

**Study Guide**  
**for**  
**Health Physics Technician**

**Test No. 2703**

**March, 2009**

**Southern California Edison Company**  
**Performance Assessment Services**

## Introduction

The **Health Physics Technician** Test is a job knowledge test designed to cover the major knowledge necessary to perform the job. This *Guide* contains strategies to use for taking tests and a study outline, which includes knowledge categories and study references.

## Test Scheduling

Employees who apply for positions, bids, and transfers requiring testing before March 9, 2009, will be scheduled for testing by their Supervisor through Human Resources. For those who apply after March 9, 2009, both the employee and their Supervisor will be notified of a scheduled test date by Human Resources. Test times and dates for positions requiring testing will be specified in the bid/transfer/requisition/job posting. Employees should be prepared to test on the specified dates. Only employees who apply for positions requiring testing, and who meet basic qualifications, will be invited to test. Applicants will be scheduled through the recruiter. If you have any questions, please call 626-302-9830.

## Test Session

It is important that you follow the directions of the Test Administrator *exactly*. If you have any questions about the testing session, be sure to ask the Test Administrator before the testing begins. During testing, you may not leave the room, talk, smoke, eat or drink. Since some tests take several hours, you should consider these factors before the test begins.

All questions on this test are multiple-choice with four possible answers. Prior to March 9, 2009, your answers to the questions are indicated by filling in a circle on an answer sheet with a special mark-sense pencil. For your answers to be read accurately by the scanner, you must fill in the circles completely and erase completely any answer you wish to change. After March 9, 2009 you will take the exam on a computer. For more information on this, please see the next section of this study guide, Computer Based Testing.

**The test has a 3 hour (180 minutes) time limit. You will be allowed to use a non-programmable scientific calculator. Calculators will be provided by the Test Administrator, and will be one of the following three models: Casio fx-250HC, Texas Instruments TI-30XA, TI 36-X.**

You will receive a Test Comment form so that you can make comments about test questions. Write any comments you have and turn it in with your test when you are done.

## **Study Guide Feedback**

At the end of this *Guide* you have been provided with a Study Guide Feedback page. If a procedure or policy has changed, making any part of this *Guide* incorrect, your feedback would be appreciated so that corrections can be made.

## Computer Based Testing

Effective **March 9, 2009**, all knowledge tests will be administered on the computer. This information will help prepare you for a knowledge test taken on or after **March 9, 2009**.

Taking an SCE knowledge test on the computer is simple. You do not need any computer experience or typing skills. You will only use the keyboard to enter your candidate ID and password. You'll answer all questions by pressing a single button on the mouse.

### Log in Screen

You will be seated at a testing station. When you are seated, the computer will prompt you to enter the candidate ID and password you received in your invitation e-mail. You **MUST** have your candidate ID and password or you will be unable to take the test. Once you have confirmed your identity by entering this information, you will see a list of tests available to you.

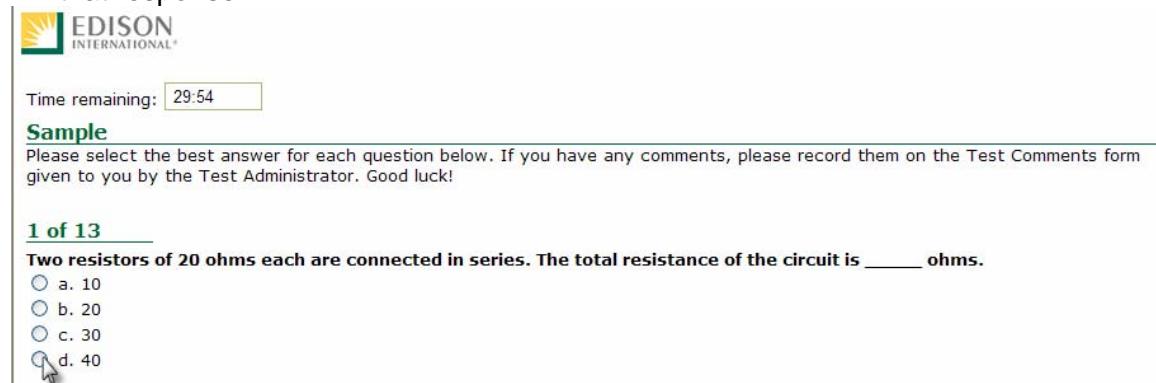
### Sample/Tutorial

Before you start your actual test, a Sample/Tutorial Test is provided to help you become familiar with the computer and the mouse. From the list of exams that appear when you complete the log in, you will select Sample/Tutorial. You will have up to 10 minutes to take the Sample/Tutorial Test. The time you spend on this Sample Test DOES NOT count toward your examination time. Sample questions are included so that you may practice answering questions. In the Sample/Tutorial Test, you will get feedback on your answers. You will not receive feedback on your actual test.

