



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION COMBINED EXAMINATION IN PSYCHIATRY

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. (ABPN) has issued new, two-dimensional content specifications for the psychiatry, neurology and child neurology maintenance of certification examinations. Questions for the 2020 psychiatry, neurology and child neurology maintenance of certification combined examinations will conform to these new content specifications.

Within the two-dimensional format, one dimension is comprised of disorders and topics while the other is comprised of competencies and mechanisms that cut across the various disorders of the first dimension. By design, the two dimensions are interrelated and not independent of each other. All of the questions on the examination will fall into one of the disorders/topics and will be aligned with a competency/mechanism. For example, an item on substance use could focus on treatment, or it could focus on systems-based practice.

The psychiatry, neurology and child neurology maintenance of certification combined content specifications can be accessed from the [Combined MOC Exams section](#) of our website.

Candidates should use the new detailed content specifications as a guide to prepare for a maintenance of certification examination. Scores for these examinations will be reported in a standardized format rather than the previous percent correct format.

In addition to these three maintenance of certification examinations, ABPN examinations will gradually conform to the new two-dimensional content specification starting in 2018.

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to serving the public interest and the professions of psychiatry and neurology by promoting excellence in practice through certification and maintenance of certification processes.

For more information, please contact us at questions@abpn.com or visit our website at www.abpn.com.



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MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION COMBINED EXAMINATION IN PSYCHIATRY 2020 Content Blueprint

| Number of questions: 100 | | |
|---|--|-------|
| Dimension 1 | | |
| Psychiatric Disorders and Topics | | |
| 01. | Developmental processes and development through the life cycle | 1-3% |
| 02. | Disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood, or adolescence (Neurodevelopmental disorders) | 1-3% |
| 03. | Substance-related and addictive disorders | 8-12% |
| 04. | Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders | 8-12% |
| 05. | Depressive disorders | 8-12% |
| 06. | Bipolar and related disorders | 6-8% |
| 07. | Anxiety disorders | 7-9% |
| 08. | Obsessive-compulsive and related disorders | 2-4% |
| 09. | Trauma- and stressor-related disorders | 5-7% |
| 10. | Dissociative disorders | 1-2% |
| 11. | Somatic symptom and related disorders | 4-6% |
| 12. | Eating disorders | 2-4% |
| 13. | Sleep-wake disorders | 2-4% |
| 14. | Sexual dysfunctions | 1-3% |
| 15. | Gender dysphoria | 1-3% |
| 16. | Disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorders | 1-2% |
| 17. | Personality disorders | 6-8% |
| 18. | Paraphilic disorders | 1-2% |
| 19. | Other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention | 1-2% |
| 20. | Neurocognitive disorders | 7-9% |
| 21. | Neurologic disorders | 4-6% |
| 22. | Dimension 2 topics without a corresponding Dimension 1 topic | 2-4% |



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| Number of questions: 100 | | |
| Dimension 2 | | |
| Physician Competencies and Mechanisms | | |
| | | |
| A. | Neuroscience and mechanisms of disease | 4-6% |
| B. | Behavioral and social sciences | 4-6% |
| C. | Clinical aspects of psychiatric and neuropsychiatric disorders | 17-23% |
| D. | Diagnostic procedures | 17-23% |
| E. | Treatment | 25-35% |
| F. | Interpersonal and communication skills | 4-6% |
| G. | Professionalism, ethics, and the law | 4-6% |
| H. | Practice-based learning and improvement | 4-6% |
| I. | Systems-based practice | 4-6% |



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| Dimension 1 |
|---|
| Psychiatric Disorders and Topics |
| 01. Developmental processes and development through the life cycle (psychiatry and neurology) |
| a. Infancy through adolescence |
| i. Personality development |
| ii. Developmental processes |
| iii. Psychosocial influences |
| iv. Other |
| b. Adulthood |
| i. Personality adaptation |
| ii. Developmental processes |
| iii. Psychosocial influences |
| iv. Acquisition and loss of specific capacities |
| v. Other |
| c. Late life |
| i. Personality adaptation |
| ii. Developmental processes |
| iii. Psychosocial influences |
| iv. Acquisition and loss of specific capacities |
| v. Other |
| 02. Disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood, or adolescence (neurodevelopmental disorders) |
| a. Intellectual disability |
| b. Language disorder |
| c. Speech sound disorder |
| d. Childhood-onset fluency disorder |
| e. Social communication disorder |
| f. Autistic spectrum disorder |
| g. Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder |
| h. Specific learning disorder |
| i. Developmental coordination disorder |



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| j. Stereotypic movement disorder |
| k. Tourette disorder |
| l. Persistent motor or vocal tic disorder |
| m. Provisional tic disorder |
| 03. Substance-related and addictive disorders |
| a. Alcohol-related disorders |
| b. Caffeine-related disorders |
| c. Cannabis-related disorders |
| d. Hallucinogen-related disorders |
| e. Inhalant-related disorders |
| f. Opioid-related disorders |
| g. Sedative-, hypnotic-, or anxiolytic-related disorders |
| h. Stimulant-related disorders |
| i. Tobacco-related disorders |
| j. Other (or unknown) substance-related disorders |
| k. Gambling disorder |
| 04. Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders |
| a. Delusional disorder |
| b. Brief psychotic disorder |
| c. Schizophreniform disorder |
| d. Schizophrenia |
| e. Schizoaffective disorder |
| f. Substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder |
| g. Psychotic disorder due to another medical condition |
| h. Catatonia |
| i. Catatonic disorder due to another medical condition |
| j. Unspecified catatonia |
| k. Other specified schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder |
| l. Unspecified schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder |
| 05. Depressive disorders |
| a. Disruptive mood dysregulation disorder |
| b. Major depressive disorder |
| c. Persistent depressive disorder (dysthymia) |
| d. Premenstrual dysphoric disorder |
| e. Substance/medication-induced depressive disorder |
| f. Depressive disorder due to another medical condition |
| g. Other specified depressive disorder |



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| h. Unspecified depressive disorder |
| 06. Bipolar and related disorders |
| a. Bipolar I disorder |
| b. Bipolar II disorder |
| c. Cyclothymic disorder |
| d. Substance/medication-induced bipolar and related disorders |
| e. Bipolar and related disorder due to another medical condition |
| f. Other specified bipolar and related disorder |
| g. Unspecified bipolar and related disorder |
| 07. Anxiety disorders |
| a. Separation anxiety disorder |
| b. Selective mutism |
| c. Specific phobia |
| d. Social anxiety disorder (social phobia) |
| e. Panic disorder |
| f. Agoraphobia |
| g. Generalized anxiety disorder |
| h. Substance/medication-induced anxiety disorder |
| i. Anxiety disorder due to another medical condition |
| j. Other specified anxiety disorder |
| k. Unspecified anxiety disorder |
| 08. Obsessive-compulsive and related disorders |
| a. Obsessive-compulsive disorder |
| b. Body dysmorphic disorder |
| c. Hoarding disorder |
| d. Trichotillomania (hair-pulling disorder) |
| e. Excoriation (skin-picking) disorder |
| f. Substance/medication-induced obsessive-compulsive and related disorder |
| g. Obsessive-compulsive and related disorder due to another medical condition |
| h. Other specified obsessive-compulsive and related disorder |
| 09. Trauma- and stressor-related disorders |
| a. Reactive attachment disorder |
| b. Disinhibited social engagement disorder |
| c. Posttraumatic stress disorder |
| d. Acute stress disorder |
| e. Adjustment disorders |
| f. Other specified trauma- and stressor-related disorder |



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| 10. Dissociative disorders |
| a. Dissociative identity disorder |
| b. Dissociative amnesia |
| c. Depersonalization/derealization disorder |
| d. Other specified dissociative disorder |
| e. Unspecified dissociative disorder |
| 11. Somatic symptom and related disorders |
| a. Somatic symptom disorder |
| b. Illness anxiety disorder |
| c. Conversion disorder (functional neurological symptom disorder) |
| d. Psychological factors affecting other medical conditions |
| e. Factitious disorder |
| f. Other specified somatic symptom and related disorder |
| g. Unspecified somatic symptom and related disorder |
| 12. Eating disorders |
| a. Pica |
| b. Rumination disorder |
| c. Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder |
| d. Anorexia nervosa |
| e. Bulimia nervosa |
| f. Binge-eating disorder |
| g. Other specified feeding or eating disorder |
| 13. Sleep-wake disorders |
| a. Insomnia disorder |
| b. Hypersomnolence disorder |
| c. Narcolepsy |
| d. Obstructive sleep apnea hypopnea |
| e. Central sleep apnea |
| f. Sleep-related hypoventilation |
| g. Circadian rhythm sleep-wake disorders |
| h. Non-REM sleep arousal disorders |
| i. Nightmare disorder |
| j. REM sleep behavior disorder |
| k. Restless legs syndrome |
| l. Substance/medication-induced sleep disorder |
| m. Other specified insomnia disorder |
| n. Unspecified insomnia disorder |



