

AICP Exam Prep

The Exam

- Time limit = 3½ hours (210 minutes)
- Multiple Choice Test
- 170 questions (150 of which are scored)
- Answer, mark or skip questions & return later for review
- All questions are scored (they don't identify the 20 pre-testing questions)
- No penalty for wrong answers (so answer ALL questions even if you must guess)
- Score is on a weighted scale; score of 55 passes the exam
- No "magic number" of correct answers that you need to pass the test (questions are weighted depending on the difficulty)
- This is a manager's test, so take a perspective as if you were a Planning manager at a public agency
- This is a membership test for AICP, not a general test on Planning knowledge

Topic Areas

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| • Plan Making & Implementation | 30% (51 questions) |
| • Functional Areas of Practice | 25% (43 questions) |
| • Spatial Areas of Practice | 15% (25 questions) |
| • History, Theory, and Law | 15% (25 questions) |
| • Public Participation & Social Justice | 10% (17 questions) |
| • AICP Code of Ethics & Prof. Conduct | 5% (9 questions) |

Test-Taking Strategies

- Multiple Choice – the answer is provided for you
- Typically it is choose the "best answer" (may not be exactly what you want to see)
- Process of elimination can be very effective (i.e. eliminating incorrect choices)
- If you just can't figure out the correct answer, then guess (no penalty for wrong answers)
- 170 questions in 210 minutes equals an average of 74 seconds per question
- General rule = 1 minute per question (some questions will require more or less time)
- Allow time for review after finishing all questions (e.g. 30 – 40 minutes)
- Watch your progress over time (i.e. after 1 hour you should be passed question #60, after 2 hours you should be passed #120, after 2.5 hours you should be passed #150, etc.)
- Check clock every 15 minutes or so to monitor your progress
- Don't waste time taking a break (timer doesn't stop)

Studying Strategies

- Know your own personal learning style and strengths (visual learner, auditory learner, etc.)
- Know your own strengths/weaknesses of your Planning knowledge and experience
- Select the topic areas on which you want to focus more than others
- Devise a study plan, such as 4, 8, or 10 hours per week; day and time to study (Saturday mornings, Friday or Saturday nights); quiet place to study without distractions; etc.
- Obtain some practice exams and work on your testing technique (timing, pace, etc.), such as setting aside a 3.5-hour block of time to take a complete and timed practice exam
- Read and know the APA policy guides, memorize the AICP code of ethics, important amicus briefs and law cases, etc.