



CERTIFIED EXPERT

Adobe® After Effects® 7.0 Professional EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE



EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE

Adobe® After Effects 7.0 Professional

This guide provides all the information you need to get started in preparing for Adobe Certified Expert (ACE) and recertification exams. Passing ACE and recertification exams demonstrates your proficiency with Adobe software products and allows you to promote your expertise with customers and employers. As an ACE, you can stand out from your competitors and be noticed.

ACE Frequently Asked Questions

What is an ACE? What are the benefits of being certified? What are the exams like? Get all your ACE questions answered in a brief, to-the-point FAQ.

Four-Step Check List

Learn about the process for getting certified.

Step 1: Choose your certification level.

Step 2: Register for your exam(s).

Step 3: Prepare for and take your exam(s).

Step 4: Read the ACE Agreement and join the Adobe Certified community.

Exam Topic Areas and Objectives

Review the test content—topic areas and objectives—for each product exam. The topic lists will help direct your studies, so please review correctly.

Practice Exams

Review sample questions to get an idea of the types of questions that will be on the exam. *Note: Though helpful, these practice exams are not necessarily representative of the difficulty of the questions that you will encounter on the actual exam.*

Practice exams are available for all of the following Adobe products:

- Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Professional
- Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional
 - Print Production
 - with Adobe LiveCycle™ Designer
- Adobe After Effects® 6.0 Professional
- Adobe GoLive® CS
- Adobe GoLive CS2
- Adobe Illustrator® CS
- Adobe Illustrator CS2
- Adobe InDesign® CS
- Adobe InDesign CS2
- Adobe Photoshop® CS
- Adobe Photoshop CS2
- Adobe Premiere® Pro 2.0
- Adobe Premiere® Pro



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is an Adobe Certified Expert (ACE)?

A. An Adobe Certified Expert (ACE) has earned a certification created specifically for graphic designers, Web designers, video professionals, system integrators, value-added resellers, developers, or business professionals seeking recognition for their expertise with Adobe products. By passing one or more ACE exams, you become eligible to promote yourself to prospective clients as a highly skilled, expert-level user of Adobe software.

Q. What is the main benefit of passing ACE exams and becoming Adobe certified?

A. Adobe certification is an industry standard in excellence that can be used to demonstrate your product knowledge and expertise, and also serves as a catalyst when finding a job or seeking a promotion. The Adobe Certified Expert (ACE) and Adobe Certified Instructor (ACI) logos and credentials have been created for self-promotional use by individuals who have met all requirements of the Adobe Certified Expert or Adobe Certified Instructor programs. Those who have passed the tests may place certification logos on business cards, resumés, Web sites, and other promotional materials.

Q. What are ACE Specialist and ACE Master?

A. There are three levels of Adobe certification.

1. Single product certification: Recognizes your proficiency in a single Adobe product. To qualify as an ACE, you must pass one product-specific exam. Example: ACE, Adobe InDesign CS2
2. Specialist certification: Recognizes your proficiency in a specific medium: Print, Web or Video. To become certified as a Specialist, you must pass the exams on the required products listed below. Example: ACE Print Specialist (with passing marks on the tests for Adobe InDesign, Adobe Acrobat, and either Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Illustrator)

Specialists must pass all required (R) exams and any one elective (E) within any given certification track:

	Print Specialist	Web Specialist	Video Specialist
Adobe InDesign	R	—	—
Adobe GoLive	—	R	—
Adobe Acrobat*	R	E	—
Adobe Photoshop	E	R	R
Adobe Illustrator	E	E	—
Adobe Premiere	—	—	R
Adobe After Effects	—	—	R

Note: Exam requirements are subject to change.

*Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional Print Production exam only.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

3. Master certification: Recognizes your skills in terms of how they align with the Adobe product suites. To become certified as a Master, you must pass the exam for each of the products in the suite. Example: ACE, Creative Suite Master (with passing marks on the tests for Adobe Acrobat, Adobe GoLive, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Photoshop)

Q. What is an Adobe Certified Instructor (ACI)?

- A.** An Adobe Certified Instructor (ACI) is an ACE who provides instruction on Adobe products. ACIs must have an instructor qualification (a teaching credential, passed the CompTIA CTT+ (<http://www.comptia.org/certification/ctt/>) or equivalent), in addition to passing one or more ACE exams. For more information, visit the ACI home page, <http://www.adobe.com/support/certification/aci.html>

Q. How do I prepare for an ACE Exam?

- A.** The keys to preparing for an ACE exam are experience with the product and studying this Exam Preparation Guide (<http://partners.adobe.com/public/ace/main.html>). To access online training, user guides, and many other study materials, visit Adobe's training resources page (<http://www.adobe.com/support/training.html>). The following resources may also help you prepare for your ACE exam:

- Adobe product user guides
- Adobe Press books
- Adobe Authorized Training Centers (find the AATC nearest you through the Adobe Partner Finder online at: http://partners.adobe.com/asn/partnerfinder/search_training.jsp)
- Adobe online training at www.adobe.elementk.com
- Tutorials and materials from Total Training, at www.totaltraining.com
- Other training resources online at www.adobe.com/support/training.html

Q. How do I get training?

- A.** Once you know what product you want to get certified in, use the Adobe Partner Finder (<http://partners.adobe.com/asn/partnerfinder/trainingprovider/index.jsp>) database to locate an Adobe Certified Instructor or an Adobe Authorized Training Center in your area that teaches a class on the Adobe product you want to learn. Contact them directly for more information about their classes and registration details.

Q. What are the benefits to becoming an ACE?

- A.** As an individual with an ACE, you can:
- Differentiate yourself from competitors
 - Get your resumé noticed
 - Attract and win new business
 - Gain recognition from your employer
 - Get the inside track on Adobe's latest offerings
 - Leverage the power of the Adobe brand and resources

If you are an employer, use ACE as a benchmark so you can:

- Find the right person for the job
- Quickly assess candidate skill level
- Invest in your most promising employees
- Increase productivity and efficiency

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What type of exam are the ACE exams?

A. Adobe ACE exams (which are administered by Pearson VUE and Thomson Prometric, independent third-party testing companies) are computer-delivered, closed-book tests consisting of 60 to 90 multiple-choice questions. Each exam takes approximately one to two hours to complete, and results are given to you at the testing center immediately after you complete the test.

Q. What type of exam are the recertification exams?

A. Adobe recertification exams are Web administered exams that are available to current ACEs only. The exams are delivered to your desktop via the Web. The tests consist of 30-60 multiple choice questions focusing exclusively on new product features. Each exam takes approximately 30 minutes to one hour to complete. Results are revealed immediately after you finish.

Q. How do I register for an ACE exam?

A. Contact Pearson VUE or Thomson Prometric by phone, on the Web, or in-person:

	Pearson VUE	Thomson Prometric
Register online	www.pearsonvue.com	www.2test.com
Register in-person	Find a location online at www.pearsonvue.com	Find a location online at www.2test.com

Q. What is the fee for the ACE exam?

A. Each exam is US\$150 or local currency equivalent.

Q. What is the fee for the recertification exam?

A. The fee for Web administered ACE recertification exams is US\$50 or local currency equivalent.

Q. Soon after I passed an ACE exam, the exam was published for a new product version. Do I have to successfully complete the new exam within 90 days?

A. You may continue to use the ACE logo and materials in accordance with the Adobe Certified Program Guidelines for Logos and Credentials. When the ACE and recertification exams are published for the next version of the product, you must successfully complete that exam within 90 days to keep your ACE status current and continue using the ACE logo and materials.

Q. What can I expect from Adobe if I pass the ACE exam?

A. As soon as you pass the exam, your name and exam results are given to us by Pearson VUE or Thomson Prometric, our worldwide test administrators. Your exam data is then entered into our database. You will then be sent an ACE Welcome Kit and access to the ACE logo. You are also placed on our certification mailing list to receive special Adobe announcements and information about promotions and events that take place throughout the year.

Q. How long does it take to receive my Welcome Kit?

A. You can expect your Welcome Kit to arrive four to six weeks after we receive your exam results.



CERTIFIED EXPERT

FOUR-STEP CHECK LIST

STEP 1: Choose your certification level

There are three levels of certification to become an Adobe Certified Expert. Choose the one that's right for you.

- 1. Single product certification: Recognizes your proficiency in a single Adobe product. To qualify as an ACE, you must pass one product-specific exam.**

Example: ACE, Adobe InDesign CS

- 2. Specialist certification: Recognizes your proficiency in a specific medium: print, Web, or video. To become certified as a Specialist, you must pass the exams on the required products listed below.**

Example: ACE Print Specialist (with passing marks on the tests for Adobe InDesign, Adobe Acrobat, and either Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Illustrator)

- 3. Master certification: Recognizes your skills in terms of how they align with the Adobe product suites. To become certified as a Master, you must pass the exam for each of the products in the suite.**

Example: ACE, Creative Suite Master (with passing marks on the tests for Adobe Acrobat, Adobe GoLive, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Photoshop)

Specialists must pass all required (R) exams and any one elective (E) within any given certification track:

	Print Specialist	Web Specialist	Video Specialist
Adobe InDesign	R	—	—
Adobe GoLive	—	R	—
Adobe Acrobat*	R	E	—
Adobe Photoshop	E	R	R
Adobe Illustrator	E	E	—
Adobe Premiere	—	—	R
Adobe After Effects	—	—	R

Note: Exam requirements are subject to change.

*Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional Print Production exam only.

STEP 2: Register for your exam(s)

Adobe ACE exams are administered by Pearson VUE and Thomson Prometric, independent third-party testing companies. The tests are offered at more than five thousand authorized testing centers in many countries.

To register for your ACE exam(s), contact Pearson VUE or Thomson Prometric by phone, on the Web, or in person. Please note, all recertification Web based exams are delivered through Thomson Prometric only.

	Pearson VUE	Thomson Prometric
Register online	www.pearsonvue.com	www.2test.com
Register in-person	Find a location online at www.pearsonvue.com	Find a location online at www.2test.com

The ACE exam fee is US\$150 worldwide. The recertification exam fee is US\$50.



FOUR-STEP CHECK LIST

STEP 3: Prepare for and take your exam(s)

The keys to preparing for an ACE exam are experience with the product and studying using the Exam Prep Guide. To access online training, user guides, and many other study materials, visit Adobe's training resources page.

The following resources may also help you prepare for your ACE exam:

- Adobe product user guides
- Adobe Press books
- Adobe Authorized Training Centers (find the AATC nearest you through the online Adobe Partner Finder)
- Adobe online training from Element K (<http://adobe.elementk.com>)
- Tutorials and materials from Total Training (<http://www.totaltraining.com>)
- Other online training resources

ACE exams are computer-delivered, closed-book tests consisting of 60 to 90 multiple-choice questions. Each exam takes one to two hours to complete, and results are given to you at the testing center immediately after you finish.

Adobe recertification exams are Web administered exams that are available to current ACEs only. The exams are delivered to your desktop via the Web. The tests consist of 30-60 multiple choice questions. Each exam takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes to complete. Results are revealed immediately online after you finish.

STEP 4: Sign the ACE Agreement and join the Adobe Certified community

Review the ACE Agreement prior to taking the exam. You will be asked to agree to the ACE terms and conditions at the time of the exam.

Once you are ACE certified, visit the Adobe Certified community where you can:

- Verify exam results
- Get a copy of the ACE Agreement
- Download your Adobe Certified logo
- Find out about recertification
- Connect with other Adobe certificants
- Update your profile

Note: Information about the Adobe Certified Community is also printed on your score report.

Recertify when necessary

Once obtained, your ACE certification is valid until 90 days after the exam version of your certification is retired. Adobe will e-mail you a reminder when your certification is due for renewal and will let you know when you need to take the recertification exam.

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ACE EXAM TOPIC AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

ACE Exam Content: Topic Areas and Objectives

Following is a detailed outline of the information covered on the ACE Exam.

