

***ABA/ASA JOINT COUNCIL ON
IN-TRAINING EXAMINATIONS***

2007 REPORT TO SAAC/AAPD

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2007 JOINT COUNCIL MEMBERS

• ABA

- David Chestnut*
- Douglas Coursin
- Glenn Gravlee
- Jeff Andrews
- Jim Di Nardo
- Cynthia Lien
- Kenneth Tuman*

• ASA

- Arnold Berry*
- John Rowlingson
- Jeffrey Gross (V.C.)
- Roger Mecca
- Charles Otto*
- Patricia Petrozza
- Robert Gaiser

New Joint Council Members

ABA representatives

- John Emhardt
- Steve Hall

ASA representatives

- Jerry Klafra
- Don Martin

Plus

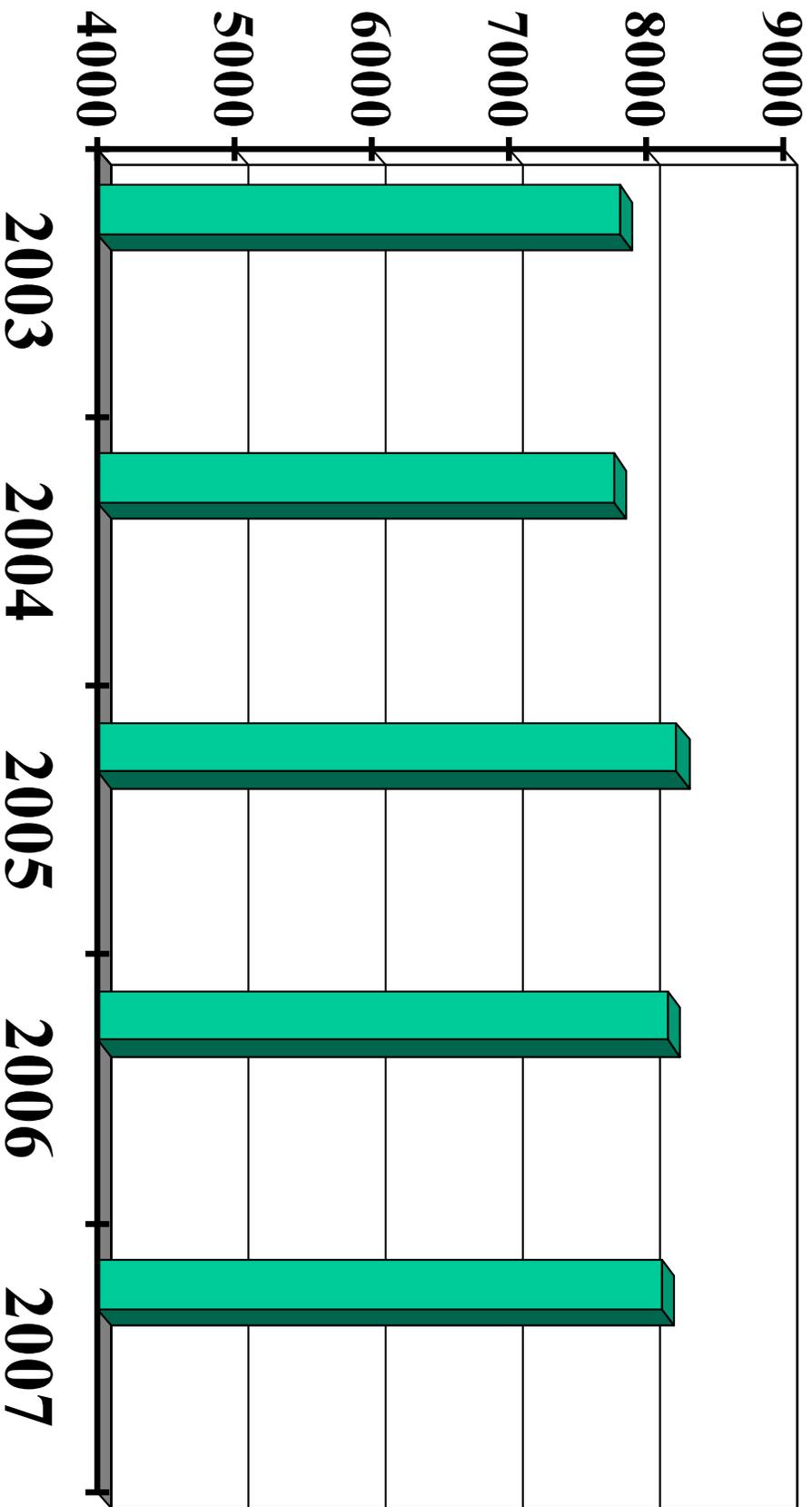
- Approximately 30 senior editors, 20 junior editors
- And 24 new Junior Editors
- PLEASE recognize this as important service activity toward promotion
 - Time consuming
 - Peer reviewed

IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION

- **“3 exams in 1”**
 - In-Training Exam
 - Requalifying Exam
 - ABA Part I Exam
 - Subset of ~300 questions from ITE (350)
 - **2007: last year for a combined ITE and ABA Part I Exam**
 - **BUT: Content and difficulty blueprints will remain as close as possible**

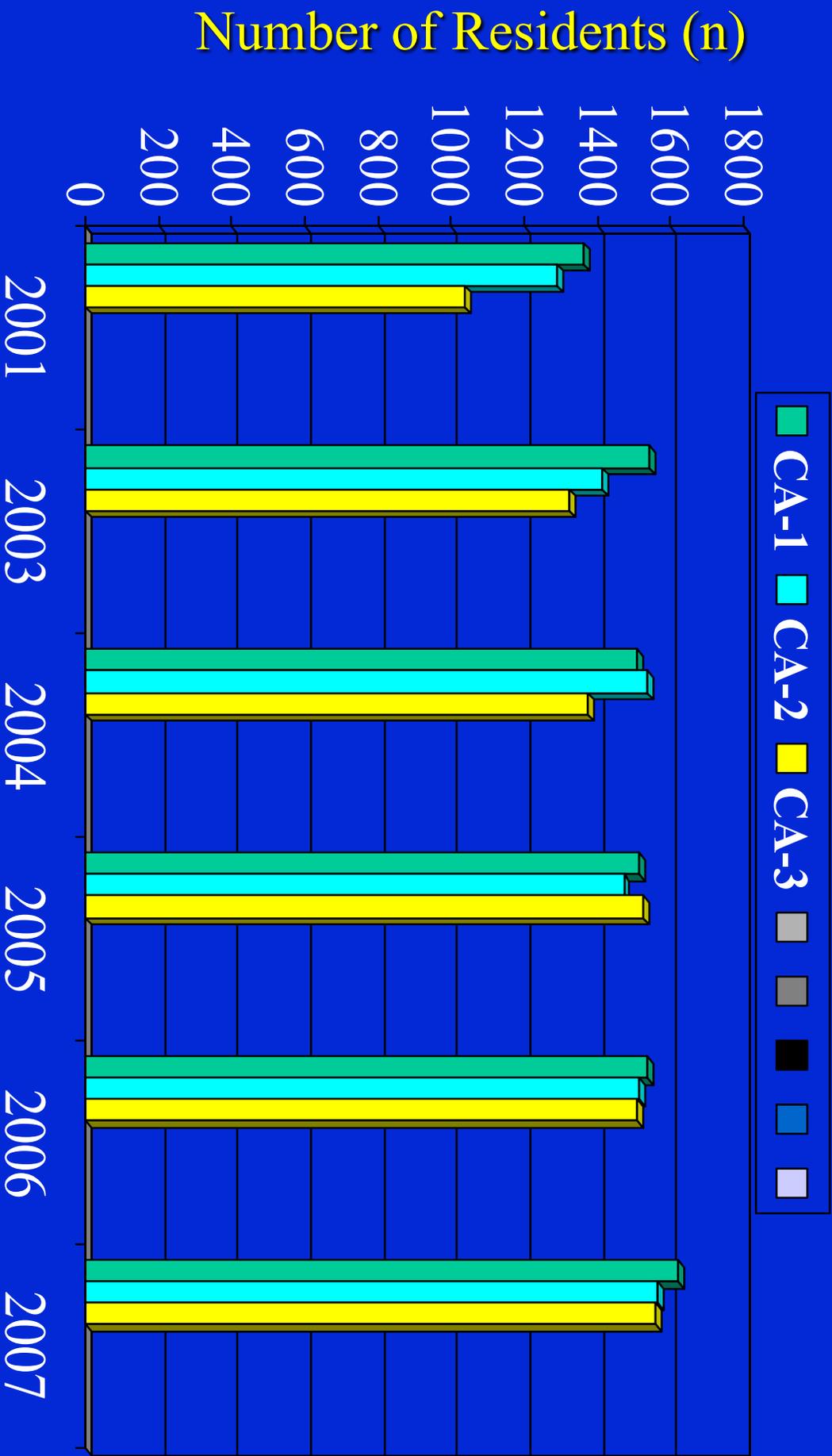
Demographics of In-Training Examinations

Total Number of Examinees

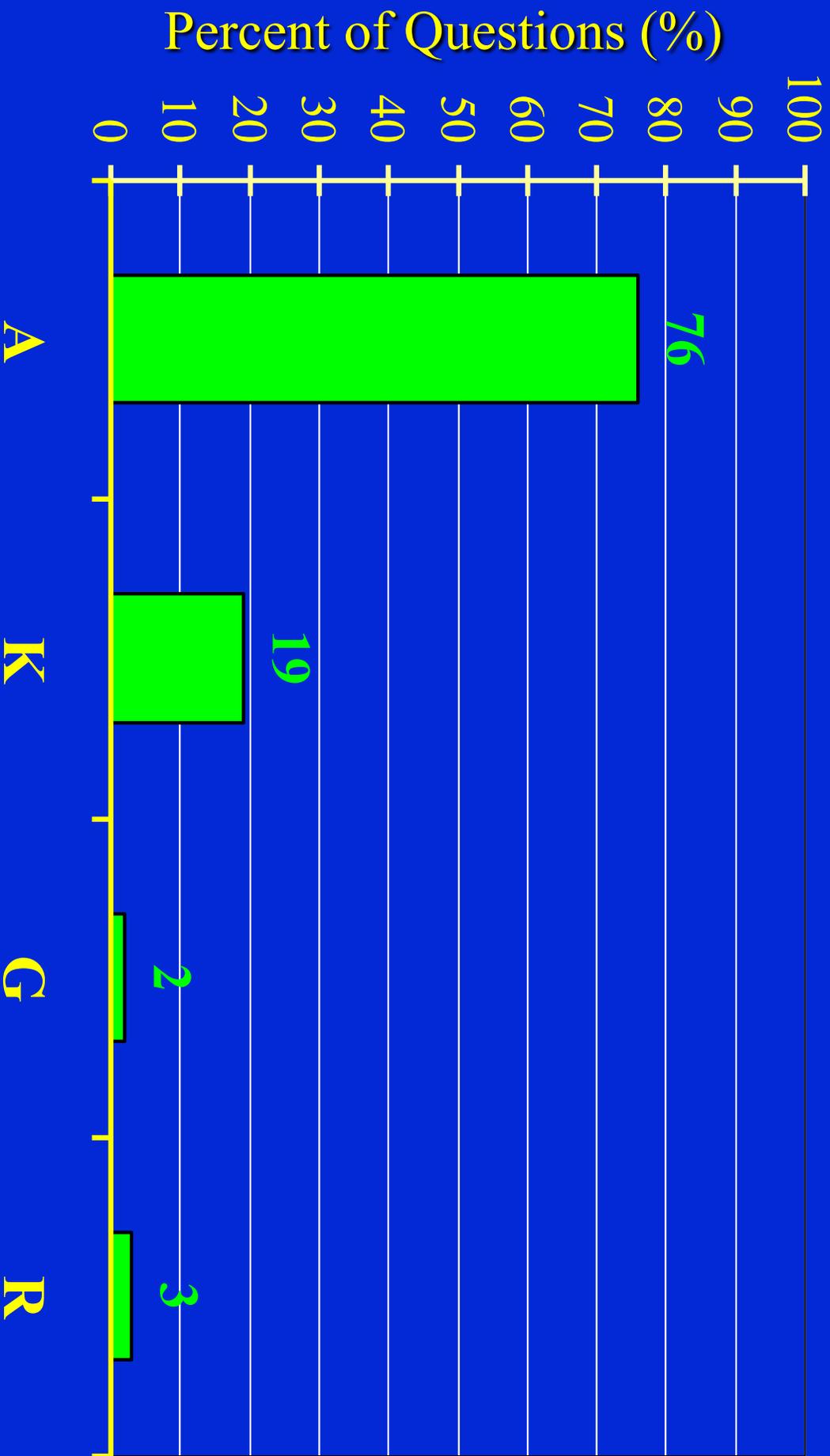


Registrants

DEMOGRAPHICS OF IN-TRAINING EXAMINATIONS



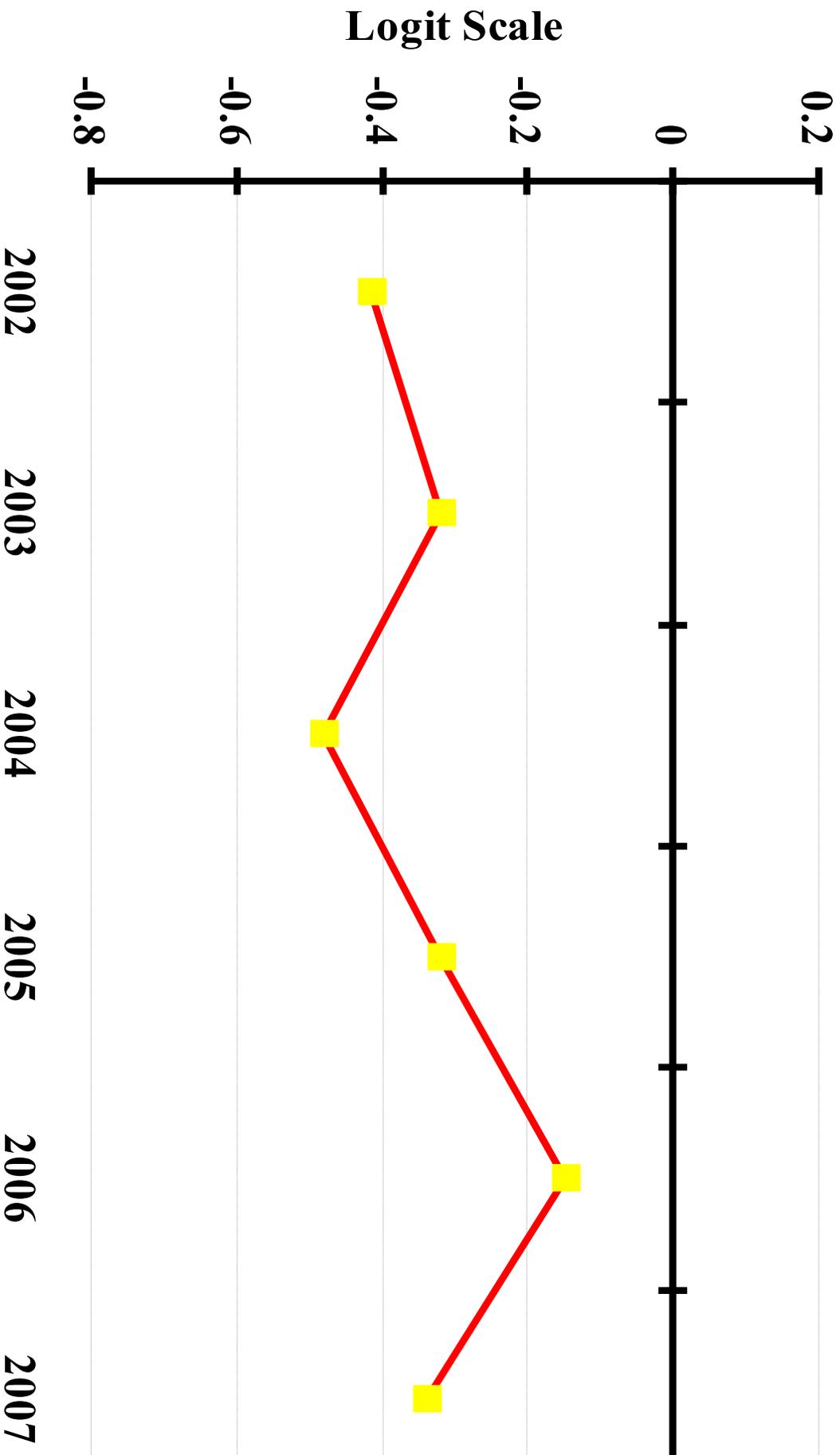
2005 ITTE Question Distribution



Reminder

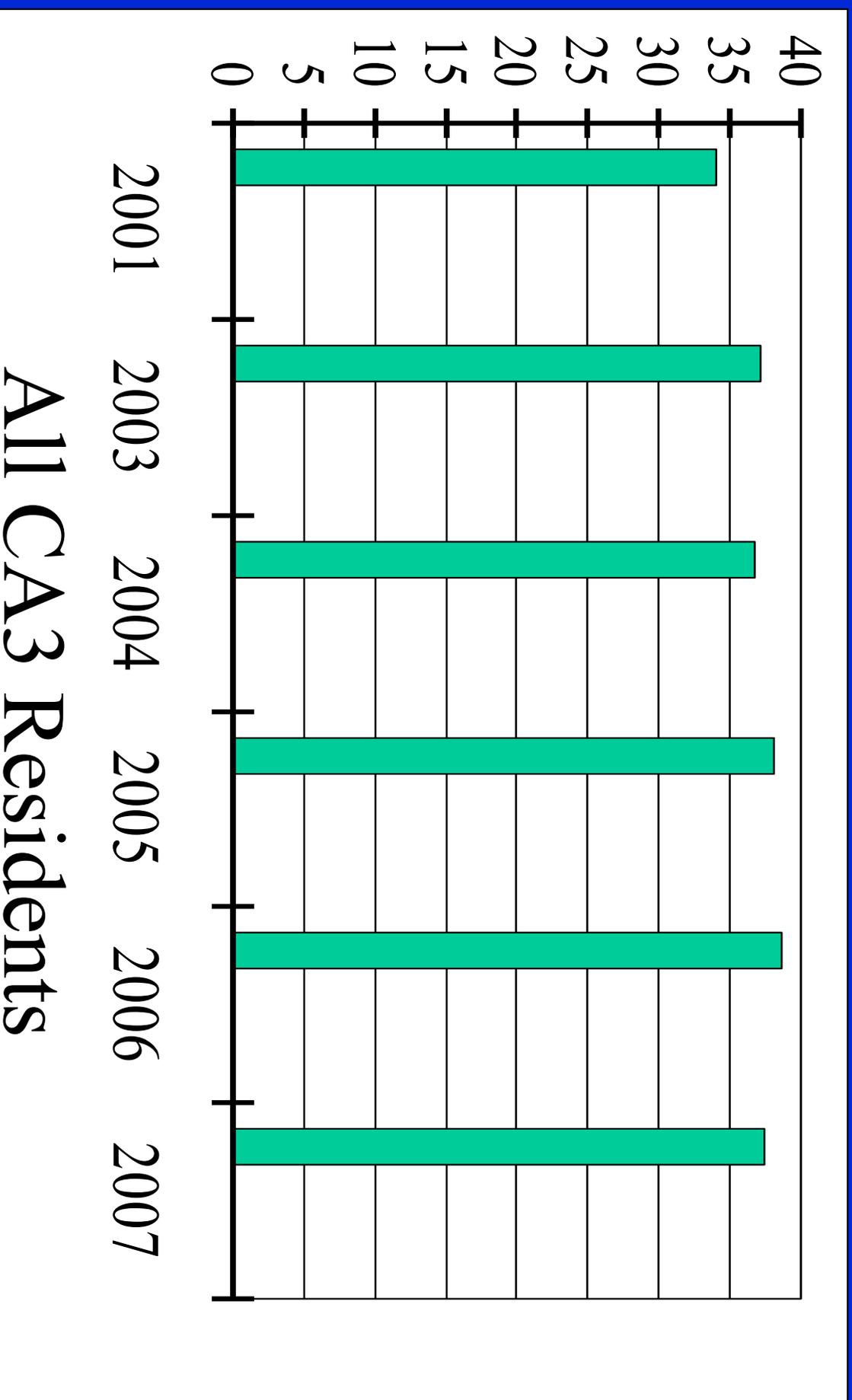
- K-types will not be on the 2008 exams
- A-types, G-types, and (we hope) R-types will remain
- Why abandon K-types?
 - They are not on USMLE
 - They take longer, and the exam will be shorter
 - Concern that candidates' growth in knowledge might partly reflect just learning to take K-types

