



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Instructions for the 2020 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Certification Examination

Examination Format

The 2020 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Certification Examination is comprised of 280 multiple-choice questions. Please make sure to review the new Content Specifications [on the website](#) for detailed topic specifications.

At the beginning of the examination, there is a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that candidates must agree to, 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 30 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; however, please note that if you exhaust the entire amount of pooled break time (30 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 five and one-quarter hours. The 2020 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Certification Examination Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

2020 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Certification Examination Format

	Section	No. of Questions	No. of Audio/Video	Format
5 min	Nondisclosure Agreement			
	On-Screen Instructions			
4 hrs 35 min - Test time 30 min - pooled break time	1	46	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	2	46	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	3	50	5-7	Linked-Item Set (Vignette)
	Optional Break*			
	4	46	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	5	46	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
6	46	NA	Stand-alone	
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 2020 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Certification Examination: stand-alone and linked-item set (vignette). *Stand-alone* questions are one-best-answer multiple-choice questions that are not associated with any other questions. *Linked-item set (vignette)* questions are typically comprised of two to ten multiple-choice questions linked to a common case that may be presented in a video clip, which may vary in length from 30 to 240 seconds, or in a text linked-item set (vignette). The video questions require the use of headphones to be provided by Pearson VUE. Each linked-item set (vignette) question must be answered in order to advance to the next question.

As the above chart demonstrates, stand-alone items and linked-item set (vignette) items are delivered in separate sections. In **linked-item set (vignette) sections**, linked-item set (vignette) questions are set up in a linear navigation mode. Every linked-item set (vignette) question must be answered before moving on to the next question. Once a candidate has answered a question and navigates forward to the next one, the answer to that question cannot be changed. **Starting 2019, candidates CAN go back to revisit previously answered linked-item set (vignette) questions within a section although they still CANNOT change the answers.** After leaving a section, a candidate *cannot* review questions in that section again.

Stand-alone multiple-choice questions can be flagged for review or skipped, but after leaving a section a candidate *cannot* review questions in that section again.

Scoring

In addition to subtest scores, candidates will receive a total percent correct score (percentage of items answered correctly, rounded to the nearest whole number). An acceptable level of performance must be achieved on the total score to pass the examination. The standards are not norm-referenced; there is no predefined passing rate for any group of candidates.

Items that may be included in the examination solely for research or pretesting purposes will not be included in the examinee's score.

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 linked-item set (vignette) questions.