

CTS®, CTS-D® and CTS-I® Exam Scoring FAQs

Does everyone take the same test?

No. AVIXA maintains a large pool of questions that can be used to generate many different forms of the examinations. For security reasons, the examination forms are updated on a regular basis. Furthermore, multiple forms of the examination are in use and candidates are randomly assigned to these forms.

Is one test form easier than another?

No. AVIXA uses statistical data on how each test question performs to evaluate the difficulty of each examination form. The examinations are carefully constructed in order to minimize variations in difficulty from one test form to another. However, it is possible to have slight variations in difficulty based on the particular combination of test questions that are selected for each examination form. This is taken into account when the passing scores are set so it does not matter which exam form each candidate takes.

How is the passing score determined?

The final passing score is established by the Examination Committee using a criterion-referenced passing score process. During this process the committee members discuss the minimum level of competence that is required for passing the examination and obtaining the credential. This discussion focuses attention on the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities that qualified practitioners possess. The committee then systematically evaluates each question on the examination and rates their difficulty levels. The ratings are combined to arrive at the passing score for that specific examination.

“ The CTS-I exam was a very fair and evenly distributed test of the material. Also, frankly it was much easier taking it at the testing center where the environment was quiet and peaceful.

– James Triplett, CTS-I
AV Specialist, Global Consulting Firm

What is a scaled score?

Scaled scores are created when the number of questions that candidates answer correctly is mathematically transformed so that the passing score equals 350 on a scale starting at 0 and ending at 500. This transformation is very similar to converting inches to centimeters; for example, a 10 inch ribbon will be 25.4 centimeters long. The length of the ribbon has not changed, only the units of measurement that were used to describe it.

Why scale the scores?

The use of scaled scores allows for direct comparison of scores from one examination form to another because the passing standard will always be the same, a scaled score of 350. In the long run, this process will make the scoring of AVIXA examinations easier to understand for all concerned. It will not matter which AVIXA examination a candidate takes, the passing score will remain constant.

Why is the scale 0 to 500 when I didn't see 500 questions?

The scale used by AVIXA is similar to scales used by other large testing programs, such as the SAT, ACT, or GRE. The scale has more points on it than there are questions on the examination.

Does scaling the scores affect who passes or fails an exam?

No. The use of scaled scores does not affect whether or not an individual candidate passes or fails the examination. The pass/fail decision is always made by comparing the number of questions answered correctly to the passing score that was established using the criterion referenced process. All candidates who correctly answer more items than are required to pass the examination form that they took will obtain scaled scores that are between 350 and 500. Candidates who did not answer enough items to pass will obtain scaled scores between 0 and 349.

Can I find out how many questions I answered correctly?

AVIXA will not report the number of questions answered correctly or the overall percentage of questions answered correctly. However, candidates will be provided with the percentage of questions answered correctly for each section of the examination to help failing candidates target areas for further study. It is important to note that, because the number of questions contained within each section of the examination varies, adding or averaging the percentage correct scores will not be an accurate reflection of your overall examination score.

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