

Top Ten Tips to Pass the Oregon Electrical Exam

In my many years of working with good electricians who are struggling to pass their exams, I have found rarely is it that they lack study time or motivation. Yet these 10 things have come up repeatedly. Perhaps they will help you. For more help, check out my schedule of classes or private tutoring at <https://adaptabilityforlife.coursestorm.com/> Deb Marinos, General Supervising Electrician 3315S

TOP TEN TIPS TO PASS YOUR EXAM!

- 1. Fire the wrong calculator. Sometimes due to the size of buttons the fingers folks were pressing two numbers. Other times we noted the number changed if you squeezed the calculator, or pressed down on the table. A few times, the numbers were cutoff, so folks missed the real number. My recommendation, you can buy a relatively cheap calculator that has a large screen that allows you to see all the numbers you have entered easily. Please remember, you are not allowed to use a programmable calculator in the exam. Nor your phone!**
- 2. On Part 2 calculation questions, you will need to be wise about picking your answers. We are used to finding the exact multiple-choice answers. However, that may not be possible. For example: If your calculated answer is 802 Amps, and your choices are A. 600A, B. 800A, C. 1200A D. 1600A. Choosing B 800A is wrong. The answer must be at least 802A! Therefore, the correct answer is C. 1200A.**
- 3. This test currently uses, Scantron sheets – bubble dots. It is very important to take the last 10 minutes making sure each answer is dark, filled in all the way, and NO stray marks outside of the circle are left anywhere on the row. Any stray marks make the answer automatically wrong - as if there are two answers!**
- 4. Use 120v, 208v, 240, 480v regardless what might be listed, such as 115/230 volts. This is based on Article 220.5 and Annex D examples. Also use 1.732 for the square root of 3.**

- 5. Use Annex D Examples, especially #3 Store to help you remember the continuous duty, sign & modifiers.**
- 6. It is Absolutely essential to mark each and every Oregon code change in your code book. Use a different color highlighter, or mark it with OR, so you remember to look in the Table 1-E, which of course, you print out and take with you.**
- 7. Make sure you take your Keyword Index, to save time and look up obscure items. And your Ugly's. to avoid common errors from choosing the metric value off a table. Plus you save a ton of time. A few code questions can not be found anywhere else. Familiarize yourself with each. Learn what is where. And you can use post it flags or tabs to make it faster to get where you need to.**
- 8. Look for the uneven loads, such as single-phase motor, transformer, or building on a three-phase feeder. Learn how to properly size the feeder in these cases.**
- 9. In order to not run out of time, consider this strategy. Try for 80% on the Code Part. Don't take excessive time looking up that last two questions. In the calculation part, always look at the questions/ answers before setting up the calculation. Draw a diagram, and number the component corresponding to question. Many times, there are several questions that stand alone. Do all those first. Then put it all together. And double check, that all the multiple choice answers are legit. At times, there are 3 obviously wrong answers, so you don't need to calculate. This will save much time!**
- 10. And breathe! Who cares if you stretch or flap your arms, to allow more oxygen to get to your brain, no oxygen, dull brain! If you have test anxiety, consider learning strategies to help you succeed. Good luck...and reach out if you want help to pass! 503-871-5299**