

GET YOUR FOUNDATION LICENCE FAQ:

Posted onto Facebook by Voight Kampf on 16.4.2020

Additions (in italics) by Leigh Preece 6.5.20

So, you've heard about the Foundation Online Training and exams but are struggling to put all the pieces together. This guide is for you.

I have divided this guide into two parts. If you are already confident you know the theory and regulations and just want to jump straight to the exam, head to Part B.

PART A:

TRAINING MATERIALS:

The first resource you should acquire is the most current Foundation Licence Manual.

*(*NOTE - There is the old 'Foundation Now!' book available from some sources – it's for the old pre-September 2019 syllabus – please buy the newer edition)*

During the lockdown it has been easiest to get this directly from the RSGB Technical Edition outlet on eBay:

https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/technicaledition/m.html?_nkw=&_armrs=1&_ipg=&_from=

This, however, is up and down like a 'fiddlers elbow'.

So if you struggle to get a hard copy of the Foundation Licence Manual, and you have the ability to read an eBook you can get one from here;

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07QS7C68V>

** Additional source: Go direct to the RSGB for a copy of the Foundation Licence Manual:*

https://www.rsgbshop.org/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_Training_19.html

** Get yourself an A4 writing pad or something, even if only to make rough notes as you go along or to practice a few calculations.*

**'Exam Secrets Books' – this is available from the RSGB and I do feel it's worthwhile as it gives you a summary of each section learnt and also more multiple choice practice questions. I (Leigh) recommend buying it as it also covers the Intermediate and Full exam too, so you're ready for the future.*

LOCAL CLUB:

Next, you should try and find a local club, even if they are unable to host meetings during the lockdown, they often will have a Facebook group, or other social media option, such as forum. You will gain valuable knowledge from club members, as most are more than willing to help out fresh blood into the hobby.

You can locate a local club using the RSGB club finder link here:

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs/club-finder/>

ONLINE TRAINING:

In addition to joining a club you can get some online training:

There are several on the web, but the ones I have found most useful have been:

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/>

especially the training slides here:

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/train/foundation-slides/>

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society have some good slides for revision:

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/courses/foundation.htm>

*(*Follow the link for their new September syllabus slides on the site)*

Youtube has a ton of stuff relating to Amateur Radio.

*(*Make sure you watch stuff relevant to the UK Licence, not the ARRL/FCC exams as there is a lot of that!)*

I recommend having a watch of DX Commander's Foundation Licence Training playlist. Not only informative, but has his amusing moments as well.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UcU8zHrmjw&list=PLAjpQM3cGOdOC_KixMcUop85YyJutHCFx&index=1)

[v=3UcU8zHrmjw&list=PLAjpQM3cGOdOC_KixMcUop85YyJutHCFx&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UcU8zHrmjw&list=PLAjpQM3cGOdOC_KixMcUop85YyJutHCFx&index=1)

For checking your progress, it's not a bad idea to do some daily online mock exams.

For PC users:

<https://radiotutor.uk//F/exam>

For android users:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.jgservices.HamTests&hl=en-GB)

[id=net.jgservices.HamTests&hl=en-GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.jgservices.HamTests&hl=en-GB)

and

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.jgservices.HamTestsFoundation&hl=en-GB)

[id=net.jgservices.HamTestsFoundation&hl=en-GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.jgservices.HamTestsFoundation&hl=en-GB)

I tend to open the first app linked and select the Foundation reference booklet.

Then open the second link and attempt a 26 question test.

This way you can use the band plans, and conversion charts, without having to print them out, by swapping from one app to the other on your phone or tablet.

Keep doing these as many times as you are comfortable with, but I suggest at least daily to keep things fresh in your mind. Eventually you will easily be able to get more than the required pass of 19/26 and will most likely be hitting 26/26 in no time at all.

** Additional resource - <https://gm6dx.thinkific.com/> - I've not tried this website but it seems up to date for the current Foundation Syllabus.*

**Advice from a tutor (myself) – spread out your learning!*

You cannot confidently read the Foundation Manual overnight and then think you can pass the exam. You will retain very little and what you have will make little sense.

I teach the classroom based course over 15 to 18 hours, including revision and breaks and feel that, learning online, you will still need at least 12 hours of learning and 4 hours revision.

Assuming you have done all the above, and inevitably visited many other google resources in your quest, you should be ready for.....

PART B: OFCOM and EXAM:

OFCOM REGISTRATION:

First off the bat, get registered at OFCOM so you will be ready to enter you details once you have passed and received your pass certificate:

<https://ofcom.force.com/LicensingComSelfReg>

EXAM:

Next, make sure you have a webcam of some description, as the online exam will require that you do.

Currently the RSGB are using Webex as their preferred comms tool. So head over there and get signed up, then download the software and setup so you are ready for the big day:

<https://www.webex.com/>

<https://www.webex.com/downloads.html/>

The next step is to apply to the RSGB to register for your exam:

Go to this page:

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/exam-faq/>

And have a good read of the first two links:

‘Online exam remote invigilation FAQ’ and ‘Exam candidates FAQ’.

You will need to download the: EX200 Candidate Application Form

<https://thersgb.org/services/forms/examinations/general/>

[EX200_CAF_All_levels_April_2019.docx](https://thersgb.org/services/forms/examinations/general/EX200_CAF_All_levels_April_2019.docx)

Fill this in. (You can leave the receipt number and exam date blank.) and send it to: exams@rsgb.org.uk
Then await a reply from them and you will be instructed what to do next.

**Do remember that, during the period of UK lockdown, the RSGB, like most organisations, are working from home so your response may be delayed but they do endeavour to respond as soon as they can.*

Hopefully by using this guide, you will be totally prepared and ready to accept the earliest date they can offer you.

GOOD LUCK!

(Additions by Leigh Preece leigh@europe.com)