



CERTIFIED
Chart **Watcher**

Certification Study Guide

StockCharts.com

Introduction

Welcome to the Study Guide for the Certified ChartWatcher Exam. Thank you for your interest in becoming a Certified ChartWatcher. We strongly believe that the real value of this exam is the motivation it gives you to become a more knowledgeable technical investor. As part of that process, we've created this Study Guide to help guide your research prior to taking the exam.

Exam Prerequisites

Membership

In order to pass this exam, you will need to be a StockCharts.com member. While free users get a lot of value from our website, they do not have access to all of the tools that the exam covers.

Computer / Web Browser

The exam is given online which means that you'll need to have a computer with a standard web browser in order to take it. In addition, the exam is "open book" which means that you can search StockCharts.com for the answer to a question while you are taking the exam (yes!) however that will require that you know how to use multiple browser windows at the same time.

Exam Time

The exam consists of 60 questions randomly selected from a pool of over 500 questions. You should try to set aside about an hour to complete the exam.

Study Time

You should spend some time – 2 to 3 hours is suggested - looking around the website and studying all of the tools that we have. The rest of this Study Guide should help direct that effort.

General Resources

There are several key resources that you'll probably use while studying for the exam. In general, these resources can help you find answers to your questions quickly. When in doubt, the first thing to do is to consult these resources.

Searching StockCharts

The "Search" box on our homepage is an extremely valuable tool for finding answers to the exam's questions. To use it, simply go to our homepage and type in the question or topic you are researching. If that

search doesn't work, try typing in a similar topic and see if that helps.

One of the most important things to remember when taking the exam is to **always** search for the most significant keyword in each question – even if you think you know the answer. For example, if the question was “What is the name of our annual conference?”, you should enter the word “conference” into the Search box on our homepage and look at the results before answering.

Search results are split up into several categories which can help you narrow down the results and point you to the exact article/video/blog/etc that you need. By default "All" is chosen however you can click on any of the other categories at the top of the results to narrow down your focus.

Please note that below the search results for StockCharts.com, we also include search results from "Technical Analysis of Stocks & Commodities" magazine. You should not need to read any TASC articles in order to pass the certification exam however we encourage you to browse those articles whenever you have time - they are a wonderful resource.

Videos

We have an extensive collection of educational videos that cover many of the topics in the exam. We think it is worthwhile for you to review all of the videos in our library. Here is a direct link to those videos:
<http://stockcharts.com/videos>

ChartSchool

Our ChartSchool area contains a huge collection of articles on Technical Analysis topics and is a great resource to study when preparing for the exam. The good news is that you don't need to read every ChartSchool article before taking the exam (pewh!). Instead, you'll probably want to spend some time learning how ChartSchool is organized and how you can use the Search box to find the best ChartSchool articles for whatever topic you need.

Later in this Study Guide, we will recommend some specific ChartSchool articles for you to review.

Blog Articles

Our Blog area also contains a large collection of articles on both Technical Analysis and on the history of the website. We publish more than 10 different blogs under our "Blogs" tab. Some of them are much more relevant to the questions on the exam than others. Again, the

"Search" box on our homepage can help you cut through the clutter and find exactly what you need. And, again, later on in this guide, we will have some recommendations for specific blog articles that are worth reviewing before taking the exam.

Bookstore

Many people prefer reading physical books instead of computer screens and for that reason we created our online bookstore where you can purchase books about charting and technical analysis often at a large discount. While it is not required that you read any specific books in order to pass the certification exam, there are many books that could help you become a better investor.

If you are new to technical investing, check out our low priced book bundles for suggestions: <http://store.stockcharts.com/collections/bundles>

Our Support KnowledgeBase Area

Underneath the "Support" tab you'll find links on the right side of the page to our "KnowledgeBase." Those are the links to our official documentation, our FAQs and our site policies. These articles are definitely worth studying before taking the exam.

Customer Support Requests - Off Limits

Unlike all of the areas listed above, there is one section of our website that is off-limits to you while you are taking the exam - asking our Customer Support team for the answers. Hopefully the reasons of that limitation are obvious.

One of the goals of the Certification process is to help you become more self-sufficient with your use of the web site. Taking the time to search for and find the answers on your own will greatly increase your ability to use StockCharts successfully in the future.

Study Topics

Technical Analysis Basics

The exam does contain lots of questions about the basics of Technical Analysis. What is it? What makes it different from other forms of financial analysis? What assumptions does it make? What tools does it use? What are the common sub-categories of technical analysis? What are the common terms that technicians use? etc.

Much of that information can be found in the "Overview" section of ChartSchool. Click on the "ChartSchool" tab and then click on the first

link - "Overview of Financial Analysis." We recommend reviewing all of the articles in that section before taking the exam.

Chart Types

StockCharts supports many different kinds of technical charts. The exam contains basic questions about each different kind of chart. It is worth taking time to read all of the articles in the second section of ChartSchool - the second titled "Charts and Chart Analysis Methods."

Technical Indicators and Overlays

The exam has questions about several of the basic, commonly used technical indicators on our website including MACD, RSI, Chaikin Money Flow, On Balance Volume, ADX/DMI and Stochastics. It also looks at technical overlays including Moving Averages, Bollinger Bands, Cloud Charts and Volume by Price.

It is worth spending some time reviewing the articles in the "Technical Indicators and Overlays" section of ChartSchool. While you won't need to know how each indicator is calculated, you will need to know how it is used and interpreted.

StockCharts.com Site Organization

The exam has questions about the names of the different areas and the different tools on our website. Make sure you review the information on the "Free Charts" page as well as the "Site Map" page for help with these kind of questions.

Subscription Levels and Features

The exam covers the differences between the different service levels that we offer including the differences between BATS real-time data and "Official" real-time data. For details, please see <http://stockcharts.com/sales/features.html>

SharpCharts Workbench

The exam covers all of the features of the SharpCharts workbench including all of the settings on the page and what each one does. In addition, the exam covers questions about creating overlapping charts, performance charts, and relative strength charts.

Point & Figure Charts

While the details of P&F chart construction are not included on the exam, the basics of P&F chart interpretation are included. It is also important to be familiar with all of the controls and settings on the P&F Charting Workbench.

The Scan Workbenches

The Standard Scan Workbench is not covered on the exam (we are moving away from it). The exam has questions about the Advanced Scan Syntax format, ANDs vs. ORs, the special situation with OR clauses which require them to have additional square brackets, the methods for commenting out Advanced Scan clauses, and techniques to use if your scan returns 0 results or 999 results.

Market Breadth Indicators

Familiarity with the VIX, the Advance-Dcline Lines, the Bullish Percent Indexes, our SCTR, the McClellan Summation Index, and the Arms Index (\$TRIN) will be helpful.