



UNIT
1

EXAM PREPARATION

Charles Safford, PLS
Principal Survey Analyst
Rick Engineering, San Diego

Introduction

This video course is designed to help you prepare for what will probably prove to be the most important tests in your career as a professional land surveyor, the Land Surveyor in Training (LSIT) and the Land Surveyor (LS) exams. This unit will cover application for admittance to the exams, content of the exams, preparation for the exams, test taking strategy, and appeals.

Natural abilities and past experience both have an impact on how individuals perform in exam situations. Some people test well because they handle the stress of the testing situation well, or have had the benefit of testing experience from college work. The single most important attribute necessary for success is the self-confidence that comes from thoroughly understanding the subject.

Performance Expected on the Exams

Apply successfully to take the exam.

List the topics covered and the type of questions used on the exam.

Develop a study plan. Elicit support for your plan from family, friends, and employer.

Develop a test taking strategy for the exam.

Outline the appeals process for the exam.

Key Terms

Responsible field training

Multiple choice

Responsible office training

Factual questions

Application questions

References (on exam)

References (on application)

Reciprocity

Comity

Grandfather clause

Certified transcript

Video Presentation Outline

Applying to Take the Exams

- **For Applications and Information**

Board of Registration for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors
P. O. Box 659005
Sacramento, CA 95865-9005
(916) 920-7466

- **Board Publications**

*Information for Licensing as a Land Surveyor Plain Language Pamphlet of the
Land Surveyor's Act and Board Rules*

- **Eligibility Requirements**

- **Land Surveyor in Training Exam**

For information and sample test, write:
National Council of Engineering Examiners
P. O. Box 1686
Clemson, SC 29633-1686

- **Land Surveyor Exam**

Experience

- Responsible field training
- Responsible office training
- Employment verification forms

Education

References

Exam Preparation

- A place to study
- A schedule for study
- A strategy for study
 - Review
 - Problem solving
- Study aids

Taking the Exam

- What to bring to the exams
- Exam strategy

Overview of California Land Surveyor Exams

- **Land Surveyor in Training Exam**
 - Closed book
 - Multiple choice questions on the fundamentals of land surveying
 - More emphasis recently on boundary and public land principles
- **Land Surveyor Exam (eight hour open book)**
 - Emphasis on:
 - Application of principles
 - Making professional judgments
 - Topics covered on exams 1987–1992 (*by % of total points for each topic*)

61%	Boundary determination and legal descriptions
8%	California statute law
9%	State plane coordinates
8%	Photogrammetry
7%	Construction, route surveying
5%	Astronomy
2%	Other (error analysis, GPS)
 - Other topics
 - From past exams
 - Probable future topics
- **Review of 1990 Exam**
- **Review of 1991 Exam**

The Appeals Process

- 60 day appeal period
- Materials provided by the Board
- Strategy

References

Brinker, Russell C., *4567 Review Questions for Surveyors*, 1978.

Chelapati, C. V., ed., *Land Surveyor License Examination Review Manual*, Professional Engineering Development Publications, Long Beach, CA, 1987.

Harbin, Andrew L., *Land Surveyor Reference Manual*, Professional Publications, San Carlos, CA, 1985.

Minnick, Roy, *Land Survey Test Training Manual*, Landmark Enterprises, Rancho Cordova, CA, 1972.

Safford, Charles, *Syllabus for Land Surveyor Examinations*, Landmark Enterprises, Rancho Cordova, CA, 1988.