


The American Board of Anesthesiology

2016 ABA Exams Report

Society of Academic Anesthesiology Associations

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Question Editors

ITE/BASIC/ADVANCED/Part 1 Exams

75 Junior Editors	
9 were selected in 2015	
Write questions (18/year)	
Revise questions based on feedback	

42 Senior Editors & Committee Members
Edit questions
Mentor junior editors


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Question Development

- Question generation for the ABA Examinations: BASIC, ADVANCED, Part 1 and ITE
 - Approximately **1,400** questions generated
 - Three senior editors meetings and 8 webinars to review items
 - ITE and BASIC Exam forms reviewed by exams committees in August and September 2016
 - ADVANCED form to be reviewed in January 2017


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2017 In-Training Exam

- Internet-based exam delivered via vendor
 - Exam may be delivered any time from **12 a.m. EST on Thursday, Feb. 16, to 11:59 p.m. EST on Tuesday, Feb. 21**, 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


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ITE Results Reporting

- Personal Performance Reports** include information about individual performance on BASIC and ADVANCED items
 - Scaled 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

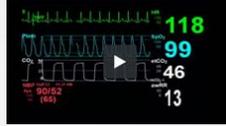
- Basic Sciences
- Clinical Sciences: Anesthesia Procedures, Methods and Techniques
- Clinical Subspecialties
- Organ-Based Basic and Clinical Sciences
- Special Problems or Issues in Anesthesiology


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ITE, ADVANCED & Part 1 Exams Question Types

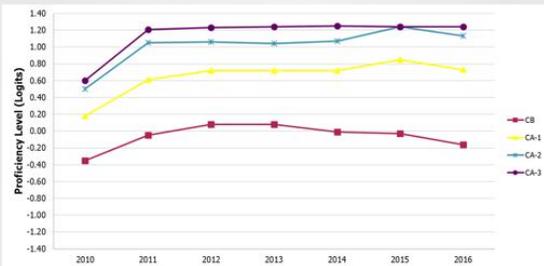
- Graphics
 - Still shots of a monitor screen
 - Ultrasound images
- Video clips
 - From a simulator or real-time bedside monitor
 - Basic level TEE video clips
 - **Beginning in 2017, we will no longer use videos on ITE**



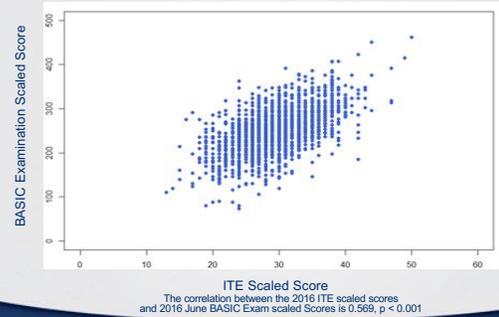
ITE-Pain Medicine (ITE-PM)

- In 2016, 80 programs administered the exam to nearly 300 fellows
- 2017 ITE-PM will be administered at fellowship program sites on **Friday, March 24**
- Additional subspecialty ITEs will likely be added in the future as our item banks grow

In-Training Exam Performance by Training Level & Exam Year



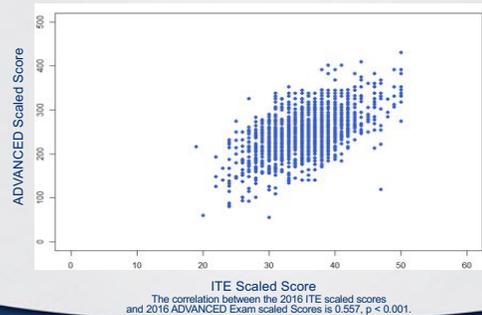
Relation of Scores ITE to the BASIC Examination



Relation of Scores ITE to the BASIC Exam

Scaled Score	N	2016 June BASIC Scaled Score Mean (S.D.)	BASIC Pass Rate
≤25	364	214 (46)	75%
26-30	614	239 (41)	91%
31-35	456	266 (41)	98%
36-40	191	297 (40)	100%
41-45	23	320 (58)	100%
≥46	5	380 (64)	100%

Relation of Scores 2016 ITE to 2016 advanced Examination



Relation of Scores

ITE to First Attempt on ADVANCED Exam

Scaled Score	N	2016 ADVANCED Scaled Score Mean (S.D.)	ADVANCED Pass Rate
≤25	34	171 (54)	47%
26-30	184	208 (44)	81%
31-35	547	239 (41)	95%
36-40	542	259 (42)	99%
41-45	159	287 (38)	100%
≥46	51	319 (51)	98%

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- ### Examination Scoring
- Standard-setting study conducted every five years
 - Following exam administration, preliminary item analysis conducted (difficulty & discrimination)
 - Key validation for items
 - negative discrimination
 - no clear correct answer
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- ### Standard-Setting Process
- BASIC and ADVANCED Exams
- Third BASIC Exam standard-setting study was conducted in June with a panel of program directors
 - The ADVANCED Exam standard-setting study was conducted in August
 - The Hofstee Method
 - Combined panel member judgments about an **appropriate passing score** and an **appropriate pass rate**
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2016 June BASIC Exam

Results

- Candidates were assigned to examine on Friday or Saturday
- Key validation eliminated 7 items and rekeyed 2 items
- 90.7% of candidates passed

N	Mean Scaled Score	Standard Deviation	Pass Rate	Reliability
1,661	249.62	50.53	90.7%	0.76

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- ### 2016 BASIC Exam
- Top 10% Letters
- The ABA sent congratulatory letters to examinees who scored in the **top 10%** on the June BASIC Examination
 - Program directors also received copies of these letters
 - All November 2016 BASIC Exam top 10% letters will go out in **December**
 - Program directors will receive copies
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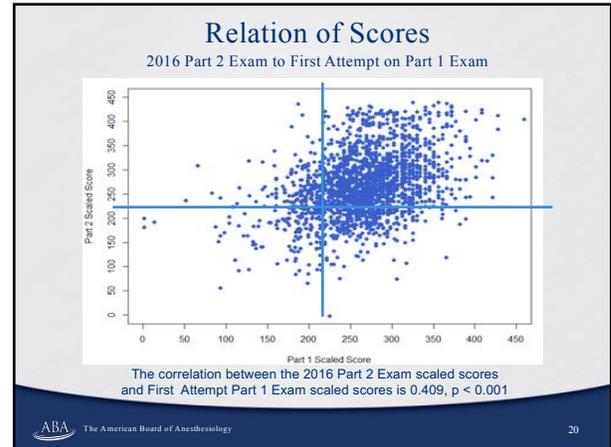
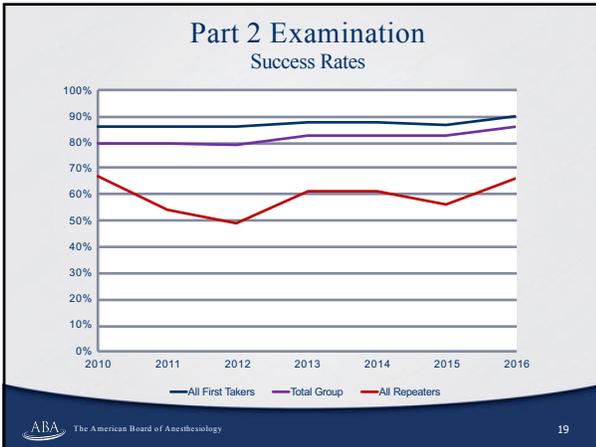
2016 July ADVANCED Exam

Results

- Candidates were assigned to examine on Friday or Saturday
- Key validation eliminated 6 items
- 94.4% of candidates passed

N	Mean Scaled Score	Standard Deviation	Pass Rate	Reliability
1,560	248.95	50.11	94.4%	0.75

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Staged Examinations

- 1 BASIC Examination**
 - Focuses on scientific basis of clinical anesthetic practice
 - Residents are strongly encouraged to take it as soon as eligible
- 2 ADVANCED Examination**
 - Emphasis on subspecialty based practice and complex clinical issues, but includes content from entire BASIC /ADVANCED Exam content outline
 - Offered the first time in July; **Next administration is Jan. 27-28, 2017**
- 3 APPLIED Examination**
 - Will replace the Part 2 (Oral) Examination in 2017, and include both the oral exam and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) **beginning in 2018**

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Who Takes Staged Exams?

- Traditional Part 1 and Part 2 Exams**
Residents who completed training before June 30, 2016
- Staged Exams**
Residents who began their four-year training in anesthesiology on or after July 1, 2012, and will complete training on or after June 30, 2016

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Duration of Candidate Status

- Candidates who completed residency training **prior to Jan. 1, 2012**, have until Dec. 31, 2018 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

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2017 BASIC Examination

- BASIC Exam administered at Prometric testing centers:
 - June 2017:** Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10
 - November 2017:** Friday, Nov. 17, and Saturday, Nov. 18
- Residents are assigned an exam day
- They must register for exam with ABA, then schedule seat with Prometric
 - Registration opens **March 1** for June exam, **Aug. 1** for November exam

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If a Resident Fails the BASIC Exam...

- They can take it 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

Why Add OSCEs?

- Intended to assess domains that are difficult to assess in written or oral exam formats, such as
 - Communication and Professionalism
 - Technical skills
- Evidence that these domains are important in physician performance after training
- Role of exams in driving training priorities



OSCE Timeline

- 2015:** OSCE Task Force established to draft and test scenarios (11 members)
- 2016:** Content outline created and expanded to provide additional details; OSCE overview video created; further scenario development
- 2017:** Scenarios tested/viewed at program director meetings in Raleigh; extensive validation of delivery and scoring
- 2018:** OSCEs launch

The OSCEs

- OSCE component of the APPLIED Exam will take **84 minutes** from start to finish
 - Seven-station circuit to evaluate proficiency in seven of the nine OSCE Content Outline skills
 - Each scenario will be eight minutes long
 - Four minutes between stations to review the next scenario
- Candidates will interact with a **standardized patient actor** in some rooms, directly with examiners in others
 - Examiners will not be in most exam rooms
 - Sessions will be recorded for grading purposes

The OSCEs

- Expanded content outline now available online
 - **Communication and Professionalism (Six skills)**
Informed consent, Treatment options, Peri-procedural complications, Ethical issues, Communication with other professionals, Practice-based learning and improvement
 - **Technical skills (Three skills)**
Interpretation of monitors, Interpretation of echocardiograms, Application of ultrasonography (TEE)
- Designed to provide as much information as possible regarding format and expectations

The OSCEs

- OSCEs will be administered to candidates in the Assessment Center in Raleigh on the same day they take the SOE component
 - If candidates fail one component (OSCE or SOE), they will only retake that component
- APPLIED Exam registration fee will remain the same with the addition of the OSCE component in 2018

Who Will Take the OSCEs?

- Candidates who complete residency training **on or after Oct. 1, 2016**, will take both the SOE and the OSCE of the APPLIED Exam
- Candidates who completed residency training **between June 30 and Sept. 30, 2016**, will not take the OSCE component of the APPLIED Exam
 - Only required to pass the SOE component

www.theABA.org

- Sample questions, content outlines, blueprints, administration schedules and videos are available
- Blueprint information for all exams includes:
 - Exam purpose
 - Exam content
 - Exam specifications
 - Exam administration information
 - Number and relative percentage of questions in content categories



OSCE Overview Video



www.theaba.org/ABOUT/Videos

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Questions?

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