Exam Difficulty



In-training Exam

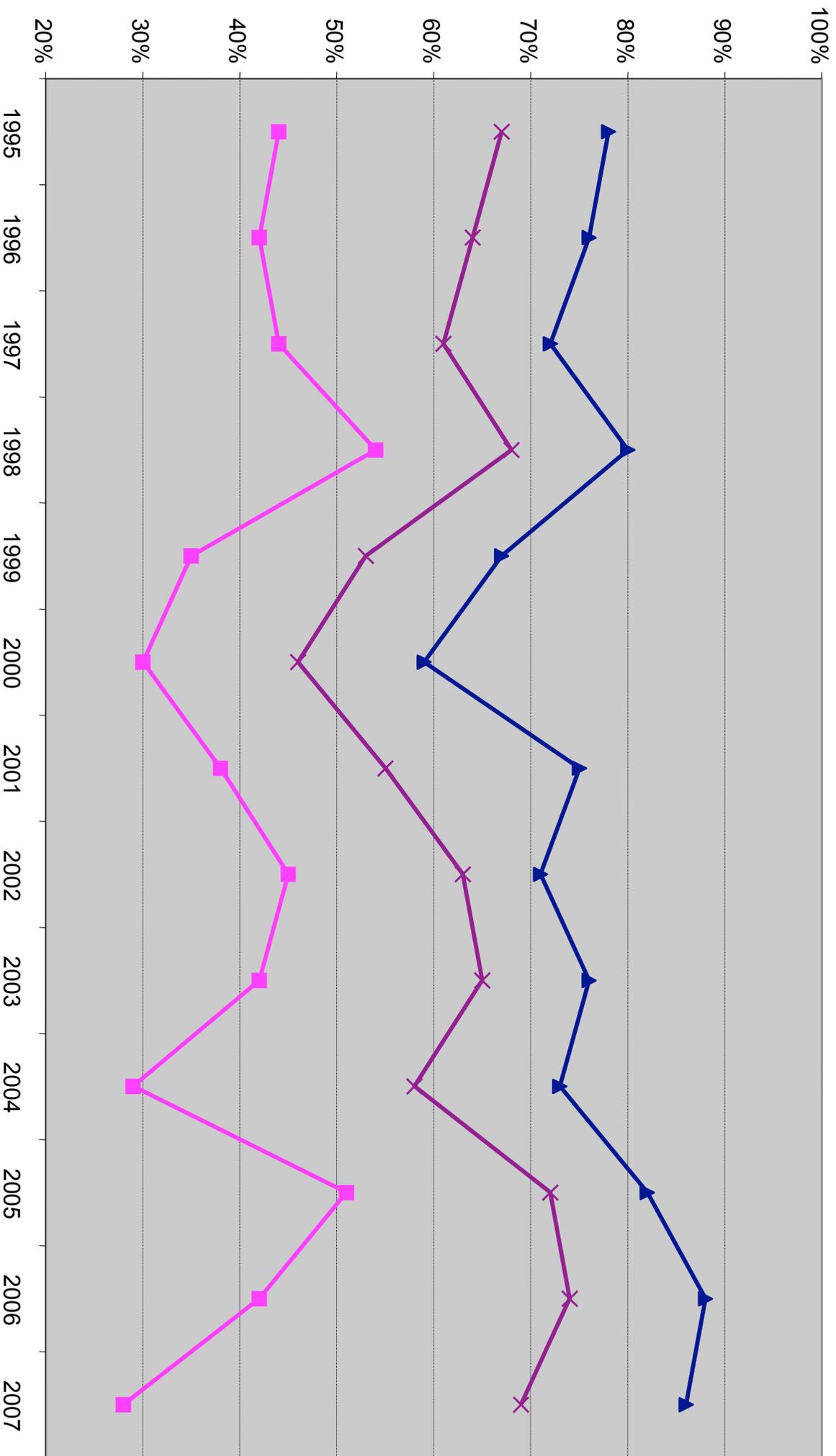
Average Scaled Score



All CA3 Residents

ABA WRITTEN EXAMINATION SUCCESS RATES 1990 - 2007

▲ All First Takers × Total Group ■ All Repeaters



SUBSCORE CATEGORIES

- Anatomy
- Anesthesia Procedures
- Cardiovascular
- Hematology
- Neuroanesthesia
- Obstetric Anesthesia
- Pain
- Pediatric Anesthesia
- Pharmacology
- Physics/Equipment
- Physiology
- Regional Anesthesia
- Respiratory

Subscores

- Provided to the examinees
- NOT provided to the program directors
- This was not our intent
- Looking into feasibility of a program report for CA2s (CA3s will not matter in 2008)
 - (Do you want this?)

Old Exam Release

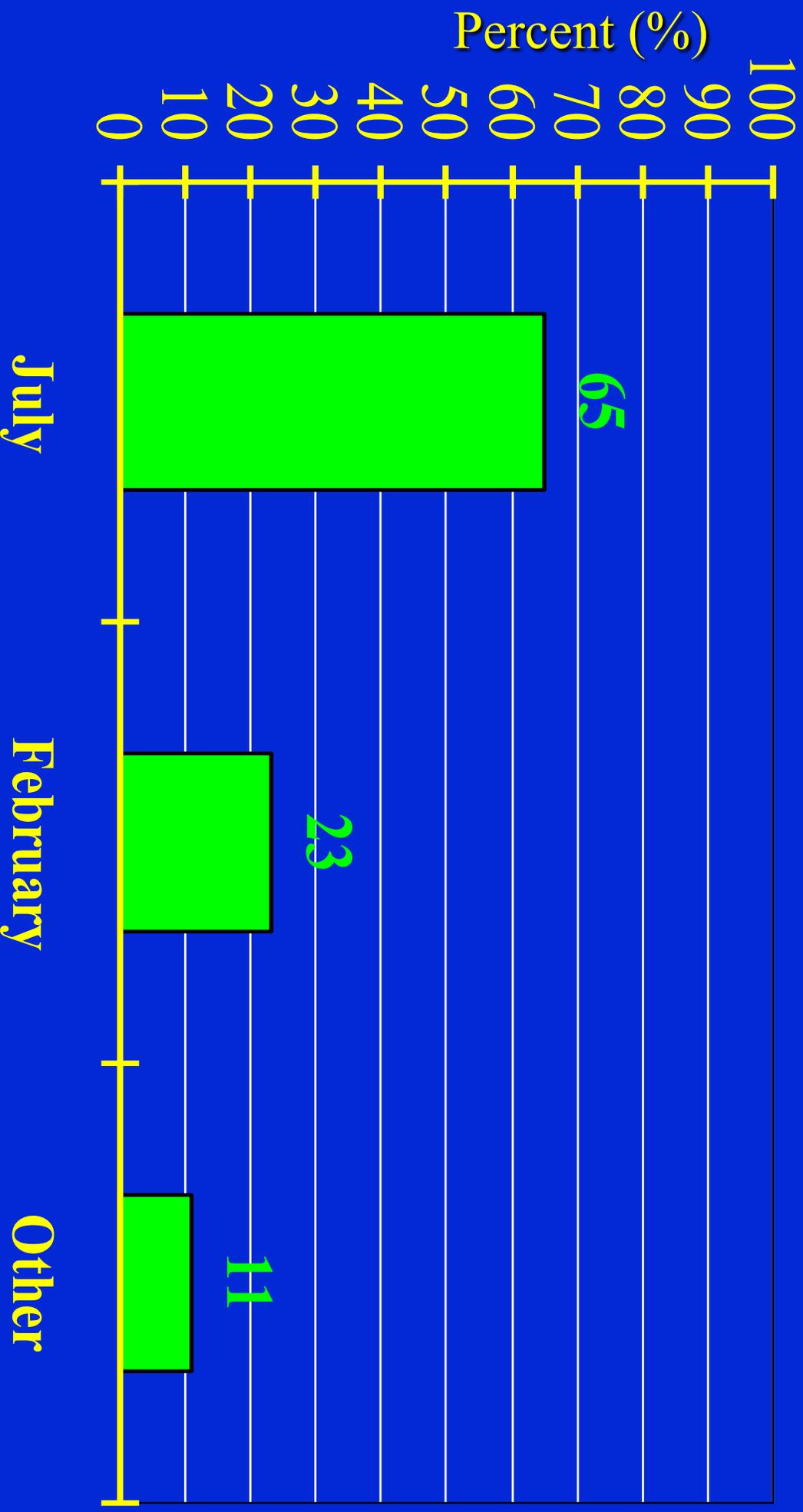
- Historically one per year at a 10 year delay
- Held off in 2005 because of concerns about size of question bank
- Voted in 2006 to release 1995 exam
- Then learned that 2007 exam contained several questions from 1995 exam
- Should release 1995 exam in early 2008

*When do you want to have the
ITFE?*

(A Continuing Saga)

