

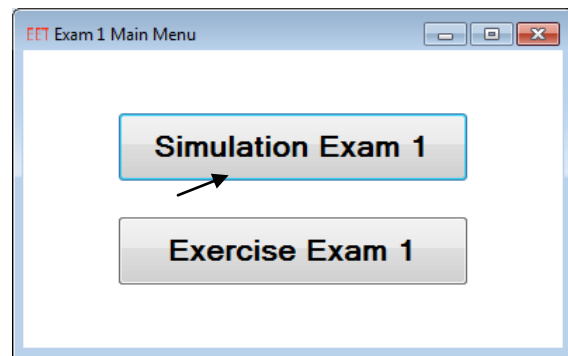
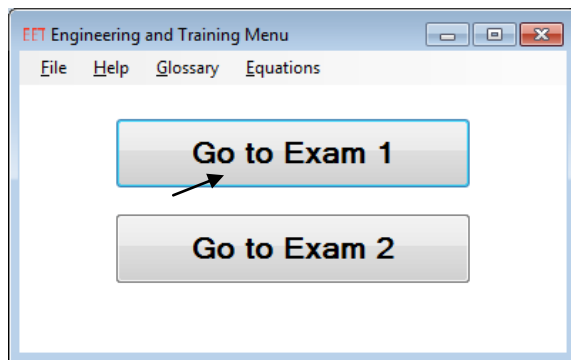
# How to Use the CBT Software

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*Practice Exams for the California Seismic Principles Civil P.E. Examination* provide the candidates with two exams, each with 55 multiple choice questions along with detailed solutions. The practice exams are provided as a manuscript format, and as a Computer Based Test (CBT) format.

The book format is provided for those candidates who prefer to prepare for the actual exam the traditional way. The book manuscript is also an essential reference tool to bring and use during the actual exam.

The Computer Based Test (CBT) is a stand-alone software to provide the candidates with practical experience similar to the actual exam CBT format. The software is provided in two distinct modes of operations: “Simulation Exam” and “Exercise Exam”, for both practice exams.



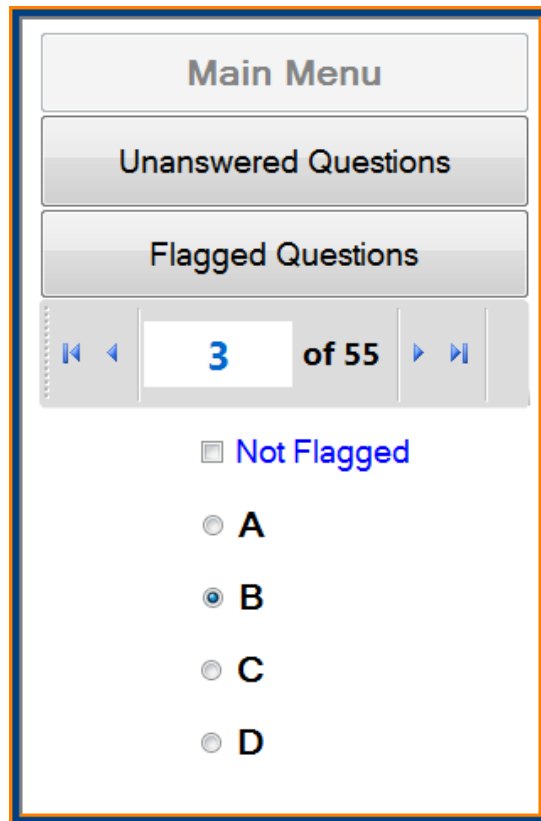
## **Simulation Exam Mode:**

In the “Simulation Exam” mode, The candidate is set to take the 55 questions in 2.5 hours, uninterrupted, similar to the actual exam experience.

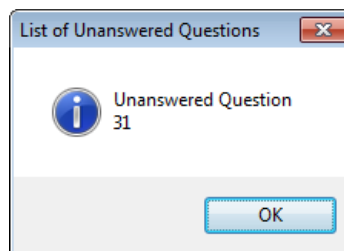
- The time is set at the top right corner of the screen, and the clock starts as soon as the candidate clicks on the "Simulation Exam 1" or "Simulation Exam 2" button.

**Time (h:m:s) = 00:02:39**

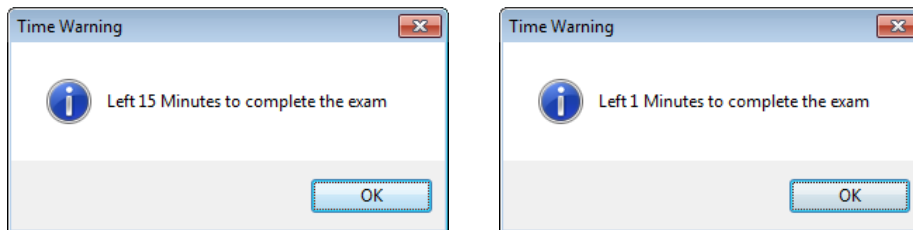
- During the exam simulation period, the candidate shall navigate, solve, and record the answers to the exam questions using the A, B, C, or D buttons located on the right-hand side of the screen.



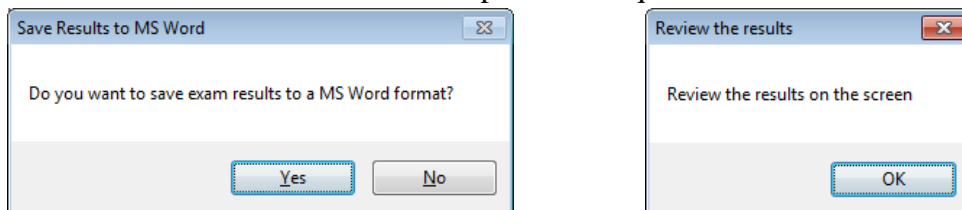
- The candidate can change his answer to the question, simply by clicking on another button on the right-hand side of the screen A, B, C, or D.
- The candidate can also *flag* the question, in case s/he would like to come back to this question, by checking the "Not Flagged" checkbox. A list showing the numbers of flagged questions can be seen in a pop-up window at any time during the exam simulation.
- A list showing the numbers of "Unanswered Questions" can be seen in a pop-up window at any time during the exam simulation. Both lists can be closed by clicking on the window's "x" button, or OK button.



