



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Instructions for the 2021 Psychiatry Continuing Certification/MOC Examination

Examination Format

The 2021 Psychiatry Continuing Certification/MOC Examination is comprised of 220 questions. Please review the 2021 Psychiatry Continuing Certification Examination Content Outline [on the website](#) for detailed topic specifications. The examination questions will be delivered in four sections comprised of 47-60 items each. **You can review questions only within sections. (However, you cannot review questions within a linked-item set/vignette section.) Once you finish the section, you cannot go back into it. There is no review of all questions at the end of the exam.** There is a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that candidates must sign, followed by on-screen instructions at the beginning of the examination. At the conclusion of the examination, there is a five-minute end-of-examination survey.

During the examination, there are optional breaks between each section. The optional breaks will be offered after one section is completed and before the next section begins. Examination time continues to run during optional breaks, so candidates must manage their own time. Allotted time for the entire examination, including NDA, instructions and survey, totals five hours. The 2021 Psychiatry Continuing Certification Examination Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

2021 Psychiatry Continuing Certification/MOC Examination Format

	Section	No. of Questions	No. of Audio/Video	Format
5 min	Nondisclosure Agreement			
	On-Screen Instructions			
4 hrs 50 min	1	50-60	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	2	47-49	3-5	Linked-Item Set (Vignette)
	Optional Break*			
	3	50-60	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
5 min	4	50-60	NA	Stand-alone
	End-of-Examination Survey			

* 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 2021 Psychiatry Continuing 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. For linked-item set (vignette) questions, there are typically 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 one to four minutes, an audio clip, or in a text linked-item set (vignette). The video and audio clip questions require the use of headphones to be provided by Pearson VUE. Some linked-item set (vignette) questions require more than one answer. For these questions, the required number of answers must be provided in order to advance to the next question. The ABPN does not give partial credit for linked-item set (vignette) questions. For any question that requires more than one answer, candidates must provide all required answers correctly in order to obtain full credit. ***Linked-item set (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. To familiarize candidates with video questions, please view sample linked-item set (vignette) provided [here](#).

Scoring

In addition to subtest scores, candidates will receive a total percent correct score (percentage of items answered correctly). 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.

Questions 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 other functions related to examination questions.