

To study:

All the formulas I needed were provided except basic algebra, Law of Sines, Law of Cosines, etc., and the formula for the base reactions of a three-hinged arch. So, don't worry about memorizing formulas, BUT **DO KNOW WHAT THE COMMON VARIABLES ARE DEPENDENT ON**. For example, know what to changes if you double a span, and what doesn't change no mater what the beam size/span. 80% of my questions were conceptual and didn't require calcs.

If you haven't already, download the charts on the various structural systems and their characteristics; e.g. Space available for mechanical (open web) verses low floor-to-floor heights (Flat Plate) etc.

Also, know what soil stratus have good bearing, and be able to recognize when it's a good idea to use pilings; driven or drilled.

Take lots of practice tests periodically as you study so you know how to figure out missing information from the formulas.

When you take the test:

I read on this forum that someone said to start by looking over the pages in the reference section - GOD BLESS THAT PERSON! Doing that saved me a great deal of stress and wasted time. You can't review it until the test starts now, but it is well worth a couple minutes. So, I have to start off with that one:

1. As soon as you start the test, review what is in the Reference Section! When you look at the page with variable definitions, scroll down to review the formulas and such below it. It's not just definitions.
2. Then go though the questions and skip everything that requires you to either do a calculation, or look something up in the reference tables. If it's wordy and requires deep thought – skip it. It may be hard to let go of an intriguing problem, but for the sake of passing get everything that you know right away out of the way first. I found that about 3/4 of these questions I could answer in less than 30 seconds. Once I did this, I found I had answered 80% of the questions – probably enough to pass alone if I got most or all of them right!
3. As you skip questions, don't just mark a random answer and mark it. LEAVE THEM BLANK FOR NOW - Use the Mark function only to mark answers you are not sure about and want to re-visit IF YOU HAVE TIME. This allows you to use the Review Incomplete function and Review Marked function differently, as you will see below.

4. Once you hit the Review page after the last question, hit the button to Review Incomplete questions. Answer only the ones that you know immediately how to solve, but just need to go through the process. Anything you have to figure out, SKIP IT AGAIN. It's the pondering that is the big time-sucker. MARK only questions you answer, but are not sure about.

5. When you reach the Review page again at the end of the first go round of incomplete question and there were some thought-intensive ones you skipped click the Review Incomplete button again to go back and work on those. If there is no Review Incomplete button, you have answered all questions and have no more incomplete ones – Congrats!

6. NOW is the time – if you have time – to go back and review any MARKED questions. If you feel that you figured them out correctly, unmark them. If not, leave them marked and go on to the next one once you have settled on your best guess.

7. When you hit the final Review page after going over the marked questions, count the ones you left Marked. Subtract that number from 85 and divide by 85 to figure a theoretical worst-case percentage score. This may help your anxiety level if it's over 70% or so. Since the hard questions are what we remember the most, you may be surprised at how many questions you answered confidently but don't remember as much.

8. Go back through all questions if you have time to make sure you didn't make any dumb errors or mis-clicks on the easy ones – I found that I had click an answer button under an illustration, when I meant to click the *letter* of the illustration.

9. End, take the survey, go home and rest! Don't stew about it until your letter comes. There's no point in keeping your blood pressure up for no reason.

'Ric