

How to Upgrade to General Class:

This document is good through June 30, 2027. Starting July 1, 2027, a new General Class question pool will go into effect.

So, you either were just recently licensed a Technician Class Amateur Radio operator, or you've been there for a while and it's time to broaden your horizons. Well, there have never been so many resources available so there is no excuse not to get going and get your General Class Amateur Radio license!

And, if you're a new Technician, it's a good time to do this, since so much is already fresh in your mind, and the General Class question pool may be easier at this point for you than if you wait some time.

Before I get to the books, I thought I'd share a group that runs online courses, which did help my wife pass her Amateur Extra exam. I've met these folks before and thanked them for the time they put into their free video recordings of the online classes they have done for all three of the Amateur Radio license classes.

The W4EEY series for the General Class is done in ten chapters. Nine cover the main topics in the ARRL General Class Upgrade Manual, 10th edition. Note, the current General Class question pool is good through June 30, 2027. A new question pool will come out July 1, 2027.

Here are links to each of their videos in the series:
Chapter 1 – Introduction
Chapter 2 – Procedures and Practices
Chapter 3 – Rules and Regulations
Chapter 4 – Components and Circuits – Part 1
Chapter 4 – Components and Circuits – Part 2
Chapter 5 – Radio Signals and Equipment
Chapter 6 – Digital Basics
Chapter 7 – Antennas
Chapter 8 – Propagation
Chapter 9 – Safety
Chapter 10 – Practice Tests

As noted in the videos, they are using the ARRL General Class Upgrade Manual, 10th edition, which you can find by clicking here.

Another resource you may find helpful is Ham Radio Prep, a course many who have provided feedback to me on as being one of the best available. They also have a comprehensive 100% Money-Back Guarantee (also called the Ham Radio Prep Guarantee) for its license exam courses. If you fail the FCC exam on your first try, the company will refund your course fee AND pay for your exam fee. Note: o qualify, you must have read through all course chapters and scored at least 84% on one of their practice exams. You can find them at https://hamradioprep.com/ The nice thing is they have an app and you can use either your phone, tablet, or computer for their courses.

HamStudy.org is a free resource that is available at https://hamstudy.org . Ham Study is a free, community-backed platform with adaptive flashcards, question explanations, and full practice exams. It tracks weak areas so you can focus on questions you miss.

Another option is the KB6NU No Nonsense Study Guides that you can find at https://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/

One more is HamBook from the SignalStuff folks that allow you to read their book online for free, or pay a small fee and download the book so you can read it offline. You'll find it at https://hambook.org/

There are so many options today as opposed to when I first got started in the hobby and we only had books available and no Internet. All the above are good, but from feedback I have received, the Ham Radio Prep option sounds like the best course of action.

Good Luck,

73, Russ N4RTD