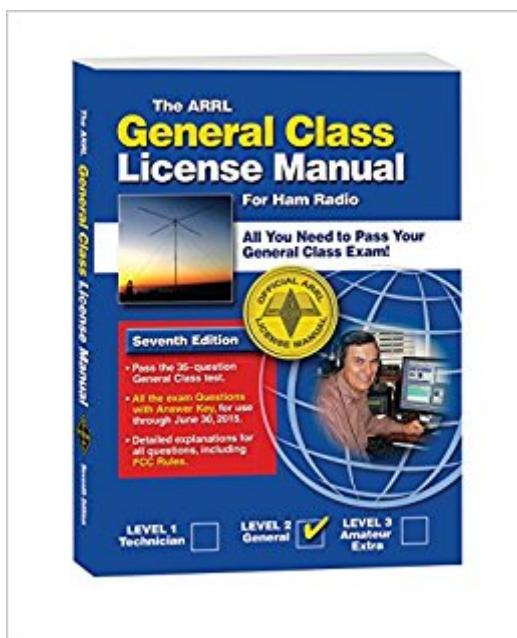


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# General Class License Manual (Arrl General Class License Manual For The Radio Amateur)



## Synopsis

The General Class license is the second of three US Amateur Radio licenses. To upgrade to General Class, you must already hold a Technician Class license (or have recently passed the Technician license exam). Upgrading to a General license--which conveys extensive HF privileges only requires passing a written examination. Once you do, the entire range of operating modes and the majority of the amateur spectrum below 30 MHz become available to you. Use this book to study for your General Class license exam. Every page presents information you will need to pass the exam and become an effective operator. You'll cover small sections at a time: Procedures and Practices, Rules and Regulations, Components and Circuits, Radio Signals and Equipment, Antennas and Transmission Lines, Propagation, Electrical and RF Safety.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the Seventh edition and it covers the question pool in place between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2015. Be sure you get the right edition for the question pool you're studying! Excellent book. I'm very pleased with it. The book is laid out rather like a textbook: they take a subject like Antennas and discuss that in depth. After each section, they refer you to the relevant questions in the question pool (included in the back of the book) so you can immediately test yourself. Every question in the pool is answered (one way or another) in the text. The question pool is set up so you can test yourself, and each question has a reference back to the page where it's answered in the text. So if

there's a specific question you want answered, you can quickly find it in the text. The book is heavily illustrated, well laid out and well written. The print is relatively large so I don't need my bifocals to read it. It's large and quality bound. Some books fall apart as soon as you open them; not this. I have not tried the CD-ROM with the computer testing. I used the online tests on QRZ.com instead, so I can't evaluate it. If you're already familiar with the concepts and all you really need is the question pool with a few notes, you'd be better off with another book. But if you want something that covers the material in-depth, rather than just answering specific questions, I don't think you can find a better book than this.

This is a wonderful resource and contains within it everything you need to both learn the subjects covered by the General Class license test and also to pass it - these being two slightly different objectives. The book itself is well laid out and well written, providing an easy to understand explanation of the theory and principles that one needs to know. As a stand-alone manual/textbook, it deserves very high marks. Now for the 'secret sauce' in the book. Interspersed in the text are references to specific questions from the question pool, alongside the text that represents the answers to the questions. So you know which parts of the book to concentrate on to pass the test (as opposed to generally understand the entire subject as a whole). I found it helpful to highlight the exact phrases in the text and link them to the question pointers. Moving on to a 'learning to pass the test' strategy, there are several things to do. The back of the book has the entire pool of questions, and the answers to each question, and it would be possible to learn them by rote. In addition, each question is also cross-referenced back to the text in the book. So I'd test myself each question. If I knew the answer and understood it, great. If I didn't, I'd then flip back to the appropriate page in the book and bone up on the theory behind the question and answer until I did know it. Then on to the next question, and so on. Okay, so far so good. But wait, there's more. Also provided with the book is a CD that loads a program onto your PC (not Mac compatible) and you can use this for several different purposes. You can use it to auto-generate tests and test yourself, to see how you are doing. This is great (although I also very much like the auto-generated tests on eham.net). It also allows you to step through the test questions, either in order, or randomly, and each time you answer a question it then immediately tells you if you got the answer correct or not - this is good; and also then explains the answer - this is great. So if you get a question wrong, you are immediately given a mini-overview of the topic by the program. This makes it a very efficient way of learning. Only if the mini-overview is insufficient do you then need to go back to the text book. If you do need to go back to the book, you can zero in immediately on the specific point you need to

understand because of the way the specific paragraphs in the book are labelled by the questions that refer to them, allowing you to first get the exact answer/explanation you need, then to read on around the paragraph, before and after, to put it in a broader concept. Effective use of the book and the software together means you should be able to learn all you need to know in very short order to pass the test. In my case - and I say this not to boast, but rather to simply indicate the efficacy of this learning method - I spent a week of moderate learning prior to sitting the test. At the start of the week, before opening the book for the first time, I was passing about 25% of the questions on eham.net generated tests, and totally lost/out of my depth. At the end of the week, I was getting 34 or 35 of the 35 questions every time, and feeling very comfortable, due to the incredibly efficient learning process this book allows. Best of all, I wasn't merely regurgitating rote-learned answers that I didn't understand, I was feeling comfortable with the topics being tested and the underlying knowledge needed. Oh yes. The final 'for real' exam? It took me about 5 minutes, and I got all 35 correct. Not because I'm clever. But because this book and learning system is so effective. Thank you very much to the people who designed and wrote it.

This is an excellent book on helping you to upgrade your Technician Class Ham license to the General Class license. After reading and studying this book, especially the chapters on Radio Signals, Antennas, and Propagation (specific ionospheric conditions and periodical changes), you will not only become a near expert at what kind of radios and antennas for purchase to suit your needs, but you will "ace" the exam! There are more electronics study here than in the Technician Class, but believe me they are still very, very, very basic! After taking the Technician Class license exam and then studying this book, 10 days later I took the General Class license exam and got a 100% score!! You don't need to mess around with online stuff regarding sample tests or whatever, simply read this book, answer all the questions in the back of the book, take all the sample tests with the supplied CD that comes with this book that will load on your computer.....you will not only be more educated in Ham Radio equipment and usage, but confident enough in passing the General Class license exam the very first time!! Highly recommended!

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