

I am vehemently opposed to this proposal. The role of the syllabus and examination is to equip new amateurs with the abilities they need for basic competence in all popular and useful modes. That ability for CW is Morse code. If the argument advanced by the petitioner is correct, then similarly those who do not wish to use phone should not be required to demonstrate proficiency in phone operating procedures or the phonetic alphabet. And generalizing from modes to other aspects of amateur radio, those who do not wish to build or maintain their own equipment should not be required to demonstrate proficiency in basic electronics. Those who do not wish to operate DX should not be required to demonstrate proficiency in the theory of propagation. And so on. If taken seriously this position would result in a syllabus where all components were optional, which would be ridiculous and impossible to administer.

Amateur skills and proficiency must be tested on as a whole, and not dissected to suit individual wants and wishes. What the petitioner is suggesting is Chinese restaurant menu amateur radio. "I'll take two items from column A and three items from column B please". I'm sorry, but this can never work.

Respectfully Yours,

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