



AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY, INC.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION  
IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY  
2009 Content Outline

120 questions	Percent
<b>I. Legal regulation of psychiatry</b>	<b>23.33%</b>
A. Malpractice	
B. Civil commitment	
C. Confidentiality/privilege/privacy	
D. Ethics, including research ethics	
E. Right to treatment or to refuse treatment	
F. Duty to warn/protect	
G. Informed consent	
H. Medical board issues/licensure	
<b>II. Civil</b>	<b>16.67%</b>
A. Personal injury/toxic torts	
B. Workplace issues—workers' compensation, social security, disability, harassment, discrimination	
C. Competence/guardianship/conservatorship	
D. Testamentary capacity	
E. Victimology	
F. Contracts	
G. Americans with Disabilities Act issues	
<b>III. Criminal</b>	<b>16.67%</b>
A. Competence	
1. Witness	
2. Stand trial	
3. Execution	
4. Waive rights	
a. Confessions	
b. Jury	
c. Counsel	
d. Silence (Miranda)	



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B.	Insanity	
1.	Diminished capacity	
2.	Mens rea	
3.	History and reform of the insanity defense	
4.	Postacquittal/Psychiatric Security Review Board	
5.	Guilty but mentally ill	
C.	Presentencing/diversion programs	
D.	Death penalty	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Corrections/correctional health care</b>	<b>10%</b>
A.	Epidemiology	
B.	Settings	
C.	Death row treatment/execution	
D.	Special treatment programs—sex offenders, drugs, abusers, mental retardation/ developmental disorders, Ganser syndrome	
E.	Treatment of the seriously mentally ill	
F.	Due process issues—treatment, commitment, movement, transfer	
G.	Sociology of correctional institutions (e.g., gender, race, drugs, gangs)	
H.	Confidentiality issues	
I.	Conditions of confinement	
J.	Security versus treatment issues	
K.	Probation/parole	
L.	Sex offenders	
<b>V.</b>	<b>Legal systems/basic law</b>	<b>1.67%</b>
A.	Sources of law	
1.	Constitution	
2.	Statutes	
3.	Regulations/administrative law	
4.	Case law	
B.	Court system	
1.	Federal	
2.	State	



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C.	Adjudicative process	
1.	Civil procedure	
2.	Criminal procedure	
3.	Evidence (including subpoenas)	
D.	Class action suits	
E.	Consent decrees	
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Children/families</b>	<b>8.33%</b>
A.	Civil	
1.	Abuse/neglect/foster care	
2.	Divorce/custody/visitation	
3.	Termination of parental rights	
4.	Competence – emancipation, mature minor	
5.	Commitment	
6.	Informed consent/assent	
7.	Sterilization	
8.	Adoption	
9.	Evaluation of child sexual abuse	
10.	Children as witnesses	
11.	Malpractice/ethics/confidentiality	
B.	Criminal	
1.	Juvenile court/CHINS/PINS	
2.	Waiver	
3.	Competence to be a witness	
4.	Delinquency	
C.	Forensic evaluation of children, adolescents, and their families	
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Special diagnostic and treatment issues</b>	<b>10%</b>
A.	Posttraumatic stress disorder	
B.	Paraphilias	
C.	Mental retardation/developmental disorders	
D.	Mental disorder NOS due to a general medical condition	
E.	Malingering/factitious disorder/factitious disorder by proxy	
F.	Personality disorders	
G.	Substance use disorders	



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H.	HIV/AIDS	
I.	Amnestic disorders	
J.	Syndromes	
	1. Premenstrual syndrome	
	2. Battered woman syndrome	
	3. Rape trauma syndrome	
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Special procedures in forensic psychiatry</b>	<b>1.67%</b>
A.	Hypnosis/amobarbital	
B.	Polygraphy	
C.	Penile plethysmography	
D.	Voice stress analysis	
E.	Psychological/neuropsychological testing	
F.	Laboratory procedures	
G.	Neuroimaging	
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Special consultations and investigations</b>	<b>4.17%</b>
A.	Psychiatrists/other mental health professionals	
B.	Attorneys	
C.	Police	
D.	Administrators	
E.	Parole/wardens	
F.	Secret Service/FBI	
G.	Legislative	
H.	Schools	
I.	Geriatric population	
J.	Managed care issues	
<b>X.</b>	<b>Risk assessment – violence, dangerousness, criminology, suicide, psychiatric autopsy</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Forensic psychiatry practice issues</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>