EXAMINATION MODEL

The PBT(ASCP) and PBT(ASCP\textsuperscript{i}) certification examination is composed of 80 examination questions given in a 2 hour time frame. All examination questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. The certification examinations are administered using the format of computer adaptive testing (CAT).

With CAT, when a person answers a question correctly, the next test question has a slightly higher level of difficulty. The difficulty level of the questions presented to the examinee continues to increase until a question is answered incorrectly. Then a slightly easier question is presented. In this way, the test is tailored to the individual’s ability level.

Each question in the test bank is calibrated for level of difficulty and is assigned a content area that matches with the subtest area of the content outline for a particular examination. The weight (value) given to each question is determined by the level of difficulty. Therefore, the examinee must answer enough difficult questions to achieve a score above the pass point in order to successfully pass the certification examination.

EXAMINATION SUBTESTS

The PBT(ASCP) and PBT(ASCP\textsuperscript{i}) certification examination questions encompass six different subtests within the area of Phlebotomy (please see below). Each of these subtests comprises a specific percentage of the overall 80-question certification examination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBTESTS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXAM PERCENTAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circulatory System (CS)</td>
<td>Knowledge of Circulatory System and Blood Composition</td>
<td>5 – 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen Collection (SC)</td>
<td>Processes Related to the Collection of Blood Specimens</td>
<td>45 – 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen Handling, Transport and Processing (SPH)</td>
<td>Processes Related to the Handling, Transport and Processing of Laboratory Specimens</td>
<td>15 – 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point-Of-Care Testing (POC)</td>
<td>Knowledge and Processes Associated with Rapid Test Methods</td>
<td>3 – 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Blood Specimens (NBS)</td>
<td>Processes Related to the Collection of Non-Blood Specimens</td>
<td>5 – 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Operations (LO)</td>
<td>Safety, Quality Assurance/Control and Regulatory Applications</td>
<td>15 – 20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a more specific overview of the six subtest areas on the PBT(ASCP) and PBT(ASCP\textsuperscript{i}) certification examination, please refer to the CONTENT OUTLINE on page 2.
EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE
PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN and
INTERNATIONAL PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

Examination questions, which are related to the subtest areas outlined below, will be both theoretical and procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to perform phlebotomy techniques and follow quality assurance protocols.

I. Circulatory System
(5 - 10% of total examination)
A. Structure/Function of the Circulatory System
   1. Heart and arteries
   2. Capillaries
   3. Veins
B. Composition/Function of Blood
   1. Plasma/serum
   2. Cellular elements (RBC, WBC, platelets)
C. Terminology

II. Specimen Collection (Venipuncture, Skin Puncture)
(45 - 50% of total examination)
A. Review and Clarification of Orders
B. Patient Communication (pre & post collection)
C. Patient Identification
D. Patient Assessment/Preparation
E. Site Selection
F. Techniques
G. Common Tests
H. Order of Draw
I. Complications and Considerations (e.g., fainting, edema, hematoma, IV, mastectomy)
J. Equipment (e.g., tubes/anticoagulant, needles, tourniquet, lancets, syringes)
K. Terminology

III. Specimen Handling, Transport and Processing
(15 - 20% of total examination)
A. Specimen Types/Suitability
   1. Routine specimens
   2. Unusual specimen types (e.g., trace metal elements)
   3. Newborn screening
   4. Chain of custody specimens
B. Accessioning
C. Labeling
D. Assess Specimen Quality (e.g., hemolysis, QNS, clotting, incorrect specimen type)
E. Transport and Storage
   1. Temperature
   2. Light
   3. Time
   4. Shipping
F. Equipment (e.g., centrifuge)
G. Terminology

IV. Point-of-Care Testing (POCT)
(3 - 8% of total examination)
A. Urinalysis (e.g., dipstick)
B. Hemoglobin & Hematocrit
C. Coagulation (e.g., PT)
D. Glucose
E. Performance/Operations
F. Terminology

V. Non-Blood Specimens (e.g. Urine, CSF, Breath, Stool)
(5 - 10% of total examination)
A. Physiology
B. Patient Preparation
C. Patient Collection
D. Processing and Handling
E. Terminology

VI. Laboratory Operations
(15 - 20% of total examination)
A. Quality Control
   1. Techniques
   2. Equipment
B. Quality Improvement
C. Interpersonal Relations (e.g., age-specific communication, Americans with Disabilities Act)
D. Professional Ethics
E. Regulatory Applications (e.g., OSHA, CLSI, CDC)
   1. Safety
      a. Patient
      b. Personal
      c. Equipment
      d. Laboratory/hospital (e.g., fire, chemical)
   2. Infection control
      a. Protective equipment (e.g. isolation)
      b. Disposal of contaminated equipment
      c. Hand hygiene
   3. Coding/billing
   4. Patient confidentiality (e.g., HIPAA)
F. Terminology

All Board of Certification examinations use conventional and SI units for results and reference ranges.

END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE