



Strategies for Passing the SPE Certification and PE License Exams

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Speaker



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Poll Question



- Are you an SPE Member?



Poll Question



- Which Geographical area are you from ?



Poll Question



- What is your affiliation?



Poll Question



- What is your main Job Interest?



Key Take Aways



- The SPE Certification Exam tests a candidates overall all-round knowledge of Petroleum Engineering
- The exam also has very specific questions aimed at most Petroleum Engineering specialties
- Through careful preparation and planning the exam can be navigated successfully



Presentation Outline



- SPE Certification & PE Licensure
- Exam Topics
- Study Plan and Resources
- Exam Strategies
- How and Where can you take the Exam



SPE Certification



SPE's Petroleum Engineering Certification Programme

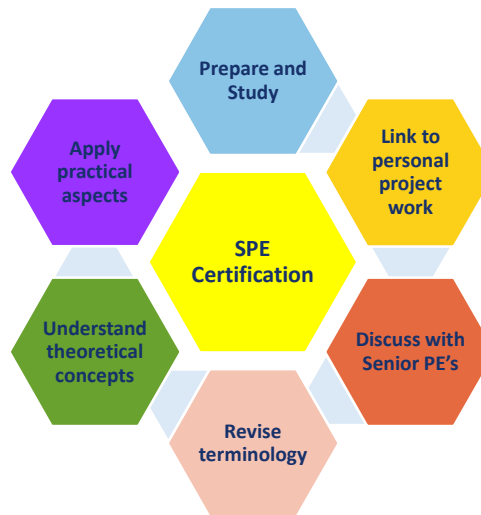
Enhance Your Career—Get Certified.



Society of Petroleum Engineers
www.spe.org/certification



SPE Certification



SPE Certification



SPE Certification & PE Licensing

- The SPE Certification Exam is not the same as the PE License Exam
- Both Exams provide an engineering qualification that are recognised internationally
- The PE Exam can only be sat for and awarded in the USA
- As the SPE is an international organisation, the SPE Certification Exam can be sat and awarded globally
- The purpose of both exams is to demonstrate technical knowledge and competence



SPE Certification



SPE Certification Background

- The SPE Certification Exam was initiated in 2004
- The Exam aims to develop technical competencies and skills across the entire field of Petroleum Engineering
- The SPE Certification Exam consists of two 3-1/2 hour sessions with a total of 70 questions
- This differs from the PE Exam which has two 4 hour sessions with a total of 80 questions
- Both exams are multiple choice with 4 options per question



SPE Certification



What is required to participate in the programme?

SPE's Petroleum Engineering Certification Programme requires that applicants demonstrate a minimum level of technical knowledge to be certified. This is established through an evaluation of each applicant.

- 1. Education**—An undergraduate engineering or related science degree from a recognised institution
- 2. Examination**—An examination to measure the level of engineering fundamentals learned from education and to measure the applicant's ability to solve practical engineering problems. The examination may be waived if the applicant has previously passed a written exam qualifying him/her to practice in petroleum engineering as a registered, licensed, or chartered engineer.**
- 3. Experience**—Experience and training in the engineering community, usually for a minimum of 4 years
- 4. Ethics**—Professional peer references as to performance and attitudes
- 5. Membership**—Member in good standing with the Society of Petroleum Engineers



** If you have previously passed a written exam qualifying you to practice in petroleum engineering as a registered, licensed or chartered engineer, you can apply for an exam waiver at www.spe.org/certification.

SPE Exam Topics



Topics

- The SPE Certification Exam is designed to test all nature of Petroleum Engineering topics
- These include:
 - Reservoir Engineering
 - Drilling Engineering
 - Formation Evaluation
 - Production Engineering
 - Facilities
 - Petroleum Economics



Collaboration



Study Plan



Preparation

- When preparing for the SPE Certification Exam it is a good idea to study with colleagues so you can work through problems together
- This also helps 'build relationships' within your company
- Make sure that you are aware of when you intend to sit your exam and give yourself at least 6 months preparation time
- Try to obtain sample problem papers to become familiar with the exam format



Study Plan



Schedule

- Try to schedule your study plan around your daily working projects
- At first, concentrate on your stronger topics before working/learning up new topics

Read up and around your subject

- If available read technical papers and associated documents so that you understand each topic



Study Resources



Text Books

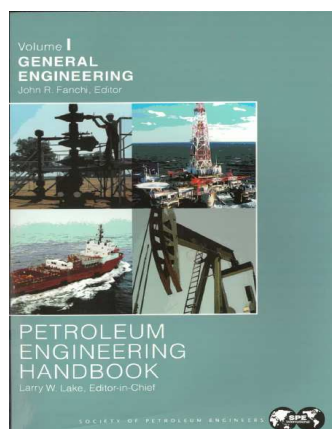
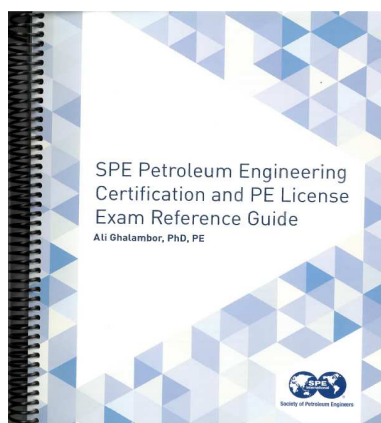
- The SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification and PE License Exam Reference Guide is the only text book allowed with you in the exam
- Despite this it is advisable that obtain other text books (e.g. Petroleum Engineering Handbook) so as to increase your background knowledge prior to sitting the exam

