

PreGISP® Exam Preparation Checklist



Step 1: Understand the Exam

- Download and review the PreGISP® Exam Blueprint from GISCI.org.
- Note the 11 Knowledge Areas and their weight in the exam.
- Understand the PreGISP® is software-neutral – concepts matter more than specific software tools.
- Review the purpose: it measures foundational geospatial knowledge for early-career professionals.

Step 2: Self-Assessment

List your education, training, and experience for each Knowledge Area. Mark your confidence level:

Strong – Confident and current

Moderate – Understand basic concepts but need review

Weak – Need deeper study or practice

Step 3: Review Each Knowledge Area

#	Knowledge Area	Weight	Self-Assessment	Focus Tasks
1	Analytical Methods & GeoComputation	~18%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Review spatial analysis types, overlay, buffering, interpolation, network analysis, and automation concepts.
2	Conceptual Foundations	~14%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Study coordinate systems, projections, spatial relationships, topology, and geodesy fundamentals.
3	Data Modeling	~12%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Understand vector vs raster, data models, schemas, normalization, and geodatabase design.
4	Geospatial Data	~11%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Learn data collection methods, accuracy/precision, metadata, quality control, and data integration.
5	Cartography & Visualization	~10%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Review map design, symbolization, color theory, scale, generalization, and effective communication.
6	GIS Design & Data Management	~8%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Understand project planning, system design, workflows, and data maintenance practices.
7	Geospatial Technology Integration	~8%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Study web mapping, APIs, mobile GIS, sensors, cloud infrastructure, and interoperability standards.

#	Knowledge Area	Weight	Self-Assessment	Focus Tasks
8	Programming & Application Development	~6%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Review scripting (Python, SQL basics), automation, and software customization principles.
9	Remote Sensing & Image Processing	~6%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Understand raster concepts, classification, resolution, sensors, and imagery interpretation.
10	GIS & Society	~3%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Study ethical use of geospatial data, privacy, and equity in mapping.
11	Web-based GIS	~2%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Review online mapping principles, web services (WMS/WFS), and visualization delivery.

Step 4: Build Your Study Plan

Prioritize high-weight areas and weakest knowledge areas first.

Schedule study blocks (e.g., 3–5 hours per week).

Gather materials (textbooks, online courses, videos, and open-source tutorials).

Use project-based learning – apply each concept in a small example project.

Step 5: Reinforce Learning

Create or find practice questions and quizzes online.

Join a study group or forum to discuss concepts.

Explain concepts aloud – teaching helps retention.

Review the Blueprint again two weeks before your exam to confirm you've covered each area.

Step 6: Exam Readiness Check

Review exam logistics (testing provider, ID requirements, timing).

Practice time management – complete 10–15 sample questions in timed conditions.

Confirm you can explain:

- How coordinate systems differ.
- How to assess data quality.
- What makes a good map.
- How to select spatial analysis methods.

Plan your final study day (light review, rest, hydration).

Step 7: After the Exam

Reflect on your preparation and results.

Identify areas to strengthen before pursuing the GISP® certification.

Document your experience and learning – it can be used toward GISP® points later.