

TEST PREPARATION STRATEGIES – Forming a Study Group



Working with a study group is an effective strategy to prepare for the CELBAN. Studying together is more efficient than studying alone. Group members can share their skills, resources, ideas, and knowledge. They can support and motivate each other. Most of all, it makes learning more enjoyable.

Who

- Limit the group to 4–6 members. Smaller groups can get distracted, and larger groups are hard to manage.
- Choose participants who share a common goal and the same work ethic.

When

- Establish a meeting agenda. Meet on a scheduled day and time, or set up the next date at the end of each session.

Where

- Find a place without distractions where group members can communicate freely.

How

- Exchange contact details, or set up a Facebook or Google group.
- Designate a group leader who will send a reminder and lead the discussion for each session.
- Agree on a process to decide study topics each week.
- Be ready to do prep work for each meeting.

Reasons to study with peers

- Share talents and learn from each other
- Take advantage of each person's strength
- Understand different perspectives
- Improve/develop study skills
- Share the workload
- Support and motivate each other
- Minimize test anxiety
- Make studying more enjoyable
- Prepare for the work world

Guiding Principles

- **Expectations** Create clear objectives and goals for your group. Come prepared for each session.
- **Equal contribution** Clearly establish that all group members contribute and participate equally.
- **Mutual respect** Respect different viewpoints. Feel free to disagree, but do so respectfully.
- **Commitment** Follow through with your responsibilities to the group.

