

Preparing for Your Exam:

To prepare effectively, decide how much time you'll need. NGWA exams are designed by professionals to reflect best practices in the groundwater industry. While practical experience is essential, studying the recommended materials is key to success.

- **Review the Exam Study Guide:** Familiarize yourself with the key topics covered in the exam. Use the content outline to assess your strengths and identify areas that need more focus.
- **Use NGWA's Recommended Study Materials:** Check out the resources available in the NGWA bookstore. This study guide outlines the materials that align with each exam section and will help deepen your knowledge.
- **Plan Your Study Time:** Break your study sessions into smaller, focused blocks for better retention.
- **Customize Your Study Method:**
 - Take notes, create flashcards, or study with a group.
 - Have someone read the material aloud while you take notes.
 - If you're a visual learner, draw diagrams or process flows.
 - For hands-on learners, discuss practical topics with coworkers or equipment manufacturers.
 - Reinforce what you've learned by explaining it to someone else.

Resources referenced in the study guide available in [NGWA's Bookstore:](#)

- *Groundwater and Wells, Third Edition*
- *Manual of Water Well Construction Practices*
- *Procedures for Well Drilling Operations*
- *Water Well Driller's Beginning Training Manual*
- [Well Drillers Manual](#)

Scheduling Your Exam:

- Schedule your exam online at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/ngwa> or by calling 855-579-4642 and ask to schedule the National Groundwater Association's Cable Tool exam.
- Frequently asked questions about the exam process may be found at [Test Taker Support | Candidate FAQ.](#)
- If you have trouble with scheduling your exam, please contact NGWA at certification@ngwa.org or 800-551-7379, ext. 1526.

Before Your Scheduled Exam:

- **Know What to Expect:** Boost your confidence by familiarizing yourself with the exam process. Review the test center's requirements and policies, which are outlined in [NGWA's Candidate Information Bulletin.](#)

- **Arrive Early:** Plan your route to the test center in advance and be sure to allow extra time for any unforeseen circumstances.
- **Rest Well:** Aim for a full night's sleep before the exam. Avoid cramming, as staying up late can negatively affect your performance.
- **Check-In Requirements:** You will need to present a valid, government-issued ID when checking in at the test center.
- **Leave Personal Items Behind:** Personal belongings are not permitted in the test center. Please store them securely before entering.
- **Closed-Book Exam:** No outside materials are allowed, so be sure to leave any study aids behind.
- **Eat Light:** Have a nutritious, light meal before your exam.
- **Stay Positive:** Set realistic expectations for yourself. While it's great to aim for a perfect score, missing a few questions is completely normal-and won't affect your ability to pass.
- **Manage Anxiety:** If you start to feel nervous, take a few deep breaths and consciously relax the tension in your neck and shoulders. Keeping calm will help you focus.

After Your Exam:

- You will receive your score report before leaving the test center. If you didn't pass, check the "scores by section" area below your pass/fail result. These sections align with the categories listed on this study guide. Use this information to guide your studying for the next exam attempt.
- Keep a notebook in your car to jot down any content areas or questions you found challenging. Then, refer to the exam study guide to find relevant study materials and review those topics to strengthen your understanding.

NGWA Study Materials Listed by Cable Tool Exam Category

Mobilize for the Site (3 Questions)

- *Groundwater and Wells, Third Edition*
 - Chapter 7, Well-Drilling Methods

Construct Water Well (30 Questions)

- *Groundwater and Wells, Third Edition*
 - Chapter 7, Well-Drilling Methods
- *Manual of Water Well Construction Practices*
 - Well Plumbness and Alignment

- Well Screens and Intakes
- *Well Water Drillers Beginning Training Manual*
 - Chapter 3, Cable Tool Drilling
 - Chapter 7, Jetting

Rehabilitate Wells (4 Questions)

- *Well Water Drillers Beginning Training Manual*
 - Chapter 3, Cable Tool Drilling

Develop Wells (7 Questions)

- *Manual of Water Well Construction Practices*
 - Well Screens and Intakes
 - Well Development
 - Well Filter Construction
- *Procedures for Well Drilling Operations*
 - Chapter 3, Field Operations
- *Well Drillers Manual*
 - Chapter 5, The Cable Tool Drilling Machine
- *Well Water Drillers Beginning Training Manual*
 - Chapter 6, Introduction to reverse circulation

Decommission Wells (3 Questions)

- *Well Drillers Manual*
 - Chapter 5, The Cable Tool Drilling Machine

Demobilize the Site (3 Questions)

- *Well Drillers Manual*
 - Chapter 9, Maintenance
 - Chapter 6, Rotary Drilling