



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Instructions for the Subspecialty Certification Examination in Forensic Psychiatry

Examination Format

The computer-delivered Subspecialty Certification Examination in Forensic Psychiatry is comprised of 220 multiple-choice questions. Please review the Subspecialty Certification Examination in Forensic Psychiatry Content Outline [on the website](#) for detailed topic specifications. The examination questions will be delivered in four sections comprised of 55 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 is a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that examinees must agree to, followed by on-screen instructions at the beginning of the examination. At the conclusion of the examination, there is a five-minute end-of-examination survey.

During the examination, there are optional breaks between each section. The optional breaks will be offered after one section is completed and before the next section begins. Examination time continues to run during optional breaks, so examinees must manage their own time. Allotted time for the entire examination, including NDA, instructions, and survey, totals four hours. The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Forensic Psychiatry Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

Subspecialty Certification Examination in Forensic Psychiatry Format

	Section	No. of Questions	Format
5 min	Nondisclosure Agreement		
	On-Screen Instructions		
3 hrs 50 min	1	55	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	2	55	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	3	55	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	4	55	Stand-alone
5 min	End-of-Examination Survey		

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

Question Type and Review

The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Forensic Psychiatry is comprised entirely of one-best-answer multiple-choice questions that can be flagged for review or skipped.

Scoring

In addition to subtest scores, examinees will receive a total percent correct score (percentage of items answered correctly). An acceptable level of performance must be achieved on the total score to pass the examination. 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 the examinee's score.

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 examinees with the computer-based examination interface, functionalities, and types of questions that they will find on an operational examination, there is an online Subspecialty Certification Demonstration Examination that can be found on the ABPN website [here](#).

NOTE: This is a close representation of an operational examination but not an operational examination itself.

You WILL NOT be able to review your answers or receive a score after you have completed the demonstration exam.