



American
Board of
Psychiatry and
Neurology, Inc.

2009 Psychiatry Part I Examination

Format

The 2009 Psychiatry Part I Examination is comprised of a psychiatry section and a neurology section administered via computer on one day, in two (2) sessions; each session is three-and-one-half (3 ½) hours in length with a mandatory break of one (1) hour between sessions. Each session presents candidates with 210 multiple-choice items for a total of 420 items.

The content outline may be obtained at: www.abpn.com/content_outlines.htm. Sample items may be obtained at: http://www.abpn.com/downloads/ifas/Sample_Questions_PartI.pdf.

Scoring

To successfully complete the Part I Examination, a candidate must pass both the psychiatry and neurology sections of the examination at the same administration. Successful completion of both the psychiatry and the neurology sections at the same administration is a prerequisite for admission to the oral examination.

No candidate is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the ABPN, each candidate should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question. Even though the candidate 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 candidate's examination score will reflect the breadth of his or her knowledge of the field. There is no penalty for guessing.

About two-thirds of the items on the test contribute to the psychiatry score; the remainder contributes to the neurology score. A small number of questions on the examination are being pretested and will not be used to calculate candidates' scores.

Candidates will receive a total percent correct score (percentage of items answered correctly, rounded to the nearest whole number) for the psychiatry section, the neurology section, and for each of the subtests within these sections. Passing standards must be met on both the psychiatry and neurology sections to pass the Part I Examination. The standards are not norm-referenced; there is no predefined passing rate for any group of candidates.

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