

Securities Licensing Exam Preparation Best Practices Guide



Kaplan Financial Education created this **Best Practices Guide** to help you pass your securities licensing exam the first time.

Test-Taking Tips

License Exam Manual

SecuritiesPro™ QBank

Practice and Mastery Exams

Additional Study Tools

Test-Taking Tips

Read the Full Question

Questions are often written to trap people who assume too much.

Avoid Jumping to Conclusions and Watch for Hedge Clauses

Examples of hedge clauses include the terms *if*, *not*, *all*, *none*, and *except*. In the case of *if* statements, the question can be answered correctly only by taking into account the qualifier.

Look for Key Words and Phrases

Look for words that are tip-offs to the situation presented. For example, if you see the word *prospectus* in the question, you know the question is about a new issue.

Interpret the Unfamiliar Question

Do not be surprised if some questions on the exam seem unfamiliar at first. Very often, questions present information indirectly. You may have to interpret the meaning of certain elements before you can answer the question. The exam will approach a given concept from several different angles.

Use Information from Prior Questions

Information found in one question may help you answer a different question.

Define What Is Being Asked

Many questions supply too much information, which is often the case in increasingly common situational questions. Learn to separate the story from the question. Take the time to identify what the question is asking.

Use a Calculator

Most of the questions requiring calculations are written so that any math needed is simple in nature and function. However, using a calculator is recommended to ensure that common math errors do not lead to incorrect answers.

Beware of Changing Answers

If you are unsure of an answer, your first hunch is most likely correct. Change an answer only if you discover you did not read the question correctly or if you find new or additional helpful information in another question.

Pace Yourself

Watch the time carefully (your time remaining will be displayed on your computer screen) and pace yourself throughout the exam.

Primary Study Tools

License Exam Manual (LEM)

This comprehensive textbook covers all aspects of your exam. Short, focused paragraphs with numerous graphics and exercises will help you learn faster and retain critical information.

The introduction found in your LEM will review the specifics of your exam. Many candidates skip the introduction and, as a result, must work harder than those who take the time to read it. This section includes:

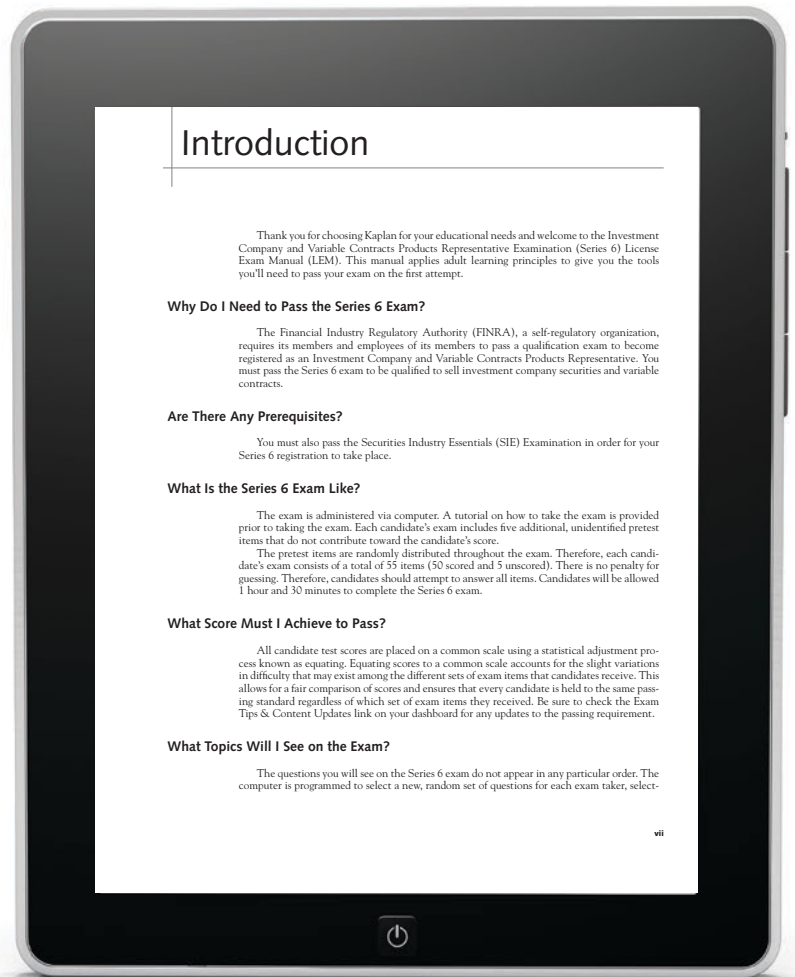
- Prerequisites
- Timing of the exam
- Topics covered and weighting of your exam
- Important test-taking tips

How to best utilize the LEM:

Thoroughly read one unit at a time. Units are broken down into bite-sized lessons, where it should only take you 15–20 minutes to fully grasp the concept.