- Two warning messages at 15 minutes and 1 minute from the exam end time will pop up on the screen to remind the candidate of the exam closure time. The pop-up message can be closed by clicking on the window's "x" button or OK button.



- If the candidate finishes answering all the questions before the end of the exam period (2.5 hours), s/he can click the "Submit and Finish" button to end the simulation.
- At the end of the exam simulation period (2.5 hours), or when the candidate clicks the "Submit and Finish" button, the candidate can no longer navigate or answer any questions. The screen will stop and a few seconds later, the "Exam Result Analysis Table" will pop up on the screen. The "Exam Result Analysis Table" can also be saved and viewed as a Microsoft Word document. Saving the exam results allows the candidate to view his/her score as well as the topic of each question.



- The "Exam Result Analysis Table" shows each question number, the correct answer and the answer chosen by the candidate along with the topic of the question.

Test Results As of 9/15/2013 5:17:13 PM			
Question#	Your answer	Correct Answer	Topic
1	B	B	Elements of structures and non structural components
2	C	C	Structural observation
3	B	B	Ties and connection to smaller structural elements
4	C	C	Seismic force of a SDOF system

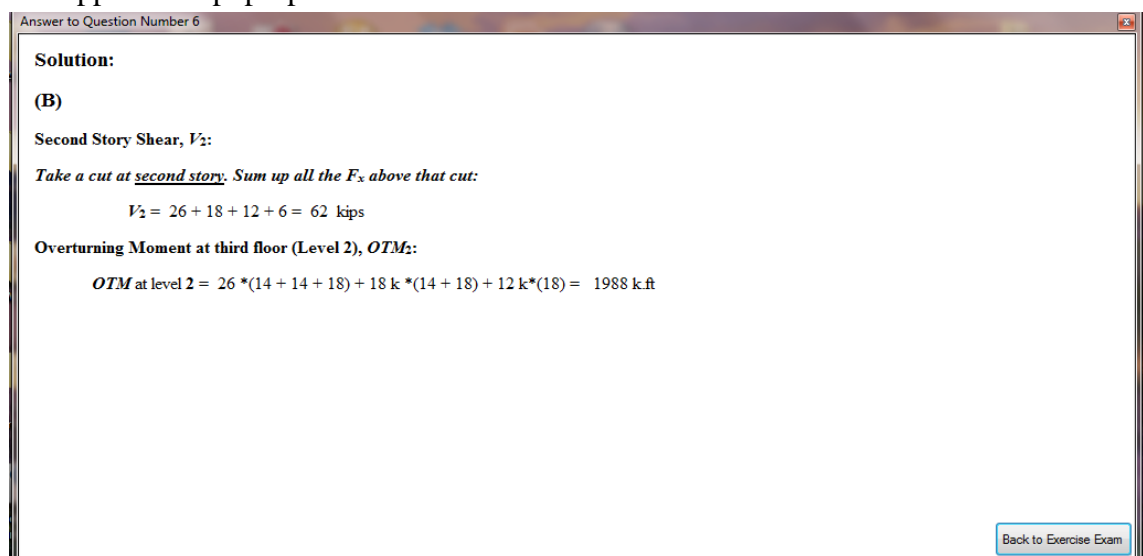
52	D	D	Determination of site coefficients, $F_a$ , and $F_v$
53	D	A	Relationship between period of vibration and frequency
54	C	D	Determination of wood shear wall allowable capacity
55	D	B	Vertical and horizontal combination of different SFRS
You scored 31 of 55!			

Please note that if the simulation exam is interrupted for any reason, you have to start from scratch, and the clock will set back to zero.

### **Exercise Exam Mode:**

In the “Exercise Exam” mode, the candidate is set to practice any or all of the 55 questions with no time constraints. The purpose is to check the correct answers and the solution to any desired question based on the Exam Result Analysis Table obtained when the candidate finished his “Simulation Exam” exercise. It is also a chance for the candidate to go back and practice/view certain problems in CBT format under no time constraints.

- The candidate can navigate the questions, choose, solve and answer the desired question.
- Upon answering the exam question on the right-hand side using the A, B, C, or D buttons, if the candidate scores the correct answer, the solution and the correct answer will appear as a pop-up window on the screen.



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- If the candidate chooses the incorrect answer on the first attempt, an “incorrect answer” message will appear on the screen, imploring the candidate to score another answer. When the candidate answers for the second time, the correct answer and solution will appear as a pop-up window on the screen, regardless of the candidate’s answer.

It is advisable that the candidate uses the “Simulation Exam” feature of the software to test his/her knowledge and to identify any areas of weakness. Following the simulation, the candidate can use the “Exercise Exam” feature to go over any exam questions that s/he did not solve correctly, as identified on the "Exam Result Analysis Table", and to check the correct answer and solution methodology.

It should be noted, that the CBT format used herein may not match the exact format of the actual exam. The CBT format used herein is an aid to help the exam candidate transitions from the traditional paper exam format to the latest CBT format. As most CBT formats are similar in core functionality, the CBT format used herein will greatly benefit the candidate by providing him/her with a test-taking experience as close as possible to the actual exam. Care should be taken by the candidate to follow the exact format of the CBT during the actual exam.