what they know. The intention is not to 'test' instructors, at worst some may decide they need to 'brush up' a few areas.

Session 3 covers the teaching & learning process. This is intended to give non-teachers a grounding in teaching skills and provide a chance for attendees to share their ideas.

Questions are encouraged on an 'as we go' basis.

Licence Schedule

Transmit Powers

Some correspondence was noted recently regarding the interpretation of the heading to column 4 of Schedule 1 to the licence and note (b) to that schedule.

The correct interpretation, just re-confirmed by Ofcom in writing, is that the measurement point for determining the power is the input to the antenna itself; that is the junction between the main feeder and the antenna. In the case of stacked or bayed antennas the point is the input to the splitter. That applies, of course, to all three tables, Foundation, Intermediate and Full.

This pre-dates the wider introduction of Private Business Radio (PBR) where, for entirely sensible reasons, the measurement point is the socket on the back of the transmitter.

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