

Report on RCF Examinations in 2013

Number of Candidates and Examinations

The table shows candidate and examination numbers since 2006. The number of Advanced exams assumes each centre is a separate exam to maintain comparability with Foundation and intermediate which were available at short notice. Advanced exams were held at 6 set times per year until 2012 when it was increased to seven giving an exam on every day of the week

		Foundation	Intermediate	Advanced
Number of Examination sessions	2013	594	274	183
	2012	606	261	199
	2011	581	235	152
	2010	605	239	121
	2009	643	260	155
	2008	614	265	169
	2007	616	206	95
	2006	640	230	154
Number of Candidates	2013	1759	736	473
	2012	1874	756	497
	2011	1837	694	408
	2010	1896	652	321
	2009	2021	704	426
	2008	2003	733	397
	2007	1965	646	289
	2006	2034	625	446
Number of Passes	2013	1508	664	332
	2012	1599	702	350
	2011	1570	632	279
	2010	1605	596	222
	2009	1704	662	289
	2008	1678	677	263
	2007	1605	603	161
	2006	1719	604	326
Pass rate	2013	85.7%	90.2%	70.2%
	2012	85.3%	92.8%	70.4%
	2011	85.5%	91.1%	68.6%
	2010	84.7%	91.4%	69.2%
	2009	84.3%	94.0%	67.8%
	2008	83.8%	92.4%	66.2%
	2007	87.4%	93.4%	64.1%
	2006	84.5%	96.6%	73%

Results for 2013

Results for Foundation and Intermediate were not collected during 2013.

Advanced

	2013	2012
Licensing Conditions	83	85
Technical Basics	70	67
Transmitters & Receivers	63	64
Antennas & Feeder	64	64
Propagation	70	70
EMC	74	70
Operating practice	72	76
Safety	83	87
Measurements	72	69
Overall	72	71

In Licensing Conditions many candidates were unfamiliar with the conditions for unattended operation or the rules on the apparatus used, syllabus sections 2g1 and 2i1. A copy of the licence is provided for reference and candidates do need to be familiar with it.

In Technical Basics many candidates had difficulty with questions involving V^2/R or I^2R or the two-stage method of answering such questions. Transposing equations and related mathematics seems to be quite a challenge for some candidates.

In Transmitters and Receivers the function of the transistor in a VFO is still not well understood. A minority confuse Key Clicks and Chirp. Understanding/calculating Image or second channel interference continues to give problems to several candidates.

Questions about the length of a dipole were poorly answered. SWR and Return Loss continue to be poorly understood.

In EMC the fact that ferrite ring filters suppress common mode but not differential mode currents was not well grasped and many did not know the correct place to put ferrite rings on the speaker leads of Hi-Fi systems.

Meter shunts and multiplier resistors gave problems to many candidates.

Overall the pattern of answers suggests many candidates are still simply learning a collection of facts and relying on just plugging numbers into formulae and do not appreciate that the Advanced examination tests their understanding of the material.