

ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION EXAMS

- QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

WHEN CAN I SET ASIDE TIME TO STUDY? HOW DO I STUDY BEST?
WHEN AM I MOST AWAKE AND ALERT, AND LEAST NERVOUS?
WHAT TOPICS AM I STRONG IN, AND WHERE AM I WEAK?
DO I STUDY BEST UNDER PRESSURE?
WHAT TYPE OF JOB EXPERIENCE DO I HAVE - WHAT DO I KNOW WELL?
WHAT BUILDING TYPES AND SUBJECT AREAS AM I UNFAMILIAR WITH?

- TIPS – BEFORE THE TEST

SCHEDULE THE TEST WITH PROMETRIC BEFORE YOU BEGIN STUDYING.
SET A REALISTIC GOAL OF WHEN YOU WANT TO FINISH ALL THE EXAMS.
DON'T WASTE TIME ON AREAS WHERE YOU ARE STRONG.
DO EXTRA READING IN AREAS WHERE YOU ARE WEAK.
LOOK AT LOTS OF PICTURES WHILE YOU STUDY.
CREATE A FEW PAGES OF NOTES WHILE STUDYING FOR EACH TEST AS
A 'REFRESHER' TO READ AT THE END OF YOUR STUDYING.
FIND A STUDY BUDDY OR TALK TO A FRIEND WHO HAS RECENTLY
TAKEN THE EXAMS.
IT IS OKAY TO RE-SCHEDULE IF YOU ARE NOT READY. IT COSTS \$30.
DON'T GET DISCOURAGED IF YOU FAIL ONE. MOST PEOPLE DO.

- TIPS – DURING THE TEST

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

DON'T PANIC. DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON ANY ONE QUESTION.
PASSING IS ABOUT 70%-80% [OR SO].
STRUCTURES: DO THE MATH PROBLEMS LAST.
THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT HARD, BUT THEY CAN BE TRICKY.
READ THE QUESTIONS VERY CAREFULLY.
TRY TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THE ANSWERS BEFORE YOU GUESS.
USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE EDUCATED GUESSES.

GRAPHICS:

FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.
CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK YOUR ANSWER.
MEMORIZE DORF'S 'FATAL ERRORS' [AND DON'T MAKE THEM!]
DON'T WORRY ABOUT AESTHETICS – IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PRETTY
TO BE CORRECT.
FOLLOW THE GIVEN PROGRAM AND THE DIRECTIONS.
WATCH YOUR TIME – IT IS BETTER TO MAKE A MINOR MISTAKE THAN TO
NOT FINISH.

- RESOURCES:

The NCARB study guide has an excellent list of reading, and also has sample problems and correct answers, directly from the test writers.

www.areforum.org

www.are-solutions.com Norman Dorf's book: 'Solutions'

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- Sample 2-4 Week [Per Test] Study Schedule
 - First Weekend: take NCARB practice questions to test your knowledge and assess how much studying will be needed.
 - 2-4 Weeks: Reading & Research
Read each chapter and take, score, understand the practice questions from the books as you study. For structures, spend equal time on problems and reading. For graphics, practice by studying the correct answers and using the software. To save time, skim over chapters which you know well and only take the practice questions. If you are weak in a subject, consider taking a seminar or reading additional books.
 - Last Weekend: take a timed practice test, [computer strongly recommended] and get a good night's sleep before your test.
- Tests with overlapping content:
 - Pre-Design & Materials and Methods
 - General Structures and Lateral Forces
- Tests from hardest to easiest [*disclaimer – this is just an opinion!]
 - MEP, Lateral Forces, General Structures, Building Design [Graphic], Building Technology [Graphic], Materials and Methods, Contract Documents, Site Design, Pre-Design
- Sample Testing Order:

1) Pre-Design	<i>easy test to build confidence</i>
2) MEP	<i>get them over-with & allow time for retake if necessary</i>
3) General Structures	
4) Lateral Forces	
5) Site Design	<i>most straightforward graphics test</i>
6) Contract Docs	<i>alternate graphic divisions with multiple choice in order to study for them on a faster schedule</i>
7) Building Technology	
8) Materials and Methods	<i>Last Multiple Choice Test: it helps to have cumulative knowledge since this test is broad in scope</i>
9) Building Design	<i>Last graphics division – by now you are familiar with the test format</i>
- other strategies for testing order:
 - take Materials and Methods first, because it is so broad
 - take structures or MEP first because they are unrelated to other tests
 - take all graphics first, if you are concerned about having to retake them