ASCP BOC
ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION®

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN, PBT(ASCP)

INTERNATIONAL PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN, PBT(ASCP^{i})

EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

EXAMINATION MODEL

The PBT(ASCP) and PBT(ASCP^{i}) certification examination is composed of 80 questions given in a 2 hour time frame. All exam questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. The certification exam is administered using the format of computer adaptive testing (CAT).

With CAT, when a person answers a question correctly, the next test question has a slightly higher level of difficulty. The difficulty level of the questions presented to the examinee continues to increase until a question is answered incorrectly. Then a slightly easier question is presented. In this way, the test is tailored to the individual's ability level.

Each question in the test bank is calibrated for level of difficulty and is classified by content area. The content area aligns with the examination specific content outline. The examinee must answer enough questions correctly to achieve a measure above the pass point in order to successfully pass the certification examination. There is no set number of questions one must answer to pass, nor is there a set percentage one must achieve to pass. If at the end of the exam the examinee's score is above the pass point, then he or she passes the exam.

EXAMINATION SUBTESTS

The PBT certification exam questions encompass the following content areas within Phlebotomy: Circulatory System, Specimen Collection, Specimen Handling, Transport and Processing, Waived and Point-of-Care Testing, Non-Blood Specimens, and Laboratory Operations. Each of these content areas comprises a specific percentage of the overall 80-question exam. The percentages and content areas are described below:

CONTENT AREA	DESCRIPTION	EXAM PERCENTAGE
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	Structure and Function of the Circulatory System, Composition/Function of Blood	**5 – 10%**
SPECIMEN COLLECTION	Processes Related to the Collection of Blood Specimens (Venipuncture and Skin Puncture)	**45 – 50%**
SPECIMEN HANDLING, TRANSPORT, AND PROCESSING	Specimen Types/Suitability, Accessioning, Labeling, Specimen Quality Assessment, Transport and Storage, and Equipment	**15 – 20%**
WAIVED AND POINT-OF-CARE TESTING	Performance/Operation of Rapid Tests: Urinalysis, Hemoglobin and Hematocrit, Coagulation, Glucose, and Kit Tests	**5 – 10%**
NON-BLOOD SPECIMENS	Physiology, Patient Preparation, Patient Collection, and Specimen Processing and Handling	**5 – 10%**
LABORATORY OPERATIONS	Quality Control, Quality Improvement, Interpersonal Relations, Professional Ethics, Regulatory Applications, Safety, Infection Control, Coding/Billing, and Patient Confidentiality	**15 – 20%**

For a more specific overview of the PBT exam, please refer to the **CONTENT OUTLINE** starting on page 2.

EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN
INTERNATIONAL PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

Examination questions, which are related to the subtest areas outlined below, may be both theoretical and/or procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to perform phlebotomy techniques and follow quality assurance protocols.

I. CIRCULATORY SYSTEM (5 – 10%)

A. Structure and Function of the Circulatory System
   1. Heart
   2. Arteries
   3. Veins
   4. Capillaries

B. Composition/Function of Blood
   1. Types of blood (venous, capillary, arterial)
   2. Plasma
   3. Serum
   4. Cellular elements (RBC, WBC, platelets)

C. Terminology

II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION (Venipuncture, Skin Puncture) (45 – 50%)

A. Review and Clarification of Orders
B. Patient Communication (pre & post collection)
C. Patient Identification
D. Patient Assessment/Preparation
E. Site Selection
F. Techniques
G. Common Tests
H. Order of Draw
   1. Venous
   2. Capillary

I. Complications and Considerations (e.g., fainting, edema, hematoma, IV, mastectomy)
J. Equipment (e.g., tubes/anticoagulant, needles, tourniquet, lancets, syringes, vein viewers)
K. Terminology

III. SPECIMEN HANDLING, TRANSPORT, AND PROCESSING (15 – 20%)

A. Specimen Types/Suitability
   1. Routine specimens
   2. Unusual specimen types (e.g., trace metal elements)
   3. Newborn screening
   4. Chain of custody specimens

B. Accessioning
C. Labeling
D. Assess Specimen Quality (e.g., hemolysis, QNS, clotting, incorrect specimen type)
E. Transport and Storage
   1. Temperature
   2. Light
   3. Time
   4. Shipping

F. Equipment (e.g., centrifuge)
G. Terminology

IV. WAIVED AND POINT-OF-CARE TESTING (POCT) (5 – 10%)

A. Urinalysis (e.g., dipstick)
B. Hemoglobin & Hematocrit
C. Coagulation (e.g., PT/INR)
D. Glucose
E. Kit Tests (e.g., Strep screen, rapid flu test, pregnancy test)
F. Performance/Operations
G. Terminology

V. NON-BLOOD SPECIMENS (e.g. Urine, CSF, Breath, Stool, Nasal/Nasopharyngeal) (5 – 10%)

A. Physiology
B. Patient Preparation
C. Patient Collection
D. Processing and Handling
E. Terminology

VI. LABORATORY OPERATIONS (15 – 20%)

A. Quality Control
   1. Techniques
   2. Equipment

B. Quality Improvement
C. Interpersonal Relations (e.g., age-specific communication, Americans with Disabilities Act)
D. Professional Ethics
E. Regulatory Applications (e.g., OSHA, CLSI, CDC, CLIA)

1. Safety
    a. Patient
    b. Personal (e.g., PPE, Standard Precautions)
    c. Equipment
    d. Laboratory/hospital (e.g., fire, chemical)
2. Infection control
    a. Protective equipment (e.g. isolation)
    b. Disposal of contaminated equipment
    c. Hand hygiene
3. Coding/billing
4. Patient confidentiality (e.g., HIPAA)

F. Terminology

Examples provided (as indicated by e.g.) are not limited to those listed.

All Board of Certification examinations use conventional and SI units for results and reference intervals.

END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE