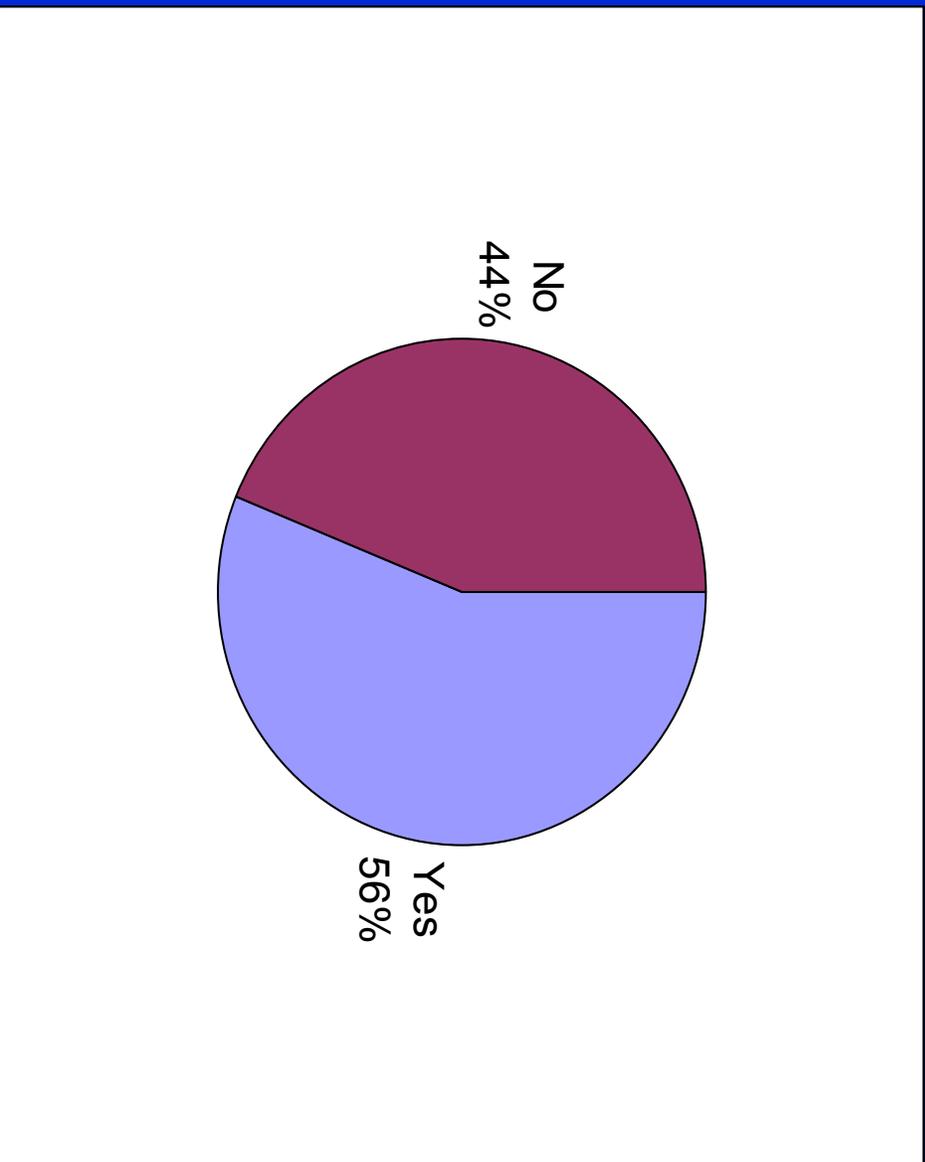
Joint Council 2005 Survey of Residency Programs

Question: Assuming that the In-training Examination will be administered once a year, I would prefer that the exam be given in:



2006

I would (still) prefer to keep the exam in July

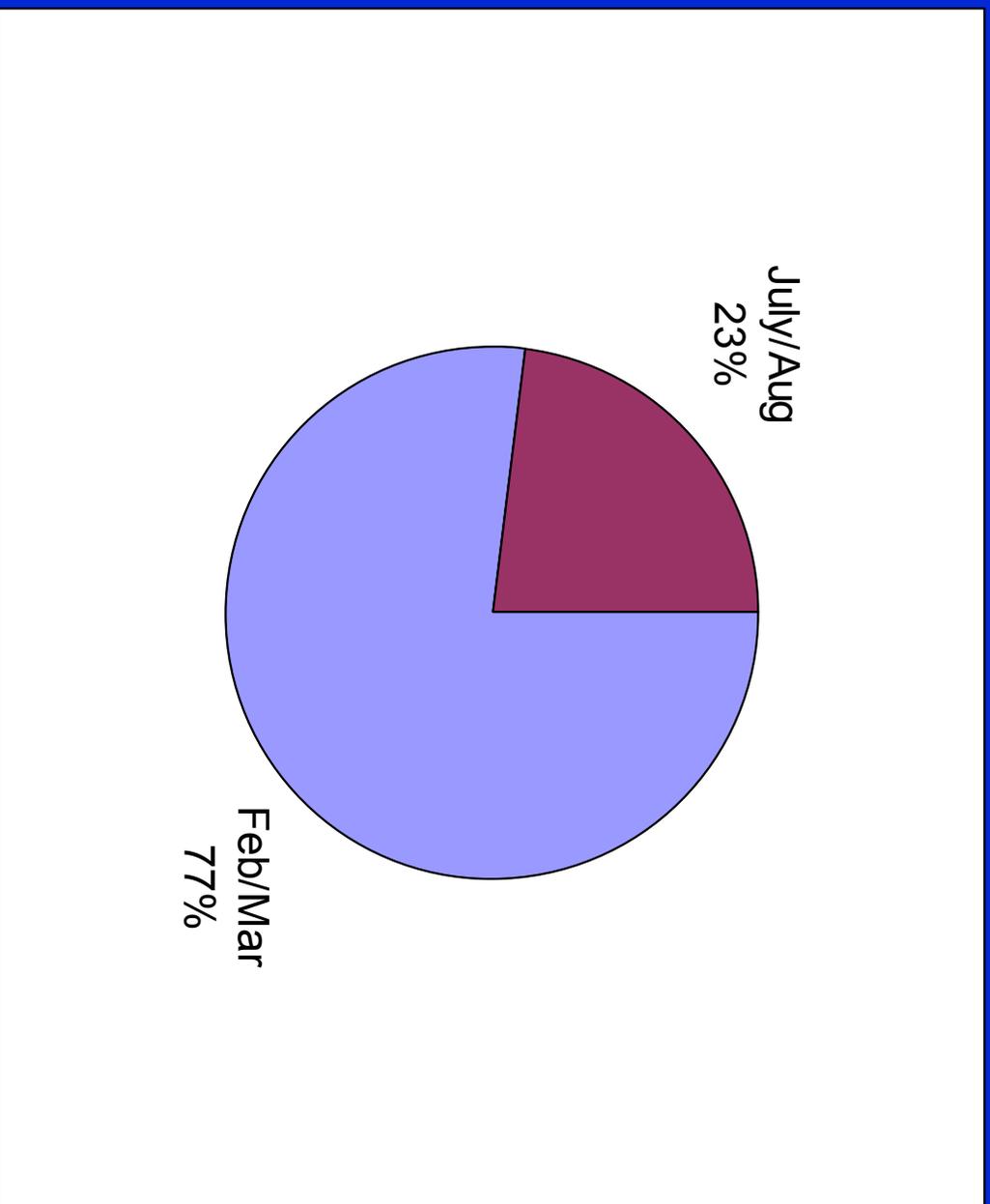


{2006} I thought we would get more votes for Winter/Spring – Why?

- Once it's not simultaneous with ABA Part I exam, giving the ITE sometime between January 1 and April 30
 - Allows CA3s a “practice run” closer to ABA exam
 - Provides a better database for CA0s (CA1 yr)
 - Provides recent knowledge data for 6/30 CCC report - current info is old even for 12/30

2007

***Given the options of July/August or February/
March***



Computerized Exam Conversion

- Target: ABA in 2008, ITE in 2009
- [ABA and ITE can't remain on same day because of exam center capacity issues]
- ABA sooner because of smaller number of candidates
- Eventual goal: more creative uses of graphics, videos; different question types and scenarios

ABA and ITTE Comparability

- Even though they can no longer be the same exam on the same day:
- Question development process will be the same for both exams
- Exam topic distribution will remain the same
- Most ITTE questions will be previous ABA questions

Joint Council 2005 Survey of Residency Programs

The ideal way to deliver the In-training examination to residents is via:

- A. Printed test books – 27%
- B. Computer at a commercial computer-based testing center – 21%
- C. Internet to secure, proctored centers, which may be at the training institution – 45%
- D. Both B & C – 2%
- E. No answer – 5%

[2006] CBT ITTE Administration Models

- Could use high-tech high-security centers like ABA Part I, but EXPENSIVE
- Or – lower-tech centers at a lower cost
- ~~Or – download to departments, administer yourselves with standards/guidelines from Joint Council~~
- ~~Mixed models may be possible~~

RFP In progress

- Goal: Deliver ITTE at a CBT center in early March, 2009 over 3 or fewer days
- Do this at an affordable cost
- Do it the same way for all examinees
- Get reports by end of April, 2009

Our next P.D. survey MIGHT look like this:

- ITE can be delivered for \$100 a candidate in paper and pencil
- We'd like to do it via CBT for consistency with ABA Part I
- If this can't be done for \$100 as a CBT, how much more would you pay?
- Right now, I can only guess that it can be done for \$120-150

ABA Part I Exam: Critical Dates

- Sept 15, 2007: first mailing
- Nov 1, 2007: first reminder
- Nov 15, 2007: final reminder
- Dec 15, 2007: Registration standard deadline
- Jan 15, 2008: Late registration deadline (penalty of \$300 PLUS risks loss of preferred exam site)
- Exam: August 4-5, 2008 (Mon-Tues)
 - NOT August 4-6 as stated in ABA BOI

Grace Period for ABA Part 1 Enrollment

Recently extended from August 31 to September 30 for completion of residency/fellowship training.