### Example

During the test, to answer each question, you should move the mouse pointer over the circle (radio button) next to the answer of your choice, and click the left mouse button. The amount of time you have remaining to take the test will always be shown in the top left corner of the screen. A sample is show below:

1. When you begin the test, you can see the total time allowed for completion displayed at the top of the screen. You can scroll up to see that information at any time during the test.
2. In order to answer each question, first read the question and determine the response that best answers the question. Put the mouse pointer directly over the circle corresponding to that response.



The screenshot shows the Edison International test interface. At the top left is the Edison International logo. Below it, a timer displays "Time remaining: 29:54". A section titled "Sample" contains the instruction: "Please select the best answer for each question below. If you have any comments, please record them on the Test Comments form given to you by the Test Administrator. Good luck!". Below this, it says "1 of 13". The question is: "Two resistors of 20 ohms each are connected in series. The total resistance of the circuit is \_\_\_\_\_ ohms." The options are: a. 10, b. 20, c. 30, and d. 40. A mouse cursor is pointing at option d.

3. While the pointer is over the circle corresponding to the best answer, click the left mouse button.



**Click the left button when the pointer icon is over your answer choice.**

4. The answer you selected should now have a green dot in the circle. If you need to select an alternate answer, simply move the pointer over that circle, and click again.



Time remaining:

**Sample**

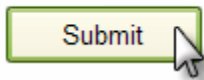
Please select the best answer for each question below. If you have any comments, please record them on the Test Comments form given to you by the Test Administrator. Good luck!

**1 of 13**

**Two resistors of 20 ohms each are connected in series. The total resistance of the circuit is \_\_\_\_\_ ohms.**

- a. 10
- b. 20
- c. 30
- d. 40

5. You can change your answers at any time during the test until the time runs out, or you click the "Submit" button.



# Test Taking Strategies

## Introduction

The **Health Physics Technician** Test contains multiple choice questions. The purpose of this section is to help you identify with some special features of a multiple choice test and to suggest techniques for you to use when taking one.

Your emotional and physical state during the test may determine whether you are prepared to do your best. The following list provides common sense techniques you can use before the test begins.

Technique	Remarks
Be confident	If you feel confident about passing the test, you may lose some of your anxiety.
Be punctual	Think of the test as a way of demonstrating how much you know, the skills you can apply, the problems you can solve, and your good judgment capabilities.
Concentrate	Try to block out all distractions and concentrate only on the test. You will not only finish faster but you will reduce your chances of making careless mistakes.  If possible, select a seat away from others who might be distracting.  If lighting in the room is poor, sit under a light fixture.

If the test room becomes noisy or there are other distractions or irregularities, mention them to the Test Administrator immediately.

Budget your time

Pace yourself carefully to ensure that you will have enough time to complete all items and review your answers.

Read critically

Read all directions and questions carefully.

Even though the first or second answer choice looks good, be sure to read all the choices before selecting your answer.

Make educated guesses

Make an educated guess if you do not know the answers or if you are unsure of it.

Changing answers

If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your previous answer completely. On the computer, be sure that the correct option is selected.

Return to difficult questions

If particular questions seem difficult to understand, make a note of them, continue with the test and return to them later.

Double check mathematical

Use your calculator and/or scratch paper to double check your mathematical calculations.

Review

If time permits, review your answers. Do the questions you skipped previously. Make sure each answer bubble is completely filled in. Erase any stray marks on your answer sheet. When testing on the computer, make sure each question has a green dot next to the correct answer.

Remember the techniques described in this section are only suggestions. You should follow the test taking methods that work best for you.

## **Job Knowledge Categories and References**

### **A. Radiation Physics**

Knowledge of radiation, radioactive decay and processes.

### **B. Radiation Effects, Detection and Measurement**

Knowledge of of the effects radiation has on the human body; knowledge of equipment used to detect and measure exposure, radiation levels, or body burden.

### **C. Exposure Evaluation**

Knowledge of mathematics as it applies to calculation of exposures and radiation levels.

### **D. Radiation Hazard Assessment and Reduction**

Knowledge of methods and procedures for assessing possible exposure and steps to reduce risks. Knowledge of shielding methods to reduce exposure; knowledge of methods to reduce personnel exposure, such as respirators.

### **E. Protection Standards and Regulations**

Knowledge of regulations and guidelines for protecting against radiation exposure (such as NRC, CFR).

### **F. General Nuclear Management Procedures**

Knowledge of radwaste management, emergency procedures, and reactor and plant systems (general).

## References

The following can be considered general references for the knowledge categories:

**10CFR20**

**Basic Radiation Protection Technology**, 4th Edition (2000). Daniel A. Gollnick

**Introduction to Health Physics**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1996) by Herman Cember, McGraw-Hill Professional

**Radiological Health Handbook**. 1970. Compiled and edited by the Bureau of Radiological Health and The Training Institute, Environmental Control Administration. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office.

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