1. Using and configuring Workspaces

- Given a scenario, configure a workspace.
- Create, load, and reset a workspace.
- Given a panel, describe the functionality and options associated with the panel.
- Given a tool on the Tools panel, explain the purpose of the tool.
- Given a composition preview option, describe how to use that option.

2. Preparing projects and importing footage

- Given an option from the Project Settings dialog box, list and describe the purpose of the option.
- Given a menu option in the Preference dialog box, list and describe the purpose of the option.
- List and describe the process and options available for previewing compositions, projects, and footage.
- List and describe the functionality provided for importing files from other Adobe applications or other supported file types.
- Discuss issues and prepare motion footage for import.
- Discuss issues and explain how to use interlaced video in a project.

3. Building 2D compositions

- Given an option from the Composition Settings dialog box, list and describe the purpose of the option.
- Describe the purpose and explain how to use options in the Timeline.
- Explain advantages of and when you would use pre-compose.
- Given a scenario, create a 2D composition.

4. Working with layers in the Timeline

- Given a scenario, create a layer and explain when you would use that type of layer.
- Given a layer switches and transfer controls in Timeline panel, explain the purpose of the layer switch or transfer control.
- Animate layers by using parent layers.
- Identify options and define procedures for using the Time Stretch, Time Remapping, and Posterize Time commands in Adobe After Effects.

ACE EXAM TOPIC AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

5. Animating and keyframing layers

- Given a type of keyframe interpolation, explain when you would use that type of interpolation.
- Describe procedures related to working with keyframes.
- List and describe the advantages of using the Graph Editor.
- Given an option in the Graph Editor, describe when you would use that option.
- Describe the functionality of motion paths.
- Explain the features and functionality provided by expressions.
- Save and apply Animation Presets.

6. Working with masks and transparency

- List and describe the options associated with masks.
- Given a scenario, animate a mask.
- Explain how to create track mattes.
- Given a method of creating transparency, explain when to use that method.

7. Creating and animating text

- Explain when to use and options available when working with text layers.
- List and describe the options available for formatting characters and paragraphs by using the Text and Paragraph panels.
- Explain the process and animate text by using text animator groups.
- Apply and adjust text animation presets.

8. Working with effects

- List and describe the options and procedures used to view and apply effects in the Effects & Presets panel.
- Given a control for an effect parameter, explain how to use that control.
- Given an option in the Paint panel, explain the purpose of the option. (Options include: duration, cloning, time offset, source overlay)
- Given a scenario and an effect, explain which effects parameters were used to create the given effect.

9. Building 3D compositions

- Explain how to manage and view 3D layers including configuring and setting multiple views.
- Explain how cameras are used in 3D compositions and configure settings in the Camera Settings dialog box.
- Explain how lights are used in 3D compositions and configure settings in the Light Settings dialog box.
- List and describe the various 3D previewing options and requirements.

10. Using frame blending and motion tracking features

ACE EXAM TOPIC AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

- List and describe the options available for tracking motion by using the Trackers Controls panel.
- Given a Frame Blending mode, explain when you would use that mode.
- Explain when you would use the Time Warp effect versus Frame Blending.

11. Working with Color management and HDR

- Discuss considerations when working with and previewing HDR footage.
- Configure color management options.
- Given an HDR or color management effect, explain the purpose of that effect.

12. Rendering and exporting

- Describe the options for and rendering process in After Effects.
- Given a scenario, configure the appropriate options in the Render Queue panel to render a movie.
- List and describe options for rendering or exporting to specific formats. (formats include: QuickTime, Flash Video, sequences, etc.)
- Describe how to setup and activate network rendering.

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PRACTICE EXAM

Try out these helpful practice questions to get a feel for the types of questions on the ACE exam, but please note that your performance here does not indicate how you'll do on the actual exam. To fully prepare for the exam, closely review the topic areas and objectives in this guide.

1. Discuss issues and prepare motion footage for import.

Which setting in the Interpret Footage dialog box should you choose to import video footage with transparency data stored only on the alpha channel?

