



CI Exam -- Frequently Asked Questions

Preparation

What is the most important thing I need to do to prepare?

Find an MCI mentor who is current with the CI exam requirements. You can search for mentors [here](#).

Do I need a mentor?

You don't, but you should at a minimum find someone who is well versed in the test and how it is carried out. Mentors are not required but they almost always help.

How much time does preparing for the test usually take?

It varies based on initial skill level, commitment, and time spent on preparation.

How do I prepare for the teaching tasks?

Teach as much as you can, preferably along with an FFI certified instructor. Refer to the "CI Test with Tips" which notes the required elements of each teaching task. Prepare an outline of how you would teach these elements in a clear, concise, and organized manner. Practice presenting the lesson until you can give it without hesitation.

What is covered in the written exam?

The written exam covers casting mechanics, fly tackle, knots, teaching, and fishing knowledge.

How will I know when I am ready to take the exam?

When multiple, successful pre-tests indicate your readiness to test.

Test Day

How is the day structured?

Typically, the CI candidates attend their workshop and take the written exam together, and the performance exams are conducted afterwards, usually but not always on the same day. When it is on the same day, candidates may have a break before their performance exams.

What happens in the performance exam?

The lead examiner will find you and introduce the examining team which will consist of two examiners, and sometimes one or two examiners-in-training. You will be given a brief overview of, and allowed to ask questions about, the performance exam process. You will be given time to warm up before the exam begins.

Will there be spectators?

Spectators are not allowed during the examination.

Exam Structure and Scoring

I attended a workshop by an FFI instructor at the annual FFI Fair. Does this count as the CI Exam workshop?

No, the CI Exam Workshop is an element of a scheduled CI exam. It must be administered by examiners.

What is the purpose of the CI Exam Workshop?

The purpose is to inform candidates of the Casting Instructor Certification Program and its history and to emphasize that the CI is an *instructor* certification. The workshop is not designed to prepare candidates to take the CI Exam.

If I fail the written test, can I still take the performance exam on that day?

Yes, but if you pass you will need to retake the written test on another date within one year.

If I pass the written exam and fail the performance exam, do I need to retake the written exam?

No, as long as you retake the performance test within one year. If you retake it more than one year later you need to retake the written test.

The exam says I cannot fail more than 2 tasks in the Casting Demonstration Section. What if I fail 2 tasks and have a “B” (Borderline) on another task? Or 1 “F” and 3 “B”s; or even 5 “B”s? Do I pass in any of these situations?

No. All of these will be considered as 2.5 failures and the test requires 2 or fewer.

Do I need to take the full 7 minutes for each teaching task?

No. Refer to the *CI Performance Test Evaluation Form* where it addresses time considerations.