



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Instructions for the 2019 Neurology Certification Examination

Examination Format

The 2019 Neurology Certification Examination is comprised of 400 questions. New content outline specifications for the 2019 examination are substantially different from the examination in the past. Please make sure to review the new Content Specifications [on the website](#).

At the beginning of the examination, there is a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that candidates must sign, followed by on-screen instructions. At the conclusion of the examination, there is a five-minute end-of-examination survey.

During the examination, there are 50 minutes of pooled break time available for use. Break time can be accessed during the optional breaks that are offered between each section. Candidates can use as much or as little break time as they see fit during any given optional break (lunch time is included as part of the pooled break time); however, please note that if you exhaust the entire amount of pooled break time (50 minutes) before the end of the examination, any time spent on subsequent breaks will decrease your available remaining examination time. To monitor the amount of break time taken and/or remaining, candidates should pay close attention to the Total Break Time Remaining field displayed on the break screens. If a negative number is displayed in the Total Break Time Remaining field, then the allotted break time has been exhausted and your examination will have the amount of time displayed deducted from your overall examination time. Candidates are expected to manage the pace and timing of the examination themselves. Allotted time for the entire examination, including NDA, instructions and survey, totals eight hours. The 2019 Neurology Certification Examination Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

2019 Neurology Certification Examination Format

	Section	No. of Questions	No. of Audio/Video	Format
5 Min	Nondisclosure Agreement			
	On-Screen Tutorial/Instructions			
7 hrs - Test Time 50 min - Pooled Break Time	1	45-55	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	2	45-55	TBD	Vignette
	Optional Break*			
	3	45-55	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	4	45-55	TBD	Vignette
	Optional Break*			
	5	45-55	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	6	45-55	TBD	Vignette
	Optional Break*			
	7	45-55	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
8	45-55	TBD	Vignette	
5 Min	End-of-Examination Survey			

* This is part of the pooled break time. A proctor must log candidates in after breaks. Candidates must be signed in and out each time they enter and leave the testing room.

Question Type and Review

There are two types of questions in the 2019 Neurology Certification Examination: stand-alone and vignette. *Stand-alone* questions are one-best-answer multiple-choice questions that are not associated with any other questions. For *vignette* questions, there are typically two to five multiple-choice questions linked to a common case that may be presented in a video clip, which may vary in length from 30 seconds to three minutes or in a text vignette. The video clip questions require the use of headphones to be provided by Pearson VUE.

Vignette questions cannot be flagged for review because answers to already-answered questions may be revealed in subsequent questions. Once a candidate has answered a question, the candidate cannot go back to the question and must completely answer the displayed question before moving on to the next question. Stand-alone multiple-choice questions can be flagged for review or skipped, but after logging out of a section a candidate *cannot* review questions in that section again.

Scoring

Candidates will receive a standard score for the total test. An acceptable level of performance must be achieved on the total standard score to pass the examination. The standards are not norm-referenced; there is no predefined passing rate for any group of candidates. In addition, candidates will receive a graphic diagnostic report for their performance on various subtopics of the examination.

Items that may be included in the examination solely for research or pretesting purposes will not be included in candidates' scores.

No candidate is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the ABPN, each candidate should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question. Even though the candidate may be in doubt about the correct answer to a particular question, he or she should answer every question. This will increase the likelihood that the candidate's examination score will reflect the breadth of his or her knowledge of the field. There is no penalty for guessing.

Examination Functions

To familiarize candidates with the examination functions, several examination screenshots with explanations are provided [here](#). In addition to the general functions, such as Time Remaining and Number of Questions, please pay special attention to the functions for video fast forward and rewind, Comment, Scratch Pad, Highlight, Strikethrough, Flag for Review, Section Map/Drug List/Tutorial, Navigator, and functions related to vignette questions.