



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Instructions for the Combined Continuing Certification Examinations

Examination Format

The Combined Continuing Certification Examinations are comprised of either two or three modules, each module consisting of either a specialty or subspecialty, with 100 multiple-choice questions per module. For two-module examinations, there are five-and-one-quarter hours of examination time, including a non-disclosure agreement and unscored survey questions. For three-module examinations, there are eight-and-one-half hours of examination time, also including a non-disclosure agreement and unscored survey questions. Please review the Combined Continuing Certification Examinations Content Specifications [on the website](#) for detailed topic specifications.

Both two- and three-module Combined Continuing Certification Examinations will be delivered in sections comprised of 50 questions each. You can review questions only within sections. Once you finish the section, you cannot go back into it. There is no review of all questions at the end of the exam. There will be optional breaks following each 50-question section. Examination time continues to run during optional breaks, so candidates must manage their own time. The optional breaks will be offered after one section is completed and before the next section begins. The 2021 Combined Continuing Certification Examination Format tables below demonstrate the two and three modular examination delivery structures.

Combined Continuing Certification Examination Format – Two Modules

| | Section | No. of Questions | Format |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5 min | Nondisclosure Agreement | | |
| | On-Screen Instructions | | |
| 5 hrs 5 min | 1 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| | 2 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| | 3 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| 5 min | 4 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | End-of-Examination Survey | | |

* A proctor must log candidates in after breaks. Candidates must be signed in and out each time they enter and leave the testing room.

Combined Continuing Certification Examination Format – Three Modules

| | Section | No. of Questions | Format |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5 min | Nondisclosure Agreement | | |
| | On-Screen Instructions | | |
| 8 hrs 20 min | 1 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| | 2 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| | 3 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| | 4 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| | 5 | 50 | Stand-alone |
| | Optional Break* | | |
| 6 | 50 | Stand-alone | |
| 5 min | End-of-Examination Survey | | |

* A proctor must log candidates in after breaks. Candidates must be signed in and out each time they enter and leave the testing room.

Question Type and Review

The Combined Continuing Certification Examinations are comprised entirely of one-best-answer multiple-choice questions that can be flagged for review or skipped.

Scoring

Examinees will receive percent correct scores (percentage of questions answered correctly) for overall performance, each specialty or subspecialty, and the subtests within each specialty or subspecialty. An acceptable level of performance must be achieved on the overall score to pass the examination. Combined MOC subspecialties are not passed or failed individually. The standards are not norm-referenced; there is no predefined passing rate for any group of examinees.

Questions that may be included in the examination solely for research or pretesting purposes will not be included in candidates' scores.

No examinee is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the ABPN, each examinee should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question. Even though the examinee may be in doubt about the correct answer to a particular question, he or she should answer every question. This will increase the likelihood that the examinee's examination score will reflect the breadth of his or her knowledge of the field. There is no penalty for guessing.

Examination Functions

To familiarize candidates with the exam functions, several exam screenshots with explanations are provided [here](#). In addition to the general functions, such as Time Remaining and Number of Questions, please pay special attention to the functions for Comment, Scratch Pad, Highlight, Strikethrough, Flag for Review, Section Map/Drug List/Tutorial, Navigator, and other functions related to examination questions.