

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART II (PAM) EXAMINATION

| Dates | Description | Total Number of Items | Exam Segments / Length | Test Time |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|---|
| December 5, 2017 <i>OR</i> December 7, 2017 | Part II (PAM) Patient Assessment and Management | 350 items | NDA & Tutorial: 15 minutes Session 1: 3.5 hours Break: 45 minutes Session 2: 3.5 hours | 8 hours total (480 minutes) Actual start and end time varies based on appointment at Pearson VUE |

WHERE / WHEN TO REPORT

All candidates received a verification email from Pearson VUE indicating the date, time and location of the examination. Please confirm that all the information in the verification email is correct. The Part II (PAM) examination is offered on December 5, 2017 or December 7, 2017. The starting time for the exam varies depending on the appointment you scheduled with Pearson VUE. Candidates should **arrive at the test center 30 minutes prior to their scheduled appointments** to allow adequate time for the check-in procedures. Candidates who arrive more than 15 minutes after their scheduled appointment times will be denied admission and are not eligible for a refund of the exam fee.

The test center location is indicated in the verification letter; directions and telephone contact information are also included.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAM

You will be required to show two (2) valid forms of personal identification. In order to be considered valid, the ID must match the name used to register for the exam. Both forms must contain your signature and must be current (not expired). At least one form must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, a passport, or a military ID. The other ID may be a student identification card, a credit or debit card, or other card that has your name and signature. Candidates who do not have proper ID may be denied admission to the exam and are not eligible for a refund of the exam fee.

No personal items may be taken into the testing room. This includes all bags, books, notes, phones, pagers, watches and wallets. Lockers are provided for storage of personal belongings. Food and drink are not permitted in the exam room, but may be consumed during the breaks.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON TEST DAY

Candidates are encouraged to log on to the Pearson VUE website at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/nbeo/> and click on the Pearson Professional Center Online Tour link. This brief video will familiarize candidates with the test center and what to expect on exam day.

During check-in at the center, candidates will have a digital photograph and palm vein scan taken (candidates assigned to test centers other than Pearson Professional Centers may have a fingerprint scan in lieu of a palm vein scan).

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE EXAMINATION

Information regarding the format and content of the PAM examination may be found under the Part II (PAM / TMOD) tab on the NBEO's web site at <http://www.optometry.org> . There are also links to sample cases and items, as well as an interactive tutorial designed to familiarize candidates with the computer-based testing format. Candidates are encouraged to thoroughly review these resources prior to the exam.

CALCULATORS

Any mathematical calculations required to correctly answer an item on the Part II – PAM examination involve simple math, so calculators are not necessary. However, candidates may easily access a basic, standard calculator by clicking on the “Calculator” button found at the top of every screen during the exam.

RESTROOM BREAKS

Candidates are allowed restroom breaks during the examination although no additional testing time is allotted. If you need a break, raise your hand and a test administrator will escort you out of the testing room. Additional instructions will be reviewed at the testing center prior to the exam.

BREAK BETWEEN SESSIONS

The Part II (PAM) exam consists of two (2) sessions. There is a mandatory break between the sessions. Candidates may take up to 45 minutes or may choose to take a shorter break. Following this break, candidates are **not** permitted to return to Session 1.

IRREGULARITIES

Collaboration, pirating, copying, talking (even to oneself), and other disruptive behavior during an examination is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary actions.

Any Candidate found guilty of cheating on any National Board examination will receive a score of zero (0) on the examination Part(s) in which the cheating occurred, or otherwise have their score(s) canceled. Further, the Candidate may be prohibited from taking future National Board examinations.

In the event of an emergency (e.g., fire, electrical blackout, weather), Candidates are required to follow test administrator directions. Not following such directions will be considered disruptive behavior.

TEST CRITIQUES

During the examination, a “Comment” button can be found on each screen. If you have a critique regarding a case, an image, or an item, click on the Comment button on that screen. This will open a

Comment box, which provides a space for typing in your critique. Please be as specific as possible and substantiate your comments. For example, if you say that “For Item #5, both a and b are correct,” explain why you feel this is so. The “why” portion of the critique is the substantiation that will flag the item for re-review by the Examination Development Council, in conjunction with the item analysis statistics. Your comments will be returned to the National Board office and sent to the members of the Examination Council for review.

Upon completion of Session 2, following the item review screen, space is provided to inform the NBEO staff of any unusual occurrences during the computer administration of the examination. You may also email the NBEO within 72 hours after the completion of the exam to report an unusual occurrence. Emails received more than 72 hours after the examination will not be considered.

SCORES

Once scores are released and available to be viewed online (<https://www.optometry.org/scores/>), we will immediately post an announcement on our homepage (<http://www.optometry.org/>) under “News and Notes;” scores are not available until this announcement is made. Scores will be available for Candidates to view no later than **January 26, 2018**. Candidates are urged not to call the NBEO office to inquire about score release; rather, they are encouraged to check the NBEO homepage for an announcement.

COLLEGE LIAISONS

All questions regarding policies and practices of the National Board are to be directed to the College Liaison Administrator on your campus. Their names can be found on the NBEO website (<http://www.optometry.org/liaisons.cfm>). If this person is unable to answer your questions, (s)he will contact the National Board office for clarification.

THE 2017 NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATIONS

The 2017 National Board examinations are the culmination of many hours of work by hundreds of people, including faculty, state board members, and private practitioners who originally submitted items; Examination Development Committee and Council members; National Board staff; and the Board of Directors. Every attempt has been made to present a relevant and valid examination based on the Content Matrix and Content Outline as published on the NBEO web site (<http://www.optometry.org/>).

Pass/fail standards on National Board examinations are set by criterion-referenced procedures. Consequently, you will be assessed on the knowledge base that you have developed, rather than on your performance compared to the other people taking the examinations at the same time.

Everyone involved in the preparation of these examinations extends their collective best wishes for your success.

