

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

The FCTC Written Test

FCTC strives to ensure that all candidates have the information and resources needed to succeed on test day. The FAQs below are based on common candidate questions and have been divided into categories to help you navigate through all the information on this page.

If you can't find an answer to your question, please contact the FCTC team directly:

Chat: [FCTCOnline.org](https://www.fctc.org)

Email: FCTC@cpf.org

Phone: (877) 648-2728

Quick Links:

- [Registering for the FCTC Written Test](#)
- [Test Format and Sections](#)
- [Preparing for the FCTC Written Test](#)
- [Taking the FCTC Written Test](#)
- [FCTC Written Test Scores](#)

Registering for the FCTC Written Test:

How do I register for the FCTC Written Test?

All candidates must first create a profile through [FCTCOnline.org](https://www.fctc.org) and complete all requirements. [**CLICK HERE**](#) and follow the prompts to create your FCTCOnline profile.

How much does the FCTC Written Test cost?

There is a \$50 fee for each test, which must be paid before your test will be scheduled.

Can I choose my testing date, time, and/or location?

Yes. You may choose any testing date, time, and location that is currently open for registration at [FCTCOnline.org](https://www.fctc.org). [**CLICK HERE**](#) to view

all currently available FCTC Written Test events. You can schedule a new event from your FCTC dashboard.

Can I change my test date after registering?

Yes. In your FCTCOnline profile, you can either reschedule your test OR place it into pending status. A \$10.00 fee will be assessed for reschedule requests made less than two (2) business days prior to your scheduled event. Your testing fee will be forfeited should you fail to reschedule and no show your event, or if you do not reschedule and take the test within twelve (12) months of the original payment date.

How many times may I take the FCTC Written Test and how often?

You can take the FCTC Written Test as many times as you would like but cannot take the test more than once in a 30-day period. *Only your most recent test score will be considered by FCTC and/or hiring fire agencies.*

Does FCTC offer testing accommodations?

Yes. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Accommodations Application. If your application is approved, you will receive an email from FCTC@cpf.org with instructions on how to schedule a test. *All information regarding accommodations is kept confidential and never shared with any fire agency.*

What if I cannot afford the testing fee?

If you demonstrate financial hardship, then you are eligible for a grant provided through FCTC's partnership with the California Fire Foundation. The grant covers all fees associated with both the FCTC Written Test and the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the grant program and to access the application.

Test Format and Sections:

What is the FCTC Written Test like?

The FCTC Written Test consists of 100 multiple choice questions and each question is weighted equally. No previous firefighting experience is necessary to pass or even excel on the test.

What abilities are tested on the FCTC Written Test?

Each section of the FCTC Written Test measures your proficiency in cognitive skills that will be crucial to your success as an entry-level firefighter. The test therefore evaluates your ability to perform the following four (4) types of tasks:

1. Recall and Comprehend Technical Information from Written Materials (35 questions)
2. Recall and Comprehend Verbal and Visual Information (20 questions)
3. Apply Mechanical Reasoning Concepts (25 questions)
4. Solve Mathematical Problems (20 questions)

How long is the FCTC Written Test?

The FCTC Written Test takes two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes to complete. You will be given a ten (10) minute and a two (2) minute warning before the test time expires.

In what order will I encounter the different FCTC Written Test sections?

At the beginning of the test, candidates read an essay packet for thirty (30) minutes. After those thirty (30) minutes have expired, all essay packets are collected by FCTC staff. You will answer questions about these pre-test essays after the video component of the test.

Candidates then watch two short video scenarios and answer questions about the scenes presented in them immediately after each video is played. Pencils must remain down while the video scenarios are playing.

Candidates are then instructed to open their test booklets and proceed to answering the remaining eighty (80) multiple choice questions, which

cover the pre-test essays read at the beginning of the test, shorter in-test essays found in the test booklet, mechanical reasoning concepts, and solving mathematical problems.

Preparing for the FCTC Written Test:

How can I prepare for the FCTC Written Test?

FCTC Written Test Study Guide: FCTC provides a 25-page study guide that explains what to expect on the test and why each section of the test is important for a career in the fire service, as well as sample test questions and answers. This study guide is free of charge for all candidates. [CLICK HERE](#) to view and/or download the FCTC Written Test Study Guide.

FCTC Written Test Prep Class: FCTC provides an instructor-led, 2-hour preparatory class for \$25. In this class, an FCTC instructor will guide you through every component of the test, walk you through the process of answering each type of question on the test, provide testing tips, tricks, and best practices, and answer your specific questions. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for an FCTC Written Test Prep Class.

Taking the FCTC Written Test:

Do I have any responsibilities before test day?

Yes. Prior to your arrival at the testing site, you must complete and sign the electronic waiver sent to you in your confirmation email at the time of registration.

What am I allowed to have with me during the FCTC Written Test?

You are only allowed to bring two items into the test: your government-issued identification and your keys. No personal items are allowed in the testing room, including, but not limited to, recording-capable eyewear, phones, watches, hats, backpacks, purses, wallets, liquids (including water), writing instruments, and/or scratch paper. If you have special circumstances requiring you to have certain items, please contact FCTC

before test day or inform an FCTC staff person at the testing site. FCTC staff will inform you of whether an exception can be made.

Are any electronic devices permitted in the testing room?

No electronic items of any kind are allowed in the testing room.

What kind of identification do I need to take to the FCTC Written Test?

You must bring at least one (1) form of valid government-issued identification to the testing facility, such as a driver's license, a state identification card, or a U.S. passport.

What behaviors are prohibited in the testing room?

When taking the FCTC Written Test, you are prohibited from distracting other test takers, cheating or looking at other candidates' testing materials, writing any notes on the optical scan form, taking notes during the video section of the test, opening your test booklet during the pre-test essay and video sections of the test and/or before the FCTC Written Test Administrator instructs you to do so, and/or otherwise disobeying FCTC staff instructions or disrupting the testing environment.

What is the penalty for bringing prohibited items to or exhibiting prohibited behavior during the FCTC Written Test?

You will be dismissed from the test, will not receive a score, and will not receive a refund if you fail to adhere to FCTC rules and/or instructions given by FCTC staff.

Can I take the FCTC Written Test virtually?

No. The FCTC Written Test is only administered at the physical locations listed at FCTCOnline.org. [CLICK HERE](#) to view all currently available FCTC Written Test events and locations.

FCTC Written Test Scores:

What is a passing score on the FCTC Written Test?

The passing score on the FCTC Written Test is 70%. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about FCTC Written Test format and sections.

When and how will I receive my FCTC Written Test Score?

Your score will be posted in your FCTCOnline profile and made available to hiring fire agencies within five (5) business days of your test date, and usually much sooner. For any fire agency requesting the FCTC Statewide Eligibility List (SEL), your score will be counted as if it was received the day of your test. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the Statewide Eligibility List (SEL).

What fire agencies can receive my test score?

Currently, 142 California fire agencies use FCTC Written Test scores in their hiring process. [CLICK HERE](#) for a full list of participating agencies.

Does FCTC share my FCTC Written Test Score with anyone else?

No. Your test score will only be seen by personnel for FCTC and/or hiring fire agencies.

When will my FCTC Written Test Score expire?

Your score is valid for one (1) year after your exam date. If you choose to take the test again before your score expires, only your most recent test score will be considered by FCTC and/or hiring fire agencies.