Dear CST Examinee:

Below are some recommendations for how to use the Modular Education Program (MEP) to prepare for the CST exam.

The Knowledge Base articles are meant as background information. The questions on the exam are more practical than those found in the MEP, however, competency in answering the questions in is a good indicator of your preparation. Pay attention to how the treatment technologies operate, what happens in their cleaning cycles, etc.

When reading the Knowledge Base articles and MEP, focus on:
1. Preparation steps for troubleshooting different technologies
2. Diagnosing odors, staining, cloudy water, leaks
3. Causes of common problems and solutions with aeration, backwashing filters, ion exchange, oxidation/filtration, cartridge filters, RO, re-pressurization pumps, well pumps, chemical injection feeds, ultrafiltration, UV)
4. Reasons for pre-treatment
5. How to isolate issues in treatment trains
6. Issues related to improper sizing
7. Installation practices and materials
8. Safety

Be sure to look over Ethics and Legal Considerations Fundamentals. The exam has a few questions related to ethics and legal issues and as a WQA-certified professional, you are expected to adhere to the WQA Code of Ethics.

Overall, the MEP and Knowledge Base are for your reference both in preparation for the exam and for questions you may encounter in the field.

Sincerely,

Tanya Lubner, PhD
Director of Professional Certification & Training
Water Quality Association