



NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

A blue-tinted photograph of an optometrist wearing a white lab coat and a stethoscope, examining a patient's eyes. The patient is lying down, and the optometrist is leaning over them, using a device to examine the eyes. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

**PART I ABS<sup>®</sup> Exam**  
**CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS**

# PART I ABS EXAM

## CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

### WHEN/WHERE TO REPORT

All candidates receive a verification email from Pearson VUE indicating the date, time, and location of the examination. Please confirm that all information in the verification email is correct. The starting time of the exam varies depending on the appointment you schedule with Pearson VUE. Candidates should arrive at the test center 30 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment to allow adequate time for the check-in procedure. Candidates who arrive more than 15 minutes after their scheduled appointment time may be denied admission (and are not eligible for a refund for the exam fee).

The verification email also includes directions to the exam center and telephone contact information.

### WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAM

You will be required to show two 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 another 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 for the exam fee.

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

### WHAT TO EXPECT ON TEST DAY

Candidates are encouraged to log on to the Pearson VUE website at <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/nbeo.html> 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.)

### CALCULATORS

An on-screen scientific calculator (TI-30XS) will be available to candidates throughout the Part I ABS exam. Candidates should note, however, that all Optics items on the exam are designed such that the correct answer can be determined without the use of trigonometric functions. The scientific calculator is provided to give candidates the option of using trigonometric functions should they choose to do so.

## SCRATCH PAPER

A marker and a booklet of pages that can be used as “scratch paper” will be given to each candidate at the test center. Candidates should be aware that they are not allowed to write any notes in the booklet until the first exam item appears on their screen. No notes may be written down during the time allotted for the NDA or tutorial. Further, candidate should be aware that they cannot have more than one booklet at a time; to receive a new booklet, candidates must turn in their old booklet.

## 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 I exam consist of two sessions. At the end of the first session, candidates may take a break of up to 45 minutes or may choose to take a shorter break. Following this break, candidates will not be able to return to Session 1.

## IRREGULARITIES

Non-compliance with any aspect of the NBEO Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement or Ethics Policy will be regarded as an irregularity, which will be reported to NBEO by the Test Administrator and may be subject to the consequences associated with cheating.

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 NBEO examination will receive a score of zero on the examination Part(s) in which the cheating occurred, have their score(s) canceled, or incur various legal consequences. Further, the candidate may be prohibited from taking future NBEO examinations for an appropriate length of time, to be determined at the sole discretion of NBEO.**

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

## TEST CRITIQUES

During the exam, a “Comment” button can be found on each screen. If you have a critique regarding 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. Your comments will be returned to the NBEO office for review.

Upon completion of Session 2, space is provided to inform the NBEO staff of any unusual occurrences during the computer administration of the exam. You may also email NBEO within 72 hours after the completion of the exam to report an unusual occurrence. Emails received more than 72 hours after the exam 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/>). 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.

## NBEO EXAMINATIONS

NBEO exams are the culmination of many hours of work by hundreds of contributors, including faculty, state board members, and private practitioners who originally submitted items; Examination Development Committee and Council members; NBEO 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 website.

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