Scheduling with Pearson VUE

- Instructions sent after fee paid on-line, so pay fee ASAP:
- Early Bird gets the worm
 - The earlier you register, the better your exam center and time selection
 - Later registration (especially waiting until May) risks the need to travel long distances to an exam center, possibly by plane

Scheduling Possibilities

- Two day test window: August 4-5, 2008
- Morning & afternoon session each day
- Pearson *may* elect to fill morning slots before offering afternoon ones (still under discussion)
- Once scheduled, Pearson VUE sends a confirmation letter

Exam Center: Pearson VUE

- Professional, state-of-the-art testing centers
- High, standardized security (stay tuned)
- Standardized facilities and layout
- Audio- & Video-taped surveillance
- Proctoring through an observation window and “walk-throughs”

Pearson VUE: What we hear

- Examinees may dislike the high-level security and rigid enforcement
- This is standard for this vendor
- ABA chose Pearson based on amenities and facilities
 - The security measures are driven by Pearson VUE policy with ABA acceptance
- Please share security info with your residents so it will not be a surprise

Personal items?

- In a word, NO:
 - Cell phones
 - Hand held computers or digital assistants
 - Cameras or recording devices
 - Pagers
 - Watches, wallets, purses
 - Hats, bags, coats
 - Books and notes
- Lockers provided for these items

Exam Schedule

- Nondisclosure Agreement: 5 minutes
- Exam tutorial: 10 minutes (once)
- Session 1: 2 hours, 20 minutes
 - 20 minute break
- Session 2: 2 hours, 20 minutes

*More detailed slide show about
2008 ABA Part I Nuts and Bolts*

- (Presentation given to ASA Resident HOD in SF)
- Now posted on ABA Web site www.theaba.org
 - Go into Primary Certification, ABA Part I Examination, click on “slide show”

Thank you!

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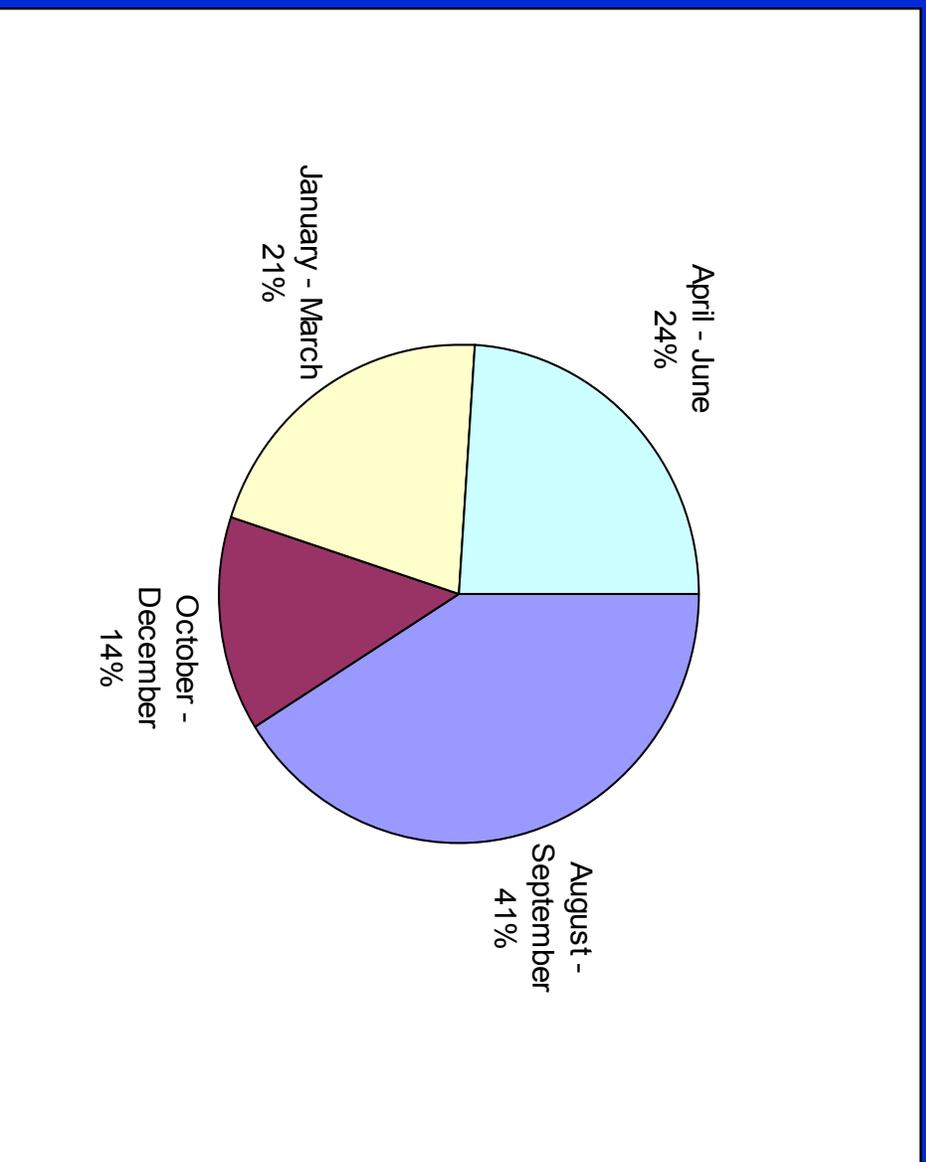
*Think about: Can you accept a
\$200-250 ITE? (now \$100)*

If so, under what conditions?

2006 Survey: Details

- Survey conducted by fax in September, 2006
- 95 program directors responded

Assume that the results of the ITTE will take 1-2 months to produce and deliver to you. If the ITTE should occur in a month other than July, I would prefer that it be given:



*So, are you having second thoughts
about JULY for the In-training
exam?*

Content Outline Revision

- 1996 version
- 2003 version (convert to organ-based)
- 2006 revision approved and in progress: will apply to 2008 Exam

– www.asahq.org/publicationsandservices/contentoutlinerev2003

Annual Release of Old ITTEs

- Not done last year because of concerns about question pool size re CBT conversion
- Joint Council has approved release of 1995 ITTE
- JC Decided to stop *selling* them. Will provide for free (with answers) on ASA web site
- Released Exams are still copyright-protected!

