



“Certification Exam Test Taking Tips”

August 2023

We had 3 CRC’s join our panel discussion, 2 who recently had taken the SOCRA exam and 1 who had taken the ACRP exam. They had 3-5 years of clinical research experience before taking the exam. Their study recommendations and test taking tips are below.

Study Recommendations:

- Register with a buddy and get a test date on the calendar, helps keep you accountable and motivated to study. You also have a study buddy.
- Start studying 1-1 ½ months before the test
- Study aids include:
 - Reddit has a clinical research sub-Reddit that has SOCRA exam prep recommendations and includes some PowerPoint presentations
 - Quizlets have some free questions- <https://quizlet.com/135001746/citi-crc-course-training-flash-cards/>
 - YouTube lectures can be another way of gathering information
 - Brainscape had good review questions for record retention: [Brainscape: The Best Flashcards App | Make Flashcards Online](#)
 - Read through the Code of Federal Regulations and take notes, pay close attention to reporting timelines and Sponsor/Investigator/ IRB roles & responsibilities
 - Review Principles of ICH and Declaration of Helsinki
 - SOCRA provides a PDF with recommended items to study
 - ACRP has a Practice Guide Book you can purchase: [CCRC EXAM QUESTION BANK: ACRP CERTIFICATION: 9781691921409: Medicine & Health Science Books @ Amazon.com](#)
 - SOCRA has a Practice Guide Book for purchase: [CCRP EXAM WORKBOOK: SOCRA CERTIFICATION: 9781726836081: Medicine & Health Science Books @ Amazon.com](#)

Differences of the 2 Certification Exams (SOCRA Vs. ACRP)

- Tests appear to focus on similar concepts including regulatory, roles & responsibilities, reporting timelines, drug accountability calculations

	SOCRA	ACRP
Number of Test Questions	130	125
Maximum Testing Time	4 hours	3 hours
Number needed to pass	72 out of 100	72 out of 100
Number of practice questions that don't count	30	25
Renewal Requirements	3 years & 45 education credits	2 years & 24 education credits
Exam Results (if at testing center)	Immediate	Immediate

Tips for Taking the Exam

- **Location**
 - Highly recommend taking it at a Testing Center, can't take anything in but can are provided with paper and pencil
 - Proctoring is allowed but scratch paper is Not allowed using this option
 - Can request to take test on paper
- **Testing Tips**
 - Before starting test, write down the things you are worried you might forget, dates, timelines, etc.
 - Flag questions you are not completely sure about and go back to them later
 - Answer all question you are sure of and move on. Don't go back
 - Read each question very carefully, look for words like "Except" or "Not"
 - Pay attention to phrasing of the question, there are many questions asked in just a slightly different way
 - Don't rush and calm your nerves, find questions you are confident in to help calm your nerves
 - Don't over think answers, read questions thoroughly
 - <https://summer.harvard.edu/blog/14-tips-for-test-taking-success/>