



The American Board of Pathology

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

WEB SITE: www.abpath.org

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GENERAL EXAMINATION INFORMATION

-Microscope during examination

If you are taking an examination with a microscopic section, Nikon Alphaphot 2 microscopes with 10x widefield oculars, 4x, 10x, 40x, 100x oil immersion objectives, non-removable mechanical stages, abbe condensers, and built-in light sources will be provided in the ABP Exam Center. You may bring your own if you wish. If you bring your own microscope, include an extra bulb. Ancillary microscopic tools (e.g. polarizing lenses, lens paper) will not be supplied by the ABP. Please bring with you any and all ancillary microscopic tools that you believe you may need whether or not you bring your own microscope.

-AP Virtual Microscopy examination

The fifty (50) questions using glass slides and the twenty-five (25) virtual microscopy questions have been combined into one 3½ hour examination. The sequence numbers and types of questions are: 1-16 glass slides, 17-24 virtual, 25-41 glass slides, 42-49 virtual, 50-66 glass slides, 67-75 virtual. Instructions for both types of questions will be given at the beginning of the examination. There will no longer be a separate instruction book for the virtual portion of the examination. Otherwise, the examination procedure will be the same. When a candidate is finished with the box of slides that he/she was initially given, the candidate will return these slides to the proctor in exchange for the next box. Candidates will not be able to return to a slide box after it has been turned in; however, all virtual slides will be available throughout the examination. There will be no official break during this 3½ hour period. Restroom breaks will be available to candidates logged into an examination, one of each gender at a time. Candidates must check with the proctor before leaving for restroom breaks. Candidates are expected to practice using the virtual microscopy system and to be familiar with it prior to the scheduled examination. The practice virtual microscopy examination is available on the ABP web site (www.abpath.org). One virtual microscopy question will be included on the practice examination administered at the beginning of the examination day.

-Queries during examination

In spite of the great care exercised in the proofreading of examinations, typographical errors may occur. In practically all instances, these are simply spelling or typing errors, and the meaning is readily apparent. Out of fairness to all candidates taking the examination, examiners and proctors are instructed not to answer individual questions, make judgments, or interpret a possible error. It is asked that the candidate accept the fact that, as in daily activities, errors in typing or recording of information may occur. Nonetheless, if a candidate believes that an error exists, he or she should bring the

matter to the attention of a proctor during or immediately following that section of the examination. The ABP reviews the entire examination prior to scoring. If it is determined that an error is critical to correctly answering a question, that question is eliminated from the final scoring of the examination.

-Examination time

Times listed are the actual starting times of the examination. Please be ready to enter the examination center approximately 10 minutes before the posted starting time so you will be settled in your assigned seat and ready to begin the examination. Announcements and instructions will begin immediately. Once you have entered the center, you are expected to take your seat and remain seated until you have logged in to the examination and the first item appears on the screen. Your computer will be logged on for you if you are not seated when the examination begins.

-Restroom breaks

The restrooms are located on either side of the elevator lobby. The only breaks allowed during the examination are for brief restroom visits that are available to one of each gender at a time. No restroom breaks are allowed during registration, during the practice exam and announcements, or during the last 10 minutes of the examination. Please check with a proctor before you leave the center.

-Notes during an examination

No notes may be made during or between examinations in the examination center. A candidate may be subject to disciplinary action should this occur. Examination booklets may be used for calculations, etc. All examination booklets must be returned intact at the completion of the examination.

-Personal items in the examination center

The only personal items permitted at the workstations are jackets or sweaters, eyeglasses, microscopes, and ancillary microscope tools (e.g., polarizing lenses). No other personal items are permitted in the workstations. Do not bring communication devices, including pagers and cell phones, personal organizers, calculators, books, notes, pens/pencils or papers to the examination center. A pen will be provided for you. Food (including candy and gum) and drinks are not permitted at workstations. However, drinks, candy, and medications may be stored in the storage area, and access to this area is available with proctor notification. A drinking fountain is available in the hall. Smoking is not permitted in the building.

-Blue Exam ID Card

A blue Exam ID Card will be given to you at registration. This card is to be carried with you when you leave the center for any reason. Please return the blue card to the proctor when you have completed all examinations.

·Temperature of examination center

Because of the difficulty of adjusting the temperature of the examination center to the satisfaction of all, you may wish to bring a sweater or jacket.

·Waiting area

There is no reason to come to the ABP Exam Center earlier than 10 minutes before the start of the examination. There is a designated waiting area on the first floor atrium. At 10 minutes before the examination, proceed to the examination center. While there, please wait in the designated waiting area for examination center doors to open. Please do not block office entrance areas or the elevator area while waiting. Go directly to the examination center door and wait in the designated area to the right of the door. Once you complete your examination you should return to the first floor lobby area. Please plan to meet your colleagues in the first floor lobby area, and not outside the examination center.

·Sounds, scents, and civility

In consideration of other candidates, please avoid wearing strong fragrances, making unnecessary noise, and other actions that may be disruptive to others. Earplugs are available on individual request.

·Personal conduct

You are expected to maintain professional conduct during the examination. Any conduct that is considered inappropriate will be documented by the proctors and reviewed by the trustees to determine appropriate action. Inappropriate behavior includes cheating, suspicion of cheating, aggressive behavior toward proctors or other candidates, disregarding examination rules, and any other behavior determined to be detrimental to the administration of the examination.