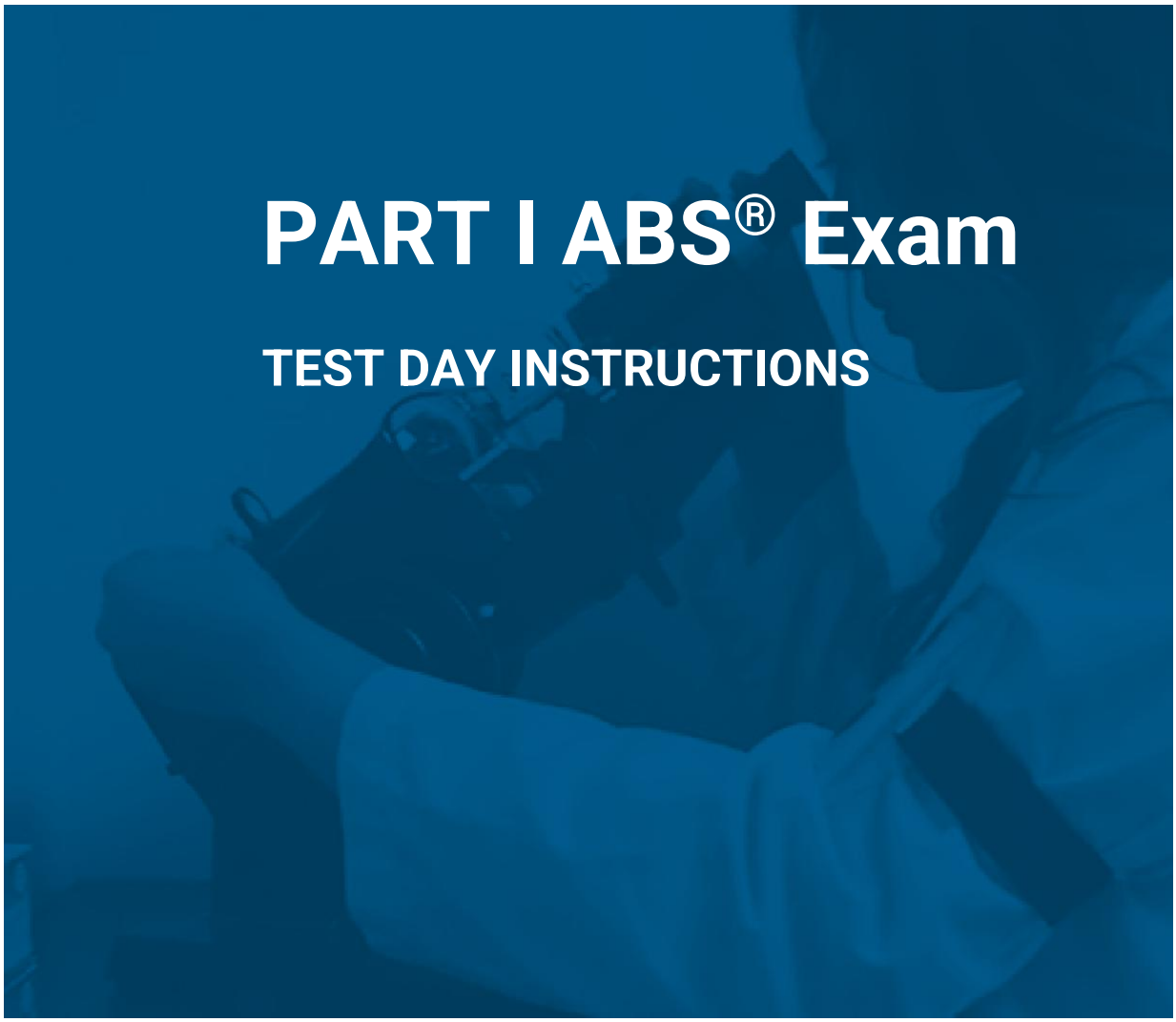
NBEO

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY



PART I ABS® Exam

TEST DAY INSTRUCTIONS

PART I ABS EXAM
TEST DAY INSTRUCTIONS

WHEN/WHERE TO REPORT

All candidates receive a verification email from Pearson 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 a candidate schedules with Pearson. **Please arrive at the test center 30 minutes prior to the 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 of the exam fee.

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

WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAM

Candidates are required to show two valid physical forms of personal identification. No admittance will be permitted without the proper identification. In order to be considered valid, **the ID must match the name used to register for the exam**. Both forms of identification must contain your signature and must be current (expired IDs are not acceptable). 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 of the exam fee.

No personal items may be taken into the testing room. This includes all bags, purses, books, pencils, pens, notes, coats, watches, wallets, cameras, cell phones, recording devices (including eyewear with camera functionality), weapons, and any other electronic devices. Lockers are provided for storage of personal belongings.

Food is not permitted in the exam room but may be consumed during breaks. Candidates may bring **one water bottle** into the testing room if it meets all of the following requirements: it is fully transparent, colorless plastic; contains water only; holds no more than 750 mL (25 oz); and has a leak-proof, resealable cap with no metal components. Bottles may not be made of glass or metal, and they must not have labels, stickers, sleeves, handwritten markings, electronic components, or accessories. Any water bottle that does not meet these requirements may not be brought into the testing room and must be stored in a locker. Candidates with special dietary/nutritional needs relating to a medical condition should request accommodations in accordance with the NBEO Test Accommodations Policy. Smoking is not permitted in the test center at any time.

Please review the NBEO Ethics Policy and Candidate Agreement. Candidates are expected to know and observe the NBEO examination rules. Non-compliance with any of the rules may be considered Improper Conduct (as defined in the Ethics Policy). A violation of the Ethics Policy or Candidate Agreement may subject a candidate to certain consequences as explained in more detail in the Candidate Agreement.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Candidates are encouraged to view the Pearson Professional Center Online Tour included under *Test Day Information* on the NBEO website to become familiar with a typical Pearson 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.)

Candidates will also need to review and agree to the Pearson Professional and Regulatory Candidate Rules Agreement.

Additionally, to provide a fair and secure environment for all test-takers, during check-in candidates will be required to undergo a security scan utilizing infrared and metal detection wands. Candidates found in possession of any unauthorized electronic device during such scan will not be permitted to test, may forfeit their exam fees and may be subject to consequences for engaging in Improper Conduct (as defined in the NBEO Ethics Policy). If a candidate needs to request a medical or religious accommodation to the Pearson policy, they should apply for accommodations through NBEO's accommodations process as outlined on the NBEO website.

TAKING THE EXAM

To help candidates become familiar and comfortable with the exam interface, NBEO and Pearson have created this exam tutorial available on the NBEO website. All candidates are strongly encouraged to go through the tutorial prior to exam day. Candidates will only have 10 minutes to go through the tutorial at the beginning of the exam and may have difficulty completing it in that amount of time. Some of the exam interface functionality is described below.

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.

DRUG LIST

On the Part I ABS exam, drugs are generally referenced by generic names. An on-screen searchable drug list of generic drugs and trade name equivalents will be available during the exam. The drug list will include only those drugs that have commonly used trade names. Drugs such as penicillin will not appear on the list. Trade names are sometimes used on the Part I ABS exam when referring to preservatives since some cannot be identified by a single generic ingredient.

A sample drug list can be found in the exam tutorial. Please note that **the sample drug list is not intended to be a study guide, nor is it necessarily a complete list of drugs that may appear on the exam**.

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 may not 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, candidates may not have more than one booklet at a time; to receive a new booklet, candidates must turn in their old booklet.**

Additionally, candidates will have access to the "My Notes" function on the test interface during the exam. Unlike the "Critiques" function described below, the "My Notes" function is for personal notetaking and will not be considered or reviewed by NBEO.

TEST CRITIQUES

During the exam, a "Critiques" button can be found on each screen. If a candidate has a critique regarding an item, they should click on the "Critiques" button on that screen. This will open a comment box, which provides a space for typing in the critique. Candidates should be as specific as possible and substantiate the comments. All comments will be reviewed by NBEO.

Upon completion of Session 2, space is provided to inform NBEO of any unusual occurrences during the administration of the exam. Candidates may also email NBEO at nbeo@optometry.org 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.

UNSCHEDULED BREAKS

Candidates are allowed restroom breaks during the examination, although no additional testing time is allotted. If a candidate needs a break, they should raise their hand, and a Test Administrator will escort them out of the testing room. If a candidate must leave the testing room for any reason (e.g., to use the restroom), the candidate may be required to re-verify their identity prior to re-entering the test room. Additional instructions will be reviewed at the test center prior to the exam.

Laptops, mobile phones, smart watches, and other electronic communication devices are not permitted inside a test center, including any examination room or restroom. Personal items (including laptops, mobile phones, smart watches, other communication devices, purses, backpacks, etc.) may not be accessed during restroom or other unscheduled breaks, or at any time while the NBEO examination is ongoing; provided, however, candidates may access comfort aids, medication, feminine hygiene products and food, but only after receiving express permission from the Test Administrator.

SCHEDULED BREAK BETWEEN SESSIONS

The Part I ABS exam consists of two sessions. At the end of the first session, candidates may take a break of up to 45 minutes. Following this break, candidates will not be able to return to Session 1.

Candidates may access their personal belongings (including mobile devices) during the scheduled break between sessions.

IRREGULARITIES

Non-compliance with any aspect of the NBEO Candidate Agreement, the NBEO Ethics Policy, or the Pearson Professional and Regulatory Rules Agreement 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 Improper Conduct (as defined in the NBEO Ethics Policy).

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

Please review the Candidate Agreement and Ethics Policy for potential consequences of Improper Conduct, including but not limited to, score cancellation, disqualification from taking future NBEO examinations, and legal action. NBEO has the right, in its sole discretion, to determine the appropriate consequence for any Improper Conduct or violation of the Candidate Agreement or the Ethics Policy.

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.

SCORES

Once scores are released and available to be viewed online here, NBEO will post an announcement on the NBEO homepage. 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 submit exam items; Examination Development Committees and Councils composed of licensed Optometrists who review the items; and NBEO staff and Board of Directors. Every attempt has been made to present a relevant, valid, and fair examination based on the Content Matrix and Content Outline as published on the NBEO website.

Congratulations on taking this important step toward becoming a licensed Optometrist! Everyone involved in the preparation of these examinations extends their collective best wishes for your success!