- A. Straight - Unmatted
- B. Premultiplied - Matted with Color
- C. Premultiplied - Matted with Color" and "Invert Alpha
- D. Ignore and use the Extract Keying Tool Keyer effect to remove the background

Correct Answer: A

2. Given an option from the Composition Settings dialog box, list and describe the purpose of the option.

Which is an advantage of using the Advanced 3D Plug-in the Composition Settings dialog box?

- A. It uses the GPU to render.
- B. Layers intersect correctly.
- C. It renders faster than standard 3D.
- D. Anti-aliasing can be set to be more accurate

Correct Answer: B

3. Given a scenario, create a layer and explain when you would use that type of layer.

You have four layers in a composition. You want to apply the same photo filter effect to all four layers at the same time.

Which new layer type should you choose?

- A. light
- B. solid
- C. camera
- D. adjustment

Correct Answer: D

4. Identify options and define procedures for using the Time Stretch, Time Remapping, and Posterize Time commands in Adobe After Effects.

You place a 20-second video clip in a 5-second composition. You adjust the in-point of the video clip in a Layer window. You now want to have the video play in slow motion. The part of the clip that is at the start of the composition contains the frames you want to play in slow motion. The Current Time Indicator is in the middle of the composition. You choose Layer > Time Stretch.

Which settings should you choose?

- A. Stretch Factor 50%; Hold in Place: Layer In-point
- B. Stretch Factor 200%; Hold in Place: Layer In-point
- C. Stretch Factor 50%; Hold in Place: Current Frame

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D. Stretch Factor 200%; Hold in Place: Current Frame

Correct Answer: B

5. Given a type of keyframe interpolation, explain when you would use that type of interpolation.

When should you use Roving keyframes?

- A. when you want to create random motion along a motion path
- B. when you want to perfectly align Position, Rotation and Scaling keyframes
- C. when you want to create smooth movement across several keyframes at once
- D. when you want your layer to have perfectly smooth curves as it moves along the motion path

Correct Answer: C

6. Given a method of creating transparency, explain when to use that method.

You have imported stock footage of smoke shot against a black background. You want to make the black transparent and the smoke opaque.

Which blending mode should you use?

- A. Darken
- B. Multiply
- C. Lighten
- D. Screen

Correct Answer: D

7. Given a control for an effect parameter, explain how to use that control.

In the Wave World effect, raising the Ground Height value _____.

- A. speeds up the waves
- B. slows down the waves
- C. increases the height of the waves
- D. decreases the height of the waves

Correct Answer: B

8. List and describe the options available for tracking motion by using the Trackers Controls panel.

You have footage of a large, dark colored bird flying against a light blue sky. You want to remove camera shake caused by hand-holding the camera at an extreme zoom. The bird's size stays relatively constant. You use the Animation > Stabilize Motion command on the layer containing the video.

- A. Position and Scale selected, Rotation unselected; Channel: RGB
- B. Position and Rotation selected, Scale unselected; Channel: Saturation
- C. Position selected, Rotation and Scale unselected; Channel: Luminance
- D. Rotation selected, Position and Scale unselected; Channel: Luminance

Correct Answer: C

PRACTICE EXAM

9. Explain how to manage and view 3D layers including configuring and setting multiple views.

What is the result of placing a 2D layer between two 3D layers in the timeline stack order?

- A. The 2D layer will be visible behind all 3D layers.
- B. Any 3D layer with a position value greater than $Z=0$ will be hidden behind the 2D layer.
- C. The bottom 3D layers will be hidden behind any non-transparent areas of the 2D layer.
- D. The bottom 3D layer will be hidden behind the 2D layer when it has a value of less than $Z=0$

Correct Answer: C

10. Given a scenario, configure the appropriate options in the Render Queue panel to render a movie.

You are asked to deliver a QuickTime render of simple animated white text over a black background, which will be used in a final edit.

Which compression format should you choose for final delivery to ensure the highest quality without the largest file size?

- A. Video
- B. Sorenson
- C. Animation
- D. Motion JPEG

Correct Answer: C

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