

PART II PAM CONTENT BREAKDOWN

The Part II PAM examination will consist of 45-55 full cases, 15-20 solo items, and 15-25 minicases. The distribution of items by content area is indicated in the tables below.

Disease / Trauma (60% - 70% of items)	Item Count
Lids / Lashes / Lacrimal System / Ocular Adnexa / Orbit	11 – 22
Conjunctiva / Cornea / Refractive Surgery	33 – 44
Lens / Cataract / IOL / Pre and Post-Operative Care	17 – 28
Episclera / Sclera / Uvea	11 – 22
Vitreous / Retina	33 – 44
Optic Nerve / Neuro-Ophthalmic Pathways	28 – 38
Glaucoma	16 – 27
Emergencies	11 – 22
Systemic Health	11 – 22

Refractive / Sensory / Oculomotor (30% - 40% of items)	Item Count
Ametropia	11 – 22
Ophthalmic Optics	6 – 17
Contact Lenses	17 – 28
Low Vision	6 – 17
Accommodative / Vergence / Oculomotor Anomalies	20 – 25
Amblyopia / Strabismus	6 – 17
Perceptual Function / Color Vision	6 – 17
Visual and Human Development	0 – 6**

** Items pertaining to visual and human development may appear in cases in other categories.

The table below describes the types of items that will appear on the Part II PAM examination.

Type of Test Items	Content
Diagnosis	Most appropriate diagnosis
Related Diagnosis	Indicate data supporting or correlating with diagnosis; correlation of possible additional data; or indicate additional data or next test needed
Treatment / Management	Most appropriate treatment / management
Related to Treatment / Management	Treatment mechanism; additional data needed to treat effectively; additional data or next test needed; patient education; follow-up; or prognosis
Clinical Correlation of Basic Science Principles	Pathophysiology/etiology, anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, immunology/ microbiology/pathology, optics, pharmacology
Legal Issues / Ethics	Licensure and governmental regulation of optometry, standards of professional ethics, doctor-patient relationship, professional liability
Public Health	Epidemiology, biostatistics and measurement, environmental vision, health care policy and administration

DESCRIPTION OF PART II PAM ITEM TYPES

FULL PATIENT CASES begin with a scenario in which the patient history and clinical data are presented. These data usually include at least one visual (e.g., color ophthalmic photographs; contact lens fluorescein pattern; spectacle frame fitting problem; visual field plots; other instrumentation printouts). The scenarios are followed by 4-7 related multiple-choice items per case, each with 3-10 answer options.

- The patient case section of the Part II PAM exam appears on a standard white background.
- The scenario is found on the left side of the Pearson VUE computer screen. The case images appear at the bottom of the left side of the screen, beneath the scenario. The 4-7 items are presented one at a time, on the right side of the screen. Candidates can view the scenario/images on the left side of the screen while they work with a case item on the right side.
- Patient case images typically provide a considerable amount of essential patient information. Photos may supply normal or abnormal case details; candidates are expected to correctly interpret the visually presented findings. Images may include, but are not limited to, color photographs and such testing results as VFs, FAs, OCTs, ultrasonography, radiologic imaging, etc.
- Case items may be multiple-choice, with a single correct answer, or they may be multiple-response, with up to 4 correct answers. It is necessary to select all of the correct answers, and only the correct answers, in a multiple-response question to receive credit.

SOLO ITEMS are relatively straightforward, knowledge-centric, independent entities. They include a question and 3 - 7 answer options.

- The solo item section of the Part II PAM exam appears on a pale blue background to help distinguish this section from the full patient case and minicase sections.
- Solo items may be multiple choice, with a single correct answer, or they may be multiple response, with up to 4 correct answers. It is necessary to select all of the correct answers, and only the correct answers, in a multiple-response question to receive credit.
- The 15-20 solo items are presented on the computer screens one at a time.

MINICASES are an abbreviated version of a full patient case. They consist of a shortened scenario with 2-4 related questions. Most minicases will also include one or more associated images.

- The minicase section of the Part II PAM exam appears on a pale orange background to help distinguish this section from the patient case and solo item sections.
- The abbreviated scenario is presented on the left side of the computer screen while one of the 2-4 associated items is shown on the right side of the screen.
- Minicase items may be multiple-choice, with a single correct answer, or they may be multiple-response, with up to 4 correct answers. It is necessary to select all of the correct answers, and only the correct answers, in a multiple-response question to receive credit.

MULTIPLE-RESPONSE ITEMS

The question portion (stem) of each multiple-response item indicates to the candidate how many of the options should be selected. For example, when an item stem asks, "Which 3 of the following ...," the stem concludes with the phrase (Select 3) to make it unmistakable to examinees that this is a multiple response item that requires 3 correct responses.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In multiple cases on the exam, "BVA" data are included in the patient scenarios. The abbreviation "BVA" refers to "best visual acuity" or "best-corrected visual acuity" measurement, which may be accomplished by refraction, pinhole testing, etc. Thus, all BVA entries refer to the best achievable visual acuity by the patient depicted in the scenario. If the BVA is reduced (e.g., worse than 20/20), no pinhole entry will be included in the BVA clinical data since it is implied via the BVA terminology that this has already been done.

Candidates should assume that VA at near was tested at 16 inches unless otherwise noted.

"Review of systems" entries are current symptoms reported by the patient. The patient's current medical conditions and diagnoses are recorded as "Patient medical history" entries.

All patients with diabetes mellitus will have an HgbA1c value as part of the medical history. Interpretation of HgbA1c values is considered an entry level skill; therefore, additional interpretation and/or normal ranges will not be given.

Some patient cases on the Part II PAM exam may include normal clinical photos and/or visuals. It is anticipated that candidates will review and appropriately interpret the visuals included in the patient cases.

When visual field images are displayed side-by-side, with the right visual field on the right and the left visual field on the left, the image numbers will appear to be out of sequence (see Sample Case 4 as an example). This occurs because images are numbered sequentially as referenced in the case scenario, and the OD is always referenced before the OS in the clinical findings section. In some instances, it is necessary to display the visual fields vertically; in these instances, the right visual field will be on top followed by the left visual field below.

Candidates should assume that all items in the case refer specifically to the patient depicted in the scenario. If the item is not referencing the depicted patient, it will be stated clearly in the item stem. For example: "Which of the following is the mostly likely cause of this condition in the general population?" or "In most patients complaining of these symptoms ..."