



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 Epilepsy

Examination Format

The computer-delivered Subspecialty Certification Examination in Epilepsy is comprised of three segments. At the beginning of the examination, there is a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that examinees must agree to, followed by on-screen instructions. After the tutorial/instructions, the examination delivers 220 test questions in four sections. At the conclusion of the examination, there is a five-minute end-of-examination survey.

The total testing time is 240 minutes (4 hours). It includes five minutes for the NDA and on-screen tutorial/instructions, 230 minutes (3 hours and 50 minutes) for the 220 test questions, and five minutes for the 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 starts. Examination time continues to run during optional breaks, so examinees must manage their own time. The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Epilepsy Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

Subspecialty Certification Examination in Epilepsy Format

	Section	No. of Questions	Format
5 min	Nondisclosure Agreement		
	On-Screen Instructions		
3 hours, 50 minutes	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 Epilepsy 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.

SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION DEMONSTRATION EXAMINATION

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. Examinees WILL NOT be able to review their answers or receive a score after they have completed the demonstration exam.

International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) Classification Update

In 2017, the ILAE Classification of the Epilepsies was updated to reflect advances in the field since the last classification update in 1989. The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Epilepsy will reflect these changes. For more information regarding the specifics of the Classification of the Epilepsies updates, please refer to the ILAE website [here](#).