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| o. Other specified hypersomnolence disorder |
| p. Unspecified hypersomnolence disorder |
| q. Other specified sleep-wake disorder |
| r. Unspecified sleep-wake disorder |
| 14. Sexual dysfunctions |
| a. Delayed ejaculation |
| b. Erectile disorder |
| c. Female orgasmic disorder |
| d. Female sexual interest/arousal disorder |
| e. Genito-pelvic pain/penetration disorder |
| f. Male hypoactive sexual desire disorder |
| g. Premature (early) ejaculation |
| h. Substance/medication-induced sexual dysfunction |
| 15. Gender dysphoria |
| 16. Disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorders |
| a. Oppositional defiant disorder |
| b. Intermittent explosive disorder |
| c. Conduct disorder |
| d. Pyromania |
| e. Kleptomania |
| f. Other specified disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorder |
| g. Unspecified disruptive, impulse-control and conduct disorder |
| 17. Personality disorders |
| a. Paranoid personality disorder |
| b. Schizoid personality disorder |
| c. Schizotypal personality disorder |
| d. Antisocial personality disorder |
| e. Borderline personality disorder |
| f. Histrionic personality disorder |
| g. Narcissistic personality disorder |
| h. Avoidant personality disorder |
| i. Dependent personality disorder |
| j. Obsessive-compulsive personality disorder |
| k. Personality changed due to another medical condition |
| l. Other specified personality disorder |
| m. Unspecified personality disorder |
| n. General personality disorder |



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| 18. Paraphilic disorders |
| a. Voyeuristic disorder |
| b. Exhibitionistic disorder |
| c. Frotteuristic disorder |
| d. Sexual masochism disorder |
| e. Sexual sadism disorder |
| f. Pedophilic disorder |
| g. Fetishistic disorder |
| h. Transvestic disorder |
| i. Other specified paraphilic disorder |
| j. Unspecified paraphilic disorder |
| 19. Other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention |
| 20. Neurocognitive disorders |
| a. Delirium |
| b. Other specified delirium |
| c. Unspecified delirium |
| d. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to Alzheimer disease |
| e. Major or mild frontotemporal neurocognitive disorder |
| f. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder with Lewy bodies |
| g. Major or mild vascular neurocognitive disorder |
| h. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to traumatic brain injury |
| i. Substance/medication-induced major or mild neurocognitive disorder |
| j. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to HIV infection |
| k. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to prion disease |
| l. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to Parkinson disease |
| m. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to Huntington disease |
| n. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to another medical condition |
| o. Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to multiple etiologies |
| p. Unspecified neurocognitive disorder |
| 21. Neurologic disorders |
| a. Infections of the nervous system |
| b. Vascular diseases |
| c. Disorders of cerebrospinal and brain fluids |
| d. Neuro-oncology |
| e. Trauma |
| f. Birth injuries and developmental abnormalities |
| g. Genetic diseases of recognized biochemical abnormality |



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| h. Cerebral degenerations of childhood |
| i. Cranial nerve disorders |
| j. Peripheral neuropathies |
| k. Ataxias |
| l. Headache |
| m. Movement disorders |
| n. Spinal cord diseases |
| o. Neuromuscular junction disorders |
| p. Myopathies |
| q. Demyelinating diseases |
| r. Epilepsy and episodic disorders |
| s. Neurologic complications of systemic diseases |
| t. Neurotoxicology |
| u. Pain syndromes |
| v. Other |
| 22. Dimension 2 topics without a corresponding Dimension 1 topic |



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| Dimension 2 |
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| Physician Competencies and Mechanisms |
| A. Neuroscience and mechanisms of disease |
| I. Neuroanatomy |
| II. Cellular and molecular neurobiology |
| III. Neuropathology |
| IV. Genetics |
| V. Neurochemistry |
| VI. Neurophysiology |
| VII. Chronobiology (e.g., biological rhythms, sleep) |
| VIII. Neuroendocrinology and neuroimmunology |
| IX. Other |
| B. Behavioral and social sciences |
| I. Psychology |
| i. Experimental and behavioral psychology |
| ii. Neuropsychology, cognitive psychology |
| iii. Social psychology |
| II. Sociology |
| III. Anthropology, culture, ethnicity, and race |
| IV. Psychoanalytic theory |
| V. Spirituality |
| VI. Biostatistics |
| VII. Research design |
| VIII. Other |
| C. Clinical aspects of psychiatric and neuropsychiatric disorders |
| I. Epidemiology |
| II. Risk factors (predisposing factors) |
| III. Precipitants |
| IV. Protective factors |
| V. Perpetuating factors |
| VI. Presentation |
| VII. Symptomatology |
| VIII. Comorbidity |
| IX. Differential diagnoses |
| X. Course of illness |
| XI. Prognosis |



