FROM *PASS THE PAT: FIRST TRY*

The Target Table

Target = (course rating × 2, decimal dropped) + 15. Budget = target minus par for 36 holes, which is the number of bogeys you can make without a birdie and still pass. The Associate line is the 18-hole score that qualifies you for a Working Associate; a half-pass under the combination rule requires each 18-hole score to be at or under the 18-hole target. Confirm the target on the board at check-in; the examiner's number is the one that counts.

Course rating	36-hole target	Per round	Budget, par 72	Budget, par 71	Budget, par 70	Associate line (18)
67.0 – 67.4	149	74.5	5	7	9	79
67.5 – 67.9	150	75	6	8	10	80
68.0 – 68.4	151	75.5	7	9	11	80
68.5 – 68.9	152	76	8	10	12	81
69.0 – 69.4	153	76.5	9	11	13	81
69.5 – 69.9	154	77	10	12	14	82
70.0 – 70.4	155	77.5	11	13	15	82
70.5 – 70.9	156	78	12	14	16	83
71.0 – 71.4	157	78.5	13	15	17	83
71.5 – 71.9	158	79	14	16	18	84
72.0 – 72.4	159	79.5	15	17	19	84
72.5 – 72.9	160	80	16	18	20	85
73.0 – 73.4	161	80.5	17	19	21	85
73.5 – 73.9	162	81	18	20	22	86

Course rating	36-hole target	Per round	Budget, par 72	Budget, par 71	Budget, par 70	Associate line (18)
74.0 – 74.4	163	81.5	19	21	23	86
74.5 – 74.9	164	82	20	22	24	87
75.0 – 75.4	165	82.5	21	23	25	87
75.5 – 75.9	166	83	22	24	26	88

Write yours here.

Course and tees	
Rating (host pro confirmed)	
Rating × 2, decimal dropped	
36-hole target (+15)	
Par for 36 holes	
Bogey budget (target minus par)	
Per-round target	

FROM *PASS THE PAT: FIRST TRY*

The Test-Day Checklist

Copy it or tear it out. Go down it the night before and again the morning of. Nothing on it is optional, and nothing on it is new; everything here was rehearsed on a practice 36.

The cooler

☐ 6–10 bottles of water, two frozen

☐ 4–6 electrolyte packets (Liquid I.V. or equivalent)

☐ 8 beef sticks or a bag of jerky

☐ A bag of nuts

☐ 2 bananas

☐ 2 real snacks with slow carbs (sandwich halves, wraps)

☐ Lunch. Your own. Don’t count on the course’s

☐ A towel to wet, and ice in the cooler if it’s hot

☐ Anything you take on a schedule, with the schedule written down

☐ Nothing new. Not one thing you haven’t eaten or drunk on a practice 36

The night before

☐ Bag packed: 9 balls, 2 gloves, tees, marker, divot tool, pencil, sunscreen, towel, rain gear

☐ Fourteen clubs, counted

☐ Rangefinder: slope OFF, and you know how to show it

☐ Yardage book and greens book in the bag

☐ Clothes laid out and checked against the dress code: slacks, collared shirt; a full change for the turn (shirt, slacks, socks, underwear, glove)

☐ ID in the pocket of tomorrow's slacks

☐ Tee time and starting hole confirmed; drive time known, plus 30 minutes

☐ Yardage book read through once

☐ Alarm set for 2½ hours before the tee time

☐ Phone silent, in another room

☐ Water through the evening, electrolytes in one glass; dinner with protein, no alcohol

The morning of

☐ Up on the alarm; water before coffee

☐ Breakfast at a table, two hours before the tee: protein, slow carbs, nothing sugary

☐ Leave with 30 minutes of margin; drive the speed limit

☐ Arrive 50–60 minutes early; one minute in the car

☐ Check in: ID, hard card, local rules sheet read, target confirmed on the board, scorecards, cart

☐ Stretch, 5 minutes

☐ Range, 30 balls, 12 minutes, in order

☐ Putting green, 10 minutes: speed, six-footers, two long ones

☐ Phone in the bag, silent

☐ At the tee 10 minutes early

☐ Book open to hole 1

At the turn

☐ Change clothes, all of them

☐ Eat your own lunch, slowly; drink a full bottle with electrolytes

☐ Restart time confirmed with the examiner; alarm set

☐ Five putts for speed before the restart, nothing else

☐ Afternoon targets in the book: one club short, miss side noted

PASS THE PAT: FIRST TRY

The rest of the plan

These two pages are Appendices A and B of *Pass the PAT: First Try*, a course-management playbook for the PGA Playing Ability Test by Shaun Colquhoun. The book is the other 180 pages: why good players fail, how to build a bogey game, the six-week calendar, fuel and the afternoon body, and the rules that cost strokes.

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