

I scored 71.25% and needed 75% for the October 2007 exam.

Studying for the test / taking the class: First, let me say that I went into taking this class with experience in trucking, a freight forwarder, 3 steamship lines and a transportation company. I did not believe that it would really take the amount of time to study each week that it took. I believed that I had some transferable knowledge from my 15+ year's experience that would help me through the class and the test. But once into the material, and especially during chapters 16-18, it was A BEAR! I began studying in April for the October test; normally I would cover 1-3 chapters a week. Once I didn't look at the material for a week and then went back into it. (By the way, doing this is very bad because it is tough to pick back up!) My life literally consisted of going to work, coming home and studying. Weekends were spent studying. I studied 3 nights during the week and Saturday and Sunday. Driving to work and back home again – yes you guessed it I listened to the CD's. And during Lunch hour, yep, I did more studying. But completing the course work is only the beginning. It is not enough to go through the material and take the quizzes, when you finish the textbook, you need to take the previous exams and take them in an "exam" environment. This will show you where you need to go back and review. Remember, it is not how you score on the quizzes, etc because they are not timed. When you are under pressure to find an answer and make a decision, this is how you know if you have the material down pat.

When you take the previous exams, take it with limited space, you may not have much room at the exam site. Adjust to this, I had a rolling cart that I purchased from Office Max that has a snap on lid, you can stack your books on top of this and set it next to you. When I had a little extra room at the exam site, it was a blessing!

OH the best investment I made - nearly forgot to tell you about and all the students and test takers were GREEN with envy. I got a seat cushion, the really nice kind with memory foam in it. This was a huge life saver for the 5 days in class and also for the 4 hour test. Nothing is worse than sitting in an uncomfortable chair for an extended period of time, what a distraction if you are focusing on your bottom end instead of all the good stuff LTS planted into your head!

Classification - can't stress this enough, know and understand the rules for Classification. When you are in the test and have these crazy classification questions you can't be thinking "what was that order again on the rules for classifying?" You will lose too much time as it is flipping pages in the HTS to compare 4 digit descriptions, etc.

For test day:

- If possible stay at the hotel where the exam is given or at a hotel close-by to the site. This cuts down on panic setting in the morning of the exam. I struggle sleeping in strange places, so I brought my own pillow and blanket from home, and I brought comfortable clothes for the test.

-Arrive early for the test, get there by 8am. This gives you time to set up your stuff, sharpen pencils, locate the restroom, etc. Don't drink too much before the test, otherwise you'll spend too much time in the restroom.

-Eat breakfast; once the proctor finishes instructions on how to fill in bubbles on your answer sheet and you actually get the test, it is close to 9am. This means that you aren't finished with the test until close to 1pm. Can you hear my stomach growling?

-BREATHE! Don't forget to monitor your time!

-Read the Tips LTS provides on exam day, they are all useful and fabulous! - After you finish the exam, go get a nice lunch and decompress! Roll the windows down and turn up the radio on your favorite song and sing at the top of your lungs because you have just achieved a monumental feat! Give yourself a terrific pat on the back! You deserved it, and remember, if it was EASY everyone would be a licensed broker.

No one, not one person, has taken this test and said "Gosh, I studied WAY too much because that test was SO easy!" Nope, didn't hear one person say this when I left the test. In fact, most people I talked to were ready to go drinking and I don't mean Kool Aid.....