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| D. Diagnostic procedures |
| I. Psychiatric interview and mental status examination |
| II. Psychological testing |
| III. Neuropsychological testing |
| IV. Diagnostic assessments and rating scales |
| V. Laboratory monitoring |
| VI. Neuroimaging |
| VII. EEG |
| VIII. Sleep Studies |
| IX. Clinical neurologic examination |
| X. Biomedical laboratory testing |
| XI. Neurophysiologic testing |
| XII. Other |
| E. Treatment |
| I. General principles of psychopharmacology and neuropharmacology |
| i. Pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics |
| ii. Drug interactions |
| iii. Age, gender, and ethnicity issues |
| iv. Genomics |
| II. Specific pharmacologic agents |
| i. Tricyclics and heterocyclics |
| ii. Monoamine oxidase inhibitors |
| iii. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) |
| iv. Selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (NRI) |
| v. Selective serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI) |
| vi. Combined noradrenergic-dopaminergic agents (NDRI) |
| vii. Noradrenergic and specific serotonergic agents (NaSSA) |
| viii. Lithium |
| ix. Atomoxetine |
| x. Anticonvulsants |
| xi. Benzodiazepines |
| xii. Beta blockers |
| xiii. Alpha agonists |
| xiv. Typical antipsychotics |
| xv. Atypical antipsychotics |
| xvi. Psychostimulants |
| xvii. Hypnotics and sedatives |



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| xviii. Cognitive enhancers |
| xix. Calcium channel blockers |
| xx. Dopamine agonists |
| xxi. Anticholinergics |
| xxii. Other agents used in the management of psychiatric patients |
| xxiii. Other agents used in the management of neurologic patients |
| III. Treatment of chemical dependence/abuse |
| i. Pharmacologic |
| ii. Nonpharmacologic |
| IV. Treatment of aggression |
| i. Pharmacologic |
| ii. Nonpharmacologic |
| V. Treatment of sleep disorders |
| i. Pharmacologic |
| ii. Nonpharmacologic |
| VI. Treatment of pain |
| i. Pharmacologic |
| ii. Nonpharmacologic |
| VII. Treatment of neuroleptic malignant syndrome |
| i. Pharmacologic |
| ii. Nonpharmacologic |
| VIII. Pharmacotherapy in special situations |
| i. Renal disease |
| ii. Hepatic disease |
| iii. Pregnancy |
| iv. Breast-feeding |
| v. Tardive dyskinesia and extrapyramidal symptoms |
| IX. Augmentation strategies |
| X. Nonpharmacologic somatic treatment |
| i. Biofeedback |
| ii. Electroconvulsive therapy |
| iii. Phototherapy |
| iv. Chronotherapy |
| v. Vagal nerve stimulation |
| vi. rTMS (repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation) |
| vii. Neurosurgical approaches |
| XI. Psychotherapy |



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| i. Supportive |
| ii. Cognitive |
| iii. Behavioral |
| iv. Interpersonal |
| v. Psychodynamic |
| vi. Psychoanalytic |
| vii. Couples |
| viii. Family |
| ix. Group |
| x. Crisis intervention |
| xi. Sex therapy |
| xii. Motivational interviewing |
| xiii. Other (e.g., hypnotherapy, critical incident debriefing) |
| XII. Psychosocial interventions |
| i. Psychoeducation |
| ii. Vocational and occupational rehabilitation |
| iii. Self-help groups (e.g., AA, NA) |
| iv. Community-based treatment programs (e.g., halfway houses, day hospitals) |
| v. Other |
| F. Interpersonal and communication skills |
| I. Communication with patients |
| II. Communication with other professionals |
| III. Communication with the public |
| IV. Communication with patients' families |
| V. Communication with the healthcare team |
| VI. Management of conflict |
| VII. Common errors in communication |
| G. Professionalism, ethics, and the law |
| I. Sensitivity to diverse patient populations |
| II. Adherence to ethical principles (e.g., informed consent, research issues, clinical care) |
| III. Fatigue management and work balance |
| IV. Professional behavior |
| V. Participation in the professional community |
| VI. Legal issues in psychiatry |
| VII. End of life issues |
| H. Practice-based learning and improvement |
| I. Development and execution of lifelong learning |



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| i. Self-assessment and self-improvement |
| ii. Use of evidence in the clinical workflow |
| II. Formal practice-based quality improvement |
| I. Systems-based practice |
| I. Patient safety and the healthcare team |
| i. Medical errors and improvement activities |
| ii. Communication and patient safety |
| iii. Regulatory and educational activities related to patient safety |
| II. Resource management |
| i. Parity |
| ii. Access to care |
| III. Community-based care |
| i. Community based-programs |
| ii. Prevention |
| iii. Recovery and rehabilitation |
| IV. Consultation to nonpsychiatric medical providers and nonmedical systems (e.g., military, schools, businesses, forensic) |