2006 Test Center Issues

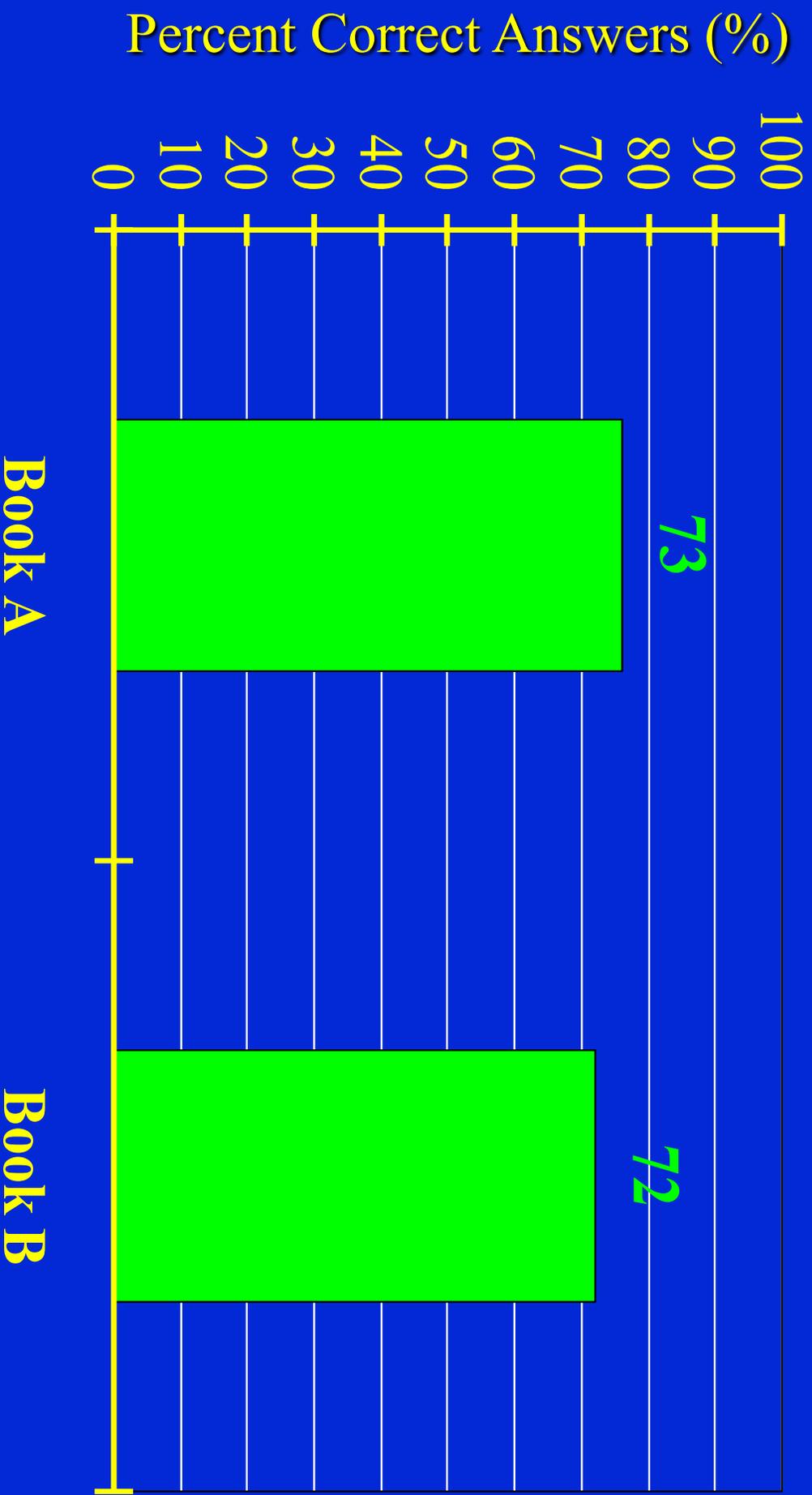
- Nothing of consequence to ITTE candidates this year
- One test center changed its venue without contacting ASA office, hence two requalification candidates missed an hour of exam time
- If you change the exam site, please be so kind as to inform us of this change

*To serve you better in 2006 and
beyond, the Joint Council
introduces*

SUBSCORES

% Correctly Answered 2005 ITE

Calibration Group



Subscore Framework

- Requires 20+ questions to get a reliable sample
- Note standard error is about 3 times that of the overall ITE score
- Recommend these over **key words** in trying to analyze areas of strength or weakness [either program or resident]

Gaps in Knowledge – CABS

- 8 Surprising Gaps Identified
- Report sent before ASA
- Few repercussions

***Information on New ABA Part I
Exam Format***

Information about ABA Part I

- Application, Notification and Scheduling
- CBT information
- Examination Day
 - Arrival/Registration
 - Exam conduct/schedule
- Post-examination

History: ABA Part I (aka Written Exam)

- Paper & pencil exam since 1930s, initially *essay*
- Exclusively multiple choice: 1948
- Computerized “bubble” scanned scoring: Circa 1960 (first ITE was 1977)
- Computerized ABA Part I Exam: 2008
- Computerized In-training Exam: 2009 (we hope)

Exam Registration Process

- Starts with ABA sending you an admission letter, which will explain the on-line payment process
- Letter sent as early as Feb 1, 2008 (all repeat candidates, most on-time registrants)
- Late registrants *will definitely* receive the letter later

Scheduling Exam with Pearson VUE

- On-line: <http://www.pearsonvue.com>
- If on-line, you may need to apply for a log-in name and password
- Or: Call the ABA Test center at Pearson VUE at 866-468-3848, X2796 M-F between 7 am & 7 pm **CENTRAL TIME**

CBT in general

- Similarities to USMLE will likely exceed the differences
- Pearson VUE instead of Thompson Prometric
 - More consistent amenities and software/hardware at examination centers
 - In general, tighter security measures (e.g., fingerprint scanning on each entry/exit)

Exam Content

- Predominantly A-type multiple choice (single-best answer)
- NO K TYPES (more than one correct answer)
- Probably some matching
- Based on ABA/ASA ITE Content Outline, weighted according to importance of content area
- 250 questions, i.e., 125 per session
- Only 225 will be scored (but not identified)
- Budget your time: 140 minutes for 125 questions, can scroll backward & forward within each 125-question set

Procedures on Arrival at Test Center

Again, ABA “authorization to test”
letter is **NOT REQUIRED**

Procedures on Arrival at Test Center - 2

- 2 forms of ID:
 - one must have a photo & signature & be government-issued, non-expired
 - Second must bear your signature
 - Name on file must exactly match ID (not to the point of full middle name)
- Provide signature for validation by comparison with ID

Procedures on Arrival at Test Center - 3

- Obtain fingerprint scan
- Obtain photo
- Show locker to candidate (explain what must be placed there, enforce that this is done)
- Provide erasable noteboard & pen
- Admit candidate to examination

Late Arrivals

- If within 30 minutes, they may elect to seat you, **SCHEDULE PERMITTING**
- If > 30 minutes late: lost opportunity (you get 3) plus \$100 cancellation fee
- So arrive on time! (30 minutes before scheduled test time)

Unscheduled Breaks & Questions

- **Unscheduled break with the clock running:**
raise your hand
 - Must leave room, can access locker for essential items (e.g., medications: best to pre-advise proctor of need)
 - May not access cell phones, study guides, etc.
 - Fingerprint on exit and re-entry
- **Questions on hardware or software problems:**
also raise your hand

Erasable Noteboards, etc.

- You will get an erasable noteboard and a marker for use during the exam
- If filled, raise hand and a new one will be provided
- Computer terminal has a calculator function that you can access
- Food, drink, and disturbing noise are prohibited

Exam or Session Complete?

- Raise your hand, proctor will come to ensure exam has been properly completed (NOT to check your answers)
- Printout “receipt” acknowledges completion of exam
- Optional onscreen evaluation of exam may be offered

Irregular Behavior

- Exam center will report this to ABA
- Disruptive or irregular behavior during the exam may cause immediate dismissal from exam and loss of exam opportunity
- Copying behavior will be reported and disciplinary action may ensue

Cheating – Never worth it

(And especially not now)

- Thankfully, this is rare
- Different issues with paper-pencil vs CBT
- With CBT, order of questions is scrambled and the exams may be different from seat to seat
- Cubicle set-up with screens, hence challenging to see another screen
- Potential consequences: Copyright violation suit, loss of exam/certification access

After the Exam

- Confirmation received from Pearson VUE that the exam was completed
- Score and pass-fail report received from ABA in approximately 2 months
- Use your online ABA portal for fastest access

