


**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY**

## 2015 ABA EXAMS REPORT

SOCIETY OF ACADEMIC ANESTHESIOLOGY ASSOCIATIONS

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 CHAIR, ABA EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE  
 CHAIR, ABA RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MAYO CLINIC  
 ROCHESTER, MN

## QUESTION EDITORS

ITE/BASIC/PART 1 EXAMS

<b>71 JUNIOR EDITORS</b>	
14 were selected in 2014	
Write questions (18/year)	
Revise questions based on feedback	

<b>42 SENIOR EDITORS &amp; COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
Edit questions
Mentor junior editors

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## QUESTION DEVELOPMENT

- Question generation for the ABA Examinations: BASIC, Part 1 and ITE
  - **More than 1,000** questions generated
  - Two senior editors meetings and 10 webinars to review items
  - ITE and BASIC Exam forms reviewed by exams committees in September 2015
  - Part 1 form to be reviewed in January 2016

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## 2016 IN-TRAINING EXAM

- Internet-based exam delivered via vendor (Internet Testing Systems)
  - Exam may be delivered any time from **12 a.m. EST on Thursday, Feb. 18 to 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, Feb. 22** with multiple administrations
- Remains a secure, proctored exam
- Direct connections to the Internet are strongly preferred, but laptops with wireless connections may be used
- Systems check is required on every computer used for the ITE
- Administration guidelines will be distributed in December 2015

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## 2016 ITE RESULTS REPORTING

- Personal Performance Reports** include information about individual performance on BASIC and ADVANCED items
  - Scale score based on the whole exam
  - Percent Correct Scores based on BASIC and ADVANCED items, respectively
  - Performance within content/category areas
  - Keywords associated with items answered incorrectly
- Program Summaries** include information about program performance on BASIC and ADVANCED items
  - Program performance on individual items compared to entire test-taking population at each training level

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## ITE: REPORTED CATEGORIES

- Anatomy
- Mathematics, Statistics, Computers
- Pharmacology
- Physics, Monitoring and Anesthesia Delivery Devices
- Anesthesia Procedures, Methods and Techniques
- Physiology
- Subspecialties: Critical Care, Obstetric Anesthesia, Pain, Pediatric Anesthesia
- Organ-based Clinical: Cardiovascular, Endocrine/Metabolic, GI/Hepatic, Hematologic, Neurologic/Neuromuscular, Renal/Urinary/Electrolytes, Respiratory

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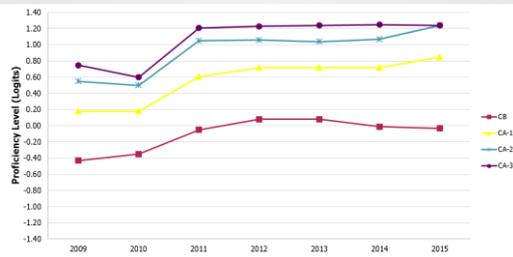
## ITE & PART 1/ADVANCED EXAMINATIONS QUESTION TYPES

- Graphics
  - Still shots of a monitor screen
  - Ultrasound images
- Video clips
  - From a simulator or real-time bedside monitor
  - Basic level TEE video clips

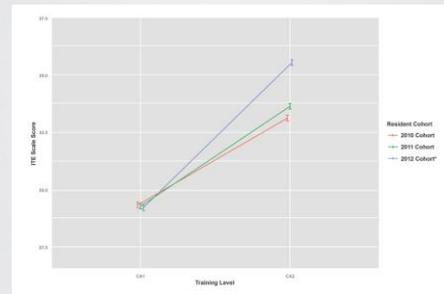
## PAIN MEDICINE ITE

- In 2013, the ABA began offering a **Pain Medicine ITE (ITE-PM)**
- Additional subspecialty ITEs will likely be added in the future as our item banks grow

## IN-TRAINING EXAM PERFORMANCE BY TRAINING LEVEL & EXAM YEAR

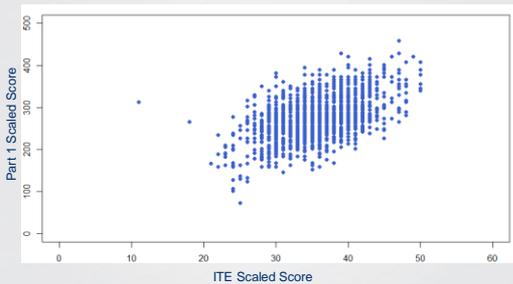


## CA-1 TO CA-2 ITE GROWTH TRADITIONAL VS. STAGED COHORTS



\* Indicates cohorts in the staged examinations system

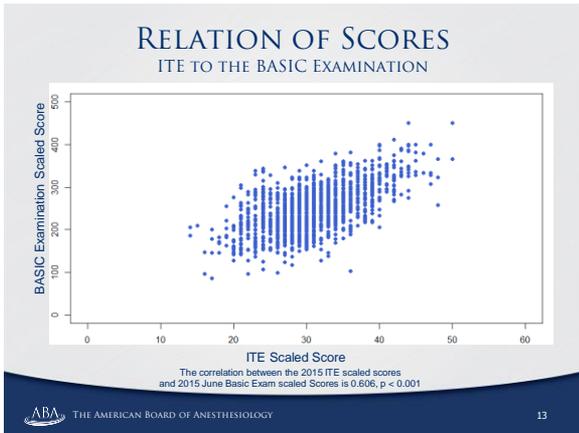
## RELATION OF SCORES 2015 ITE TO 2015 PART 1 EXAMINATION



The correlation between the 2015 ITE scaled scores and 2015 Part 1 Exam scaled Scores is 0.528,  $p < 0.001$ .

## RELATION OF SCORES ITE TO FIRST ATTEMPT ON PART 1 EXAM

Scaled Score	N	2015 Part 1 Scaled Score Mean (S.D.)	Part 1 Pass Rate
≤25	31	190 (54)	35%
26-30	206	244 (45)	76%
31-35	537	265 (39)	94%
36-40	534	285 (43)	97%
41-45	191	308 (42)	99%
≥46	42	350 (46)	100%



### RELATION OF SCORES ITE TO THE BASIC EXAM

Scaled Score	N	2015 June BASIC Scaled Score Mean (S.D.)	BASIC Pass Rate
≤25	251	215 (49)	84%
26-30	520	231 (40)	96%
31-35	537	255 (39)	99%
36-40	246	285 (41)	100%
41-45	71	333 (37)	100%
≥46	11	349 (51)	100%

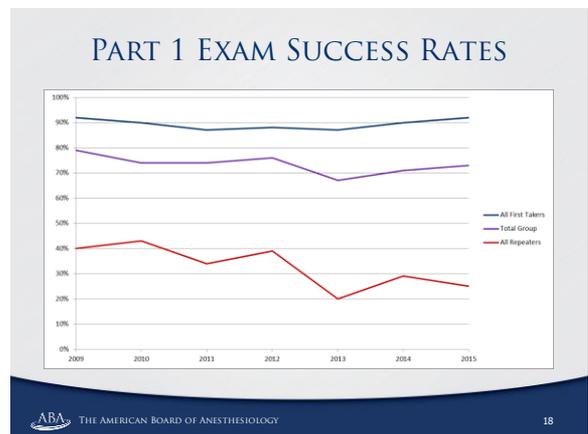
- ### PART 1 EXAMINATION SCORING
- Standard-setting study conducted every 5 years
  - Following exam administration, preliminary item analysis conducted (difficulty & discrimination)
  - Key validation for items
    - negative discrimination
    - no clear correct answer

- ### STANDARD-SETTING PROCESS BASIC AND ADVANCED EXAMS
- A third BASIC Exam standard-setting study will be conducted in 2016 with a panel of program directors
  - The Hofstee Method
    - Combined panel member judgments about an **appropriate passing score** and an **appropriate pass rate**
  - A standard-setting study for the ADVANCED Exam will be conducted in 2016

### 2015 PART 1 EXAM RESULTS

- Candidates were randomly assigned to examine on either Monday or Tuesday
- Key validation eliminated 6 items
- 73% of candidates passed

N	Mean Scaled Score	Standard Deviation	Pass Rate	Reliability
2,264	240.27	79.44	73.1%	0.93



## 2015 BASIC EXAM RESULTS

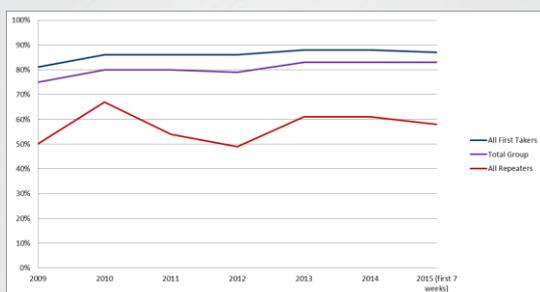
- Candidates were randomly assigned to examine on Friday or Saturday
- Key validation eliminated 6 items and rekeyed 2 items
- 95.8% of candidates passed

N	Mean Scaled Score	Standard Deviation	Pass Rate	Reliability
1,643	249.75	50.51	95.8%	0.76

## 2015 BASIC EXAM 10% LETTERS

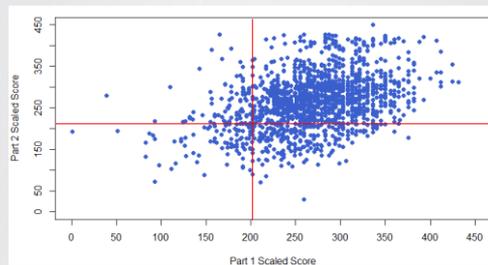
- In 2014, the ABA sent congratulatory letters to examinees who scored in the **top 10%** on the BASIC Examination
  - Program Directors also received copies of these letters
- All 2015 BASIC Exam top 10% letters will go out in **early December**. Program Directors will receive copies
- In 2016, these letters will go out after each BASIC Exam administration

## PART 2 EXAM SUCCESS RATES



## RELATION OF SCORES

2015 PART 2 (FIRST 7 WEEKS) TO FIRST ATTEMPT ON PART 1 EXAMINATION



The correlation between the 2015 Part 2 Exam (first 7 weeks) scaled scores and First Attempt Part 1 Exam scaled Scores is 0.391,  $p < 0.001$

## STAGED EXAMINATIONS



### BASIC Examination

- Focuses on scientific basis of clinical anesthetic practice
- Residents are strongly encouraged to take it as soon as eligible



### ADVANCED Examination

- Emphasis will be on subspecialty based practice and complex clinical issues, but will include content from entire BASIC /ADVANCED Exam content outline
- Offered for the first time - **Friday, July 29** and **Saturday, July 30, 2016**



### APPLIED Examination

- Will replace the Part 2 (Oral) Examination in 2017, and will eventually include both the oral exam and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)

## TRANSITION TO STAGED EXAMS

- Residents who will complete training **before June 30, 2016** will take the traditional **Part 1 and Part 2 Exams**
- Residents who began their four-year training in anesthesiology on or after July 1, 2012 and will complete their training **on or after June 30, 2016** will take the **staged exams**
  - Encourages residents to engage in more sustained study over the course of residency training
  - Aligns with ACGME Milestones

## DURATION OF CANDIDATE STATUS

- Candidates who completed residency training **prior to Jan. 1, 2012** have until Jan. 1, 2019 to satisfy all certification requirements.
- Candidates who complete residency training **on or after Jan. 1, 2012**, have seven years from the last day of the year in which residency training was completed to satisfy all certification requirements.

## 2016 BASIC EXAM ADMINISTRATION

- 2016 BASIC Exam administrations held at Prometric testing centers:
  - **June 2016:** Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11
  - **November 2016:** Friday, Nov. 18, and Saturday, Nov. 19
- Exam dates align with training reporting periods
- Residents randomly assigned to Friday or Sat. exam
- Residents must register for exam with ABA (March 1 for June exam), then schedule seat with Prometric
- ABA staff will work with Prometric to ensure smoother exam scheduling going forward –

## IF A RESIDENT FAILS THE BASIC EXAM...

- It can be taken six months later
- After failing a second time, a resident:
  - automatically receives an unsatisfactory (“U”) for that reporting period
  - will continue to receive a “U” until the exam is passed
- Failing the examination three or more times will extend residency training



## THE OSCE

- OSCE intended to assess domains that are difficult to assess in written or SOE formats
  - For example, communication skills
- Development process underway; **Implementation postponed beyond 2017**

## WWW.THEABA.ORG

- Sample questions, content outlines and blueprints are available on the ABA website
- Blueprint wrap-around information includes:
  - Examination purpose
  - Exam content
  - Exam specifications
  - Exam administration information
  - Tables showing the number and relative percentage of questions in each of the blueprint content categories



## QUESTIONS?

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