Calculators

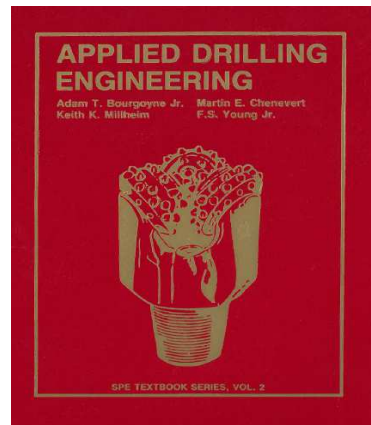
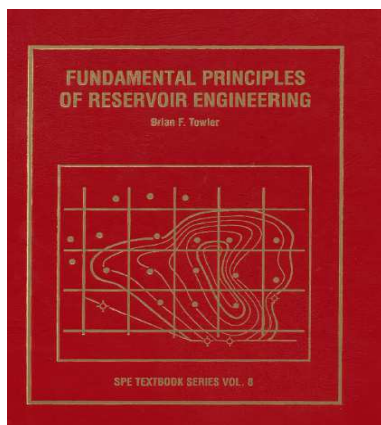
- Both the SPE Certification Exam and the PE Licensure Exam allow calculators to be used



Study Resources



Study Resources



Poll Questions



- Which, if any, of these text books do you have/have access to?



Study Resources



Short Courses

- The SPE has regular two-day short courses usually held alongside International Conferences
- These Courses cover all aspects of the SPE Certification exam and involve a number of sample problems being solved
- They are an ideal way of becoming accustomed on how to answer specific types of questions as well as spotting potential pitfalls and traps that the examiners have set



Study Resources



Online Short Course

- The SPE has recently introduced an 'Online Exam Review Course'
- This course is a 'filmed' Short Course which is available for candidates to download
- Once registered the short course is accessible for 12 months
- Further details on the Short Courses can be found on www.spe.org/certification



Study Resources



Are you ready to begin the next phase of your professional career?
Visit www.spe.org/certification to learn more.

On the SPE Certification webpage you'll find:

- Schedules of review courses and exams coming to your area
- Detailed programme information (including contact information for your area)
- Free study guide available to download
- Certification application
- Review course/exam registration form
- Exam waiver application

We Can Help!

To help you prepare for the SPE Engineering Certification Exam we have created some valuable tools.

SPE Certification Exam Review Course

This three-day interactive course helps you to prepare for the SPE Engineering Certification Exam. The hands-on format allows you to work through problems, review their solution sets, and ask the course instructor questions.

SPE Certification Study Guide

This comprehensive study guide has been prepared to aid those working in the petroleum industry study for the SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification Exam. The material includes a full sample exam and is available as a free download at www.spe.org/certification.



Study Resources



Review Courses and Exams Coming to your Area

To find out when certification review courses and exams are coming to your area visit our certification website at www.spe.org/certification or contact your SPE regional office.

Americas Regional Office

222 Palisades Creek Drive
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Email: spedal@spe.org

Houston Office

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SPE Exam Strategies



Exam Format

- The exam is structured so that there are a number of very 'basic' questions followed by some extremely detailed problems
- The basic questions should be 'no brainers' if you are familiar with the topic
- However the detailed problems will often require you to take some time and maybe make a number of calculations using the provided information



SPE Exam Strategies



Exam Tactics

- You have three and a half hours per paper – Each paper has 35 problems
- It is advisable to read through every question before attempting to solve any of the problems
- As you read through the problems you will soon be able to gauge if you will be able to solve the problem
- Once you have read through the whole paper, go back and attempt the problems that you are most comfortable with
- This will allow you the most time to solve any intricate calculations



SPE Exam Strategies



Conversion Factors

- It is important to be familiar with Conversion Factors and how to apply them
- Some questions will require the candidate to convert units from imperial to metric (or vice versa) to obtain the correct result
- There are a set of conversion factors are supplied at the back of the SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification and PE License Exam Reference Guide



SPE Exam Strategies



Charts and Tables

- When preparing for the exam it is important to practice sketching charts from data
- You may be asked to determine fluid contacts from pressure data which can easily be plotted



SPE Exam Strategies



Exam Tactics

- There will be four answers given for each question and in most cases 1 will be obviously incorrect, two will be 'distractors' and 1 will be the correct solution
- Care must be taken when applying conversions as the 'distractor' solutions are often derived when the incorrect conversion factor has been applied
- It may not be possible to calculate an 'exact' answer and for this reason some problems have a solution that is worded accordingly



SPE Exam Strategies



Proof read and review

- Once you have completed the problems that you are 'comfortable with' do a quick review on any maths and conversions that you have made

Remaining problems

- Try not to waste any time on problems that are way out of your knowledge base
- However, do not leave any question unanswered



Poll Questions



- Have you attended a SPE Webinar before?



SPE Webinars



SPE Webinar #1

- ***"Identifying Knowledge Gaps and Tools"***
presented by Alok Jain

SPE Webinar #2

- ***"Certification and the Road to Professionalism"***
presented by Razik Shaikh



Certification



Key Take Aways





A word cloud centered on the slide, featuring the word "THANK YOU" in large, bold, black capital letters. Surrounding this central text are various words in different sizes and orientations, representing expressions of gratitude in multiple languages. The words include: GRACIAS, ARIGATO, SHUKURIA, DANKSCHEEN, TASHAKKUR ATU, SUKSAMA, EKHMET, BIYAN, SHUKRIA, TINGKI, YAQHANYELAY, CHARU, ANAGHANTYA, KIRUN, MAKE, GRAZIE, MEHRBANI, PÄLDIES, GOZAIMASHITA, EFCHARISTO, JUSPAXAR, KOMPASUNIDA, LAI, BOLZIN, and MERCI.