Pay special attention to the *Test Topic Alerts* and *Take Notes*, where we identify information that is likely to show up on your exam.

Complete each *Knowledge Check*, reviewing the answers and rationales. The rationales of questions are provided to reinforce your comprehension of the material.



Study Tip:

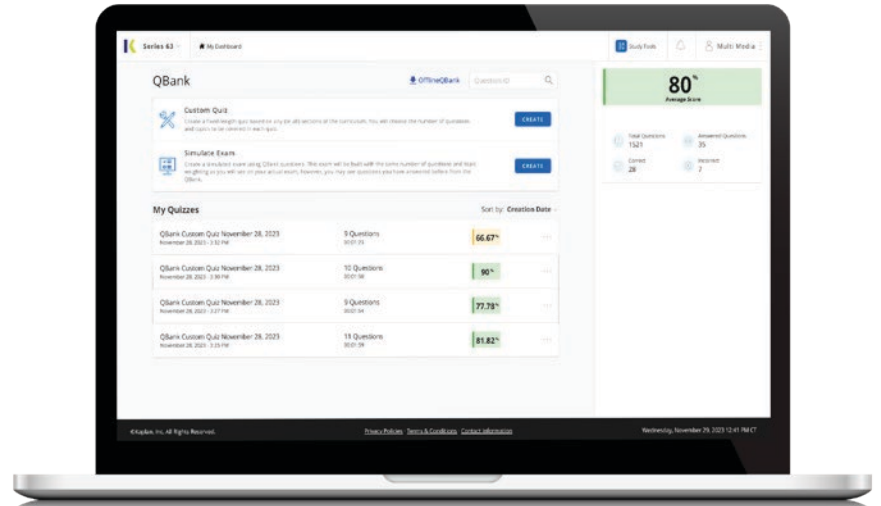
Do not become too overwhelmed by any one unit. Keep moving forward if you encounter difficulty with one unit.

Primary Study Tools

SecuritiesPro™ QBank

This may be the most important tool you have other than the LEM. Test yourself with practice questions and solutions. Then, pinpoint problem areas by building customized exams based on length and topic of your choice.

Scores in the mid- to high-60s are good initially. Your scores will improve as you continue your studies. We suggest the following guidelines to best utilize your QBank:



- Complete the exams found within your study plan. These can be supplemented with additional custom QBank quizzes focusing on any areas you're less comfortable. Do not take short, repetitive unit exams, because this will lead to memorization versus comprehension. View rationales immediately after each question, and spend time studying each rationale in order to learn the concepts.
- Gain a comfort level with each unit until you feel confident enough to move on to the next unit, but don't feel you need to master every topic before moving on.

Remediation Tips:

- Each question in the QBank has a learning objective reference. If you are scoring lower than you'd like in a specific learning objective, use this reference to go back and review that learning objective in your LEM and in any videos.
- Using your Performance Tracker report, identify weak areas and review these units in the LEM and in any videos (if available).



Study Tip:

Focused quizzes on weak areas can be built by selecting the **Custom Quiz** button in your QBank.

Simulated Exams

These Simulated Exams contain questions pulled from the QBank and are given the same length and weights as found in the FINRA exam. The exams allow a review of answers and rationales and may be created an unlimited number of times.

Primary Study Tools

Practice and Mastery Exams

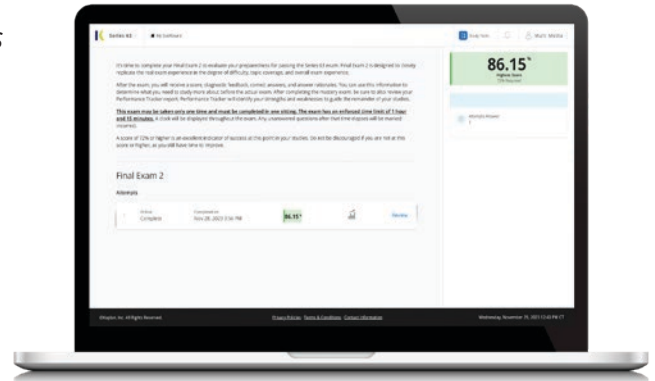
Designed to be a measurement tool, the Practice and Mastery Exams provide a valuable means of evaluating your preparedness for passing the exam on the first try. These exams may only be taken once each. At the conclusion of these exams, you can immediately access a performance report showing your strengths and weaknesses. You can also review each question to see what the correct answer was with detailed explanations. These exams are designed to closely replicate the true exam experience, both in terms of the degree of difficulty and topical coverage.