Contacting ABA

• www.aba.org

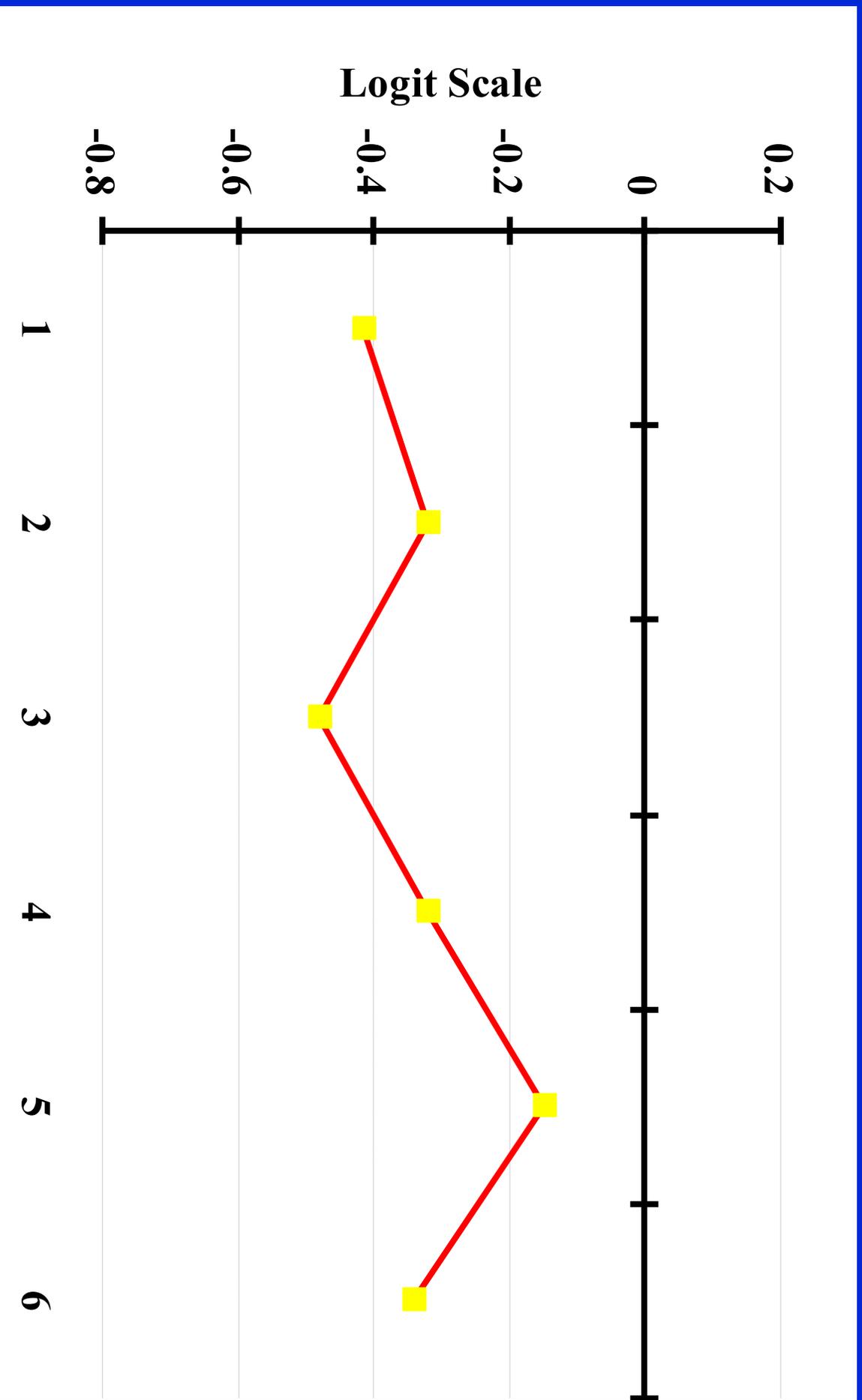
• 919-881-2570 9a-5p EST or EDT
Monday-Friday

Other housekeeping details

- Rescheduling (including a change of examination center) is permitted *if available*
 - > 24 hours in advance of scheduled test time/date
- ABA will send a letter containing all of the test rules and procedures (which you need not bring with you to the exam)

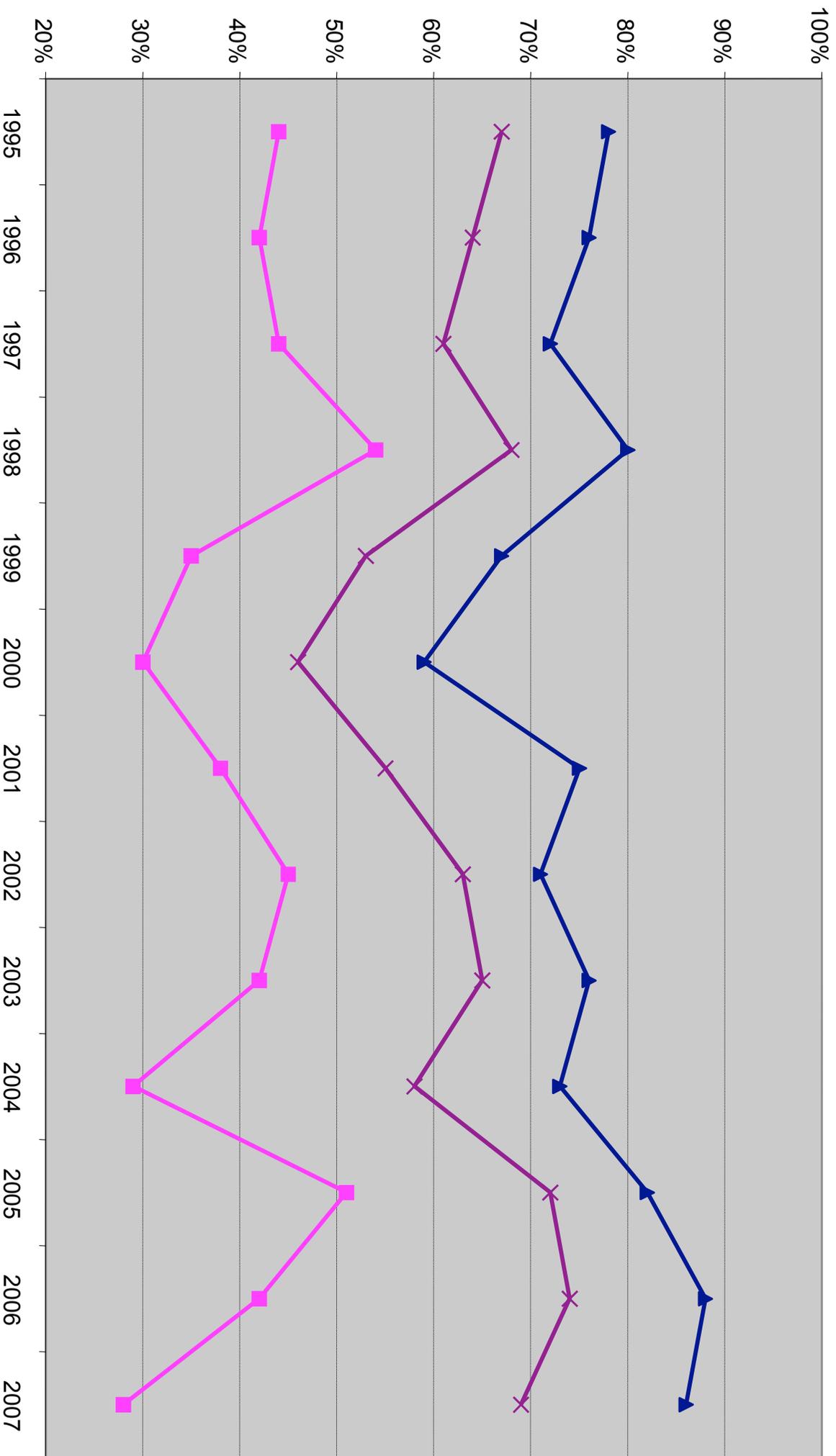
QUESTIONS?

Exam Difficulty



ABA WRITTEN EXAMINATION SUCCESS RATES 1990 - 2007

▲ All First Takers ✕ Total Group ■ All Repeaters



Joint Council 2005 Survey of Residency Programs

*The ideal way for residents to take the
In-training examination is:*

- On the same day at the same time – **54%**
- During an eight-day testing window beginning and ending on a Saturday – **46%**