

This is my planned process for taking the exam and studying for it for April 2008.

List of likely aids for CBP broker exam: the major goal is to maximize the score within the time allotted--a scarce resource! I hope for 55-60% on the 20 classification questions, and anything greater than 80% on the other questions--this will be a passing 75% overall and recognizes the difficulty of the classification questions! There are booby traps laid here!

1. **My process:** answer by indicating answers on the booklet itself, then transcribe them (when I need a short break) to the scan sheet later.

Quickly look through the 60 questions (non-classification) for those to which I know the answers without looking anything up.

Time: about 20 minutes, 10 questions answered.

At the same time note those which ask for a "time frame" for action. Answer them using the "time frame" cheat sheet.

5-10 questions: about 5-10 minutes.

Total time: 30 minutes, 15-20 questions.

2. **Classification questions:** 20 questions. Here its important to be efficient with time, since these consume it greedily! My process is to narrow down the most likely answers to focus my attention on a higher probability subset. To "Narrow" I simply look for groupings of answers numerically very close. If I can find the correct answer in one of 2-3 answers rather than the total of five I have saved time. My experience is that it takes about 1 minute for each answer checked. I probably saved 15-20 minutes on the October 2007 exam by this means. (Narrowing incorrectly simply means that you have to look at all five possible answers, not any worse than not "narrowing" at all!).

As an aside, I hope for 55-60% here, they seem to be the trickiest!

Time for 20 classification questions: 75-80 minutes rather than 100 minutes which I normally take.

Total time so far:

110 minutes for 40 questions, including the ugly classification questions. This leaves 130 minutes for the rest of the exam and going over uncertain answers.

3. **Forms questions:** Use the list of CBP forms in the Workbook appendix. Usually just the description there is sufficient!

4. **Have tabbed:**

- a. the list of Ports of Entry and Service Ports (CFR 101.3)
- b. International Standard Codes (Workbook, CATAIR, appendix B)
- c. Constructing the Manufacturer Identification Code (Directive 3550-055, workbook p. 7)

5. Have a photocopy of the cross reference index (Textbook, index) to save time in locating a point of interest. This is instead of having to use the workbook itself, which takes time.