The better you do on these exams, the more likely you are to pass your actual exam.

1. Do not take the Practice Exam or Mastery Exam until you have read the entire LEM and completed each unit's Checkpoint Exam.
2. Attend class (if scheduled) and complete all homework assignments. The review class you complete is designed to tie any loose ends together so everything makes sense.
3. Complete the Practice Exam after reading the LEM and after attending class (if you are registered for one).
4. Within one week of attending class (if scheduled) or reading the LEM:
 - Complete the Mastery Exam.
 - Continue to build QBank exams and Simulated Exams, with a goal of consistently scoring in the 80s.
 - Review the LEM as needed.
 - Review notes from class as needed.
5. Take your exam within 3 to 10 days of completing your class.

Remediation Tips:

- Upon completion of the Practice and Mastery Exams, be sure to review your Performance Tracker report.
- Reread the portions of the LEM and watch videos from the Video Library, OnDemand Class, or Live Online Class that cover topics you did not score well on.
- Continue to complete Simulated Exams and review the questions and rationales at the end of each exam.
- Your goal should be to comprehend the material and consistently score in the 80s on your Simulated Exams.



Study Tip:

Spend at least one week testing before class.

Complete at least 8 Simulated Exams prior to class. Review your answers and rationales. Also, review your LEM as needed.

Additional Study Tools

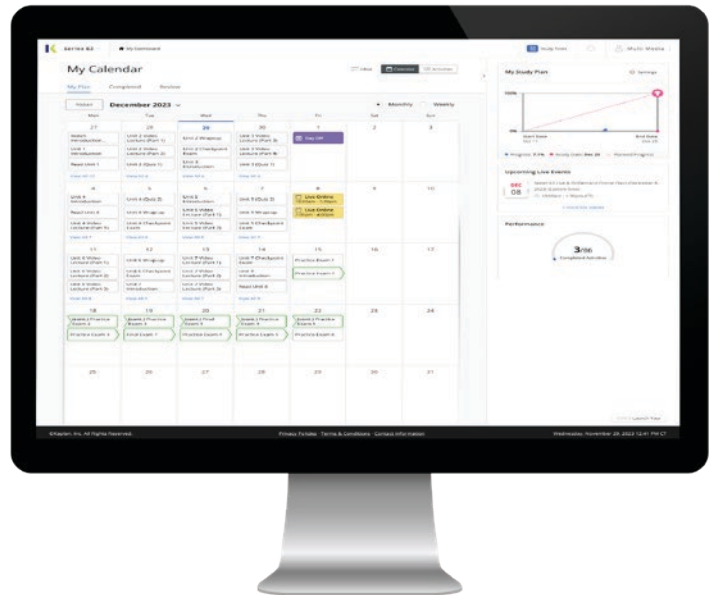
Video Library

This optional video review tool consists of instructor-led reviews of core concepts and test topics. It is designed to provide additional clarification on topics you may be having difficulty understanding. Review the videos as many times as necessary.

Updates and Corrections

Kaplan will post important or new information here, including:

- Current changes in rules and regulations;
- Exam tips and study strategies; and
- A detailed listing of changes since your materials were released.



Instructor-Led Training and InstructorLink™

Kaplan offers Live Online and OnDemand classes, as well as a unique combination of online instructional resources and interactive support tools designed to help you pass your exam.

Study Plan

Your Study Plan is the backbone of your exam preparation. When you enter your exam date, it produces a custom task list for your package and lets you know what to do, and when to do it. Each task is linked to the asset you'll need to use, so there's no looking around trying to figure out where to go next. This Study Plan takes you through your entire learning journey step-by-step utilizing our best practices so you can be ready to pass on your first attempt.

Comprehensive Class Notes

Our Class Notes book allows you to follow the content presented during class and take notes on the presentations.



Questions

If you have any content questions along the way, just send us an email through InstructorLink™, located on your homepage. We are here to help!

In the event you need to contact our support or service teams:

Call: 800.527.9983

Email Customer Service: ContactUs@kaplan.com

Email Technical Support: kfeducation@kaplan.com

Good luck, and thank you for choosing Kaplan!