

BASIC Exam Blueprint

Purpose of the BASIC Exam

The BASIC Exam is a summative examination designed to assess a resident's mastery of the educational objectives for the clinical base and CA-1 years of the continuum of education in anesthesiology. The continuum of education in anesthesiology consists of four years of full-time training subsequent to the date that the medical or osteopathic degree has been conferred. The continuum consists of a clinical base year and 36 months of approved training in anesthesia (CA-1, CA-2 and CA-3 years).

Exam Content

The BASIC Exam covers basic topics in the following four content categories:

- Basic Sciences
- Clinical Sciences
- Organ-based Basic & