

**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, INC.**

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**DESCRIPTION OF PART 2 (ORAL) EXAMINATION**

The Part 2 examination of the American Board of Anesthesiology consists of two 35-minute examination sessions with a 10-minute break between sessions. Two examiners interview each candidate during each session. Each candidate is, therefore, examined by four examiners. *The examiners rate the candidate independently. They do **not** rate the candidate on responses to their questions alone. Their ratings are a synthesis of the degree and frequency with which the candidate demonstrated the abilities the examination is designed to assess. A candidate's test score takes into account variations in task difficulty and examiner grading severity.*

After registration (at the time and location indicated on the examination notice letter) and before the first session of the examination, there is a briefing session to describe more fully the technical aspects of this examination, location of examining rooms, etc. At that time candidates may ask any questions they wish pertaining to the examination.

At the conclusion of the briefing, candidates will receive the clinical data for the first case and have approximately 10 minutes to review it; these are data an anesthesiologist would obtain during preoperative assessment. During the **first examination session** one examiner will ask the candidate questions about the intraoperative management of the case; then the other examiner will question the candidate about the patient's postoperative care. Finally, the first examiner will ask questions about additional topics which are not related to the original case. The **second examination session** will be similar in structure but focus on a new case. One examiner will question the candidate about the patient's preoperative assessment; then the other examiner will focus on the intraoperative management of the case. At the conclusion of these case related questions, the first examiner will ask the candidate about additional topics unrelated to the clinical case.

The same case reports will be presented in all examining rooms at the same time, and no case report will be used more than once during the entire week of examinations.

In summary, the Part 2 examination consists of discussion of two clinical situations plus several additional topics, which probe the breadth of a candidate's decision making and judgment in many areas of anesthesiology in its broadest sense. Practicing anesthesiologists who serve as examiners submitted cases for presentation. The enclosure is a sample examination with clinical data and questions for the first and second examination sessions.

The ABA designed the Part 2 examination to assess a candidate's decision making, judgment, adaptability managing patients presented in clinical scenarios, and ability to logically organize and effectively present information. The examination is clinically oriented, and the content may include any area of anesthesiology or a related discipline relevant to some aspect of the practice of anesthesiology. A 70-minute examination can only sample the discipline of anesthesiology, and in planning the Part 2 examination the ABA has taken care to insure reasonable content sampling. Candidates will be expected to have knowledge in depth of all drugs used and their effects on normal and abnormal body functions. They should be able to anticipate, diagnose and provide rational therapy for any complications likely to arise. As specialists they should be familiar with pathogenesis, alternate methods of management, understand mechanisms of drug action, and methods of measurement including routine laboratory studies and normal values.