

Frequently Asked Questions

FCTC Written Exam

What does the FCTC written testing process consist of?

The FCTC Written Exam is a 100 question, multiple choice test consisting of the following four sections:

- **Section 1 – Recall and Comprehend Verbal and Visual Information.** This section requires candidates to watch two short videos and answer questions based on the scenarios presented.
- **Section 2 – Recall and Comprehend Technical Information from Written Materials**
- **Section 3 – Solve Mathematical Problems**
- **Section 4 – Apply Mechanical Reasoning**

Candidates will then have 2.5 hours to complete 100 multiple choice questions.

How can I prepare for the test?

In order to prepare candidates for the Written Test, FCTC has created a study guide that covers the four sections of the exam, providing study tips and sample questions for prospective test takers.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE WRITTEN TEST STUDY GUIDE.](#)

In addition to FCTC's study guide, there are numerous online sites that are designed to help you improve your math and mechanical scores, as well as books at the library or on Amazon that cover all of the subject matter contained on the test.

If you are still in school, keeping up on your studies, particularly in English and math, will greatly enhance your chances.

How do I sign up to take the written test?

All candidates must create an FCTC account and complete an online registration form. www.fctconline.org.

How much does it cost to take the written test?

The fee for testing is \$50. The cost includes the pre-test session and the test itself.

Does FCTC offer financial assistance?

Yes. Candidates, who demonstrate a financial hardship, are eligible for grants through the California Fire Foundation.

How often will the test be given?

We anticipate holding the exams on a quarterly basis. Please check our website often for any updates.

How often may I take the test?

Candidates may take the test only once in a 30-day period.

How long before my test score expires?

Your written test score is valid for 1 year. Please remember that if you choose to re-take the test before your score has expired, your most recent score will be used.

If I re-take the test but score lower, which score will be posted?

The candidate's most recent score will be posted.

What happens if I pay and I can't make the test?

A \$10.00 fee will be charged for rescheduling requests made less than (2) business days prior to a scheduled exam. FCTC DOES NOT accept reschedule requests on the date of the exam. Failure to attend your scheduled exam will result in a forfeiture of fees. Unless arrangements have been made, prepaid fees will be forfeited if an exam is not scheduled and completed within (24) months of payment date.

What am I allowed to take into the test?

You are not allowed to take anything into the test. No calculators or any other electronic devices are allowed. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU DO NOT TAKE YOUR CELL PHONE INTO THE TEST WITH YOU. IF YOU DO, IT MUST BE TURNED OFF.** Everything you need will be provided for you including, testing materials, scratch paper and a pencil. There is water available at each location.

What happens if my cell phone accidentally goes off during the test?

If your phone rings during the test, you will be dismissed.

Do I have to have a valid driver's license to take the test?

No, but you must have one form of valid government identification with you to gain entry to the test such as a driver's license, a state identification card or a U.S. Passport. However, please keep in mind that you **MUST** have a valid driver's license to be placed on the FCTC Statewide Eligibility List.

What happens after I take the written test?

Your score will be added to your FCTC profile within two weeks of your exam date. Your name will be added to FCTC's statewide list if you receive a passing score, you possess a valid driver's license, a valid CPAT card, and you have completed your online application (including uploading all required documentation). Participating fire departments will have access to all of a candidate's application information. When a participating fire department is ready to hire, it will use FCTC's Statewide Eligibility List to select candidates. Do not contact fire departments unless they have contacted you to move forward in the hiring process.