

## GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE PART 1 EXAMINATION

### Features of the Examination

The ABA Part 1 Examination (formerly the Written Examination) will be administered by computer through the Pearson VUE network. Please note the following:

**Test Dates:** The ABA Part 1 Examination will be administered in early August. Candidates will register to take the examination on one of two dates. Please note that not all test dates for the ABA Part 1 Examination will be available in all areas. You should register for the examination as soon as possible after receiving your notice. This will increase your chances of being scheduled at your preferred test site on your preferred test date.

**Number of Questions:** The ABA Part 1 Examination will consist of 250 questions, of which 225 will be scored. Interspersed at random throughout the exam will be 25 experimental items, which will be evaluated for possible use on future examinations. The experimental items will not appear differently than the actual scored items, and they will never be used in the calculation of a candidate's score on the examination. Experimental items may come from any topics listed in the Content Outline.

**Testing Time:** The examination will be divided into two sections of 125 questions each. You will have 2 hours and 20 minutes to complete each section, with an optional 20 minute break between the two sections.

**Elimination of K-type Questions:** K-type questions will no longer appear on either the ABA Part 1 Examination or the ITE. A K-type question is sometimes referred to as a multiple true-false question in which the examinee must choose one of the following options: a) 1,2,3 only; b) 1,3 only; c) 2,4 only; d) 4 only; e) all are correct.

**Content Outline:** The Content Outline is the same for the ITE and the ABA Part 1 Examination. The Content Outline can be accessed from the ABA Web site by navigating to "Part 1 Examination Documentation" through the "Examinations and Certifications/Anesthesiology/Initial Certification" links. Click on "Part 1 Examination Content Outline."

### Pearson VUE Professional Examination Rules

A document defining the rules and expectations of candidates taking an examination at a Pearson VUE testing center is available from the ABA Web site by navigating to "Part 1 Examination Documentation" through the "Examinations and Certifications/Anesthesiology/Initial Certification" links. Click on "Pearson VUE Professional Examination Rules." All candidates are encouraged to review these rules prior to the examination.

### Examination Tutorial

The tutorial for the ABA Part 1 Exam is available online. The tutorial is strictly optional. Please note that on the day of the exam at the Pearson VUE testing center, there will be a tutorial that will demonstrate the features of the examination. You will have ten minutes prior to the start of the examination to use this tutorial and familiarize yourself with the examination format.

You may access materials for the tutorial from the ABA Web site by navigating to "Examination Tutorial" through the "Examinations and Certifications/Anesthesiology/Initial Certification" links. These materials include the following:

1. A link to downloading the tutorial from Pearson VUE's website.
2. Instructions for downloading the tutorial onto your home computer.
3. The answers to questions from the tutorial.

The tutorial is a program that you must install onto your computer. It is not available for MAC computers. The ABA has tested the program on a number of computers. However, it is possible that you may not be able to install the tutorial onto your computer because of issues unique to your computer, such as space issues or lack of administrator privileges.

The ABA will NOT be able to assist you in installing the tutorial onto your home computer. However, for those who have problems installing the tutorial, the ABA has made the answers and questions from the tutorial available to you as a pdf document (#3 above).

Please note these two important features of the computer program that will deliver your examination:

1. Time: The time left to complete a section of the examination is shown in the upper right hand portion of the computer screen.
2. Navigator: The Navigator button is shown in the bottom right hand portion of the computer screen. Clicking this button will allow you to see what questions you have answered and not answered.

## **Cancelling Your Examination**

Candidates who inform the Board that they are cancelling their examination appointment are charged a cancellation fee and may forfeit the examination opportunity. Notice of cancellation must be in writing and must include a check in the amount of the cancellation fee. Candidates with extenuating circumstances may request that the Board waive the cancellation fee. Documentation of the extenuating circumstances must accompany the request. The cancellation fee for the Part 1 examination is \$200.00.

## **Failure to Appear for the Examination**

If an emergency prevents you from arriving at your examination, you must communicate this to the Board office as soon as possible, along with supporting documentation and a check in the amount of \$200.00 for the cancellation fee. Emergency requests for excused absences, along with all supporting documentation, must be received within three weeks of the administration of the exam. Otherwise, you will forfeit the examination opportunity.

## **Notices**

You are advised that the ABA neither sponsors nor endorses review courses preparatory to its examinations for which a fee is charged. Admission to the ABA examination system and success with ABA examinations are important steps in the ABA certification process; by themselves, however, they do not guarantee ABA certification. After successful completion of examinations for certification, the Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each candidate meets all of the certification criteria, including the ABA requirements for medical licensure, professional standing and independent practice.

## **Restrictions on Medical Licenses**

Please note that candidates for initial certification and ABA diplomates have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the State Medical Board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction's duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. Candidates and diplomates discovered not to have made disclosure may be subject to sanctions on their candidate or diplomate status.

## **Copyright Infringements**

Any copying of questions, including memorizing questions and later reproducing them, constitutes copyright infringement. Examination questions are the sole property of the Joint Council on Anesthesiology Examinations and are not available for review by examinees before or after the examination. Examinees found to have violated the copyright protection by engaging in the above activities, or in some other manner, will be subject to disciplinary actions by the Joint Council and/or the ABA, including disqualification of this examination and from the ABA examination system for a period of time to be determined by the ABA.

The ABA and the Joint Council on Anesthesiology Examinations enforces its copyright of each examination question to the full extent of the law. The security of this examination is vital to the fair grading of the examination and is of paramount importance to the ABA and the Joint Council on Anesthesiology Examinations.

Failure to abide by these rules of conduct during this examination may result in disciplinary actions by the Joint Council on Anesthesiology Examinations or by the American Board of Anesthesiology. Statistical analyses may be used to verify observations or reports of suspected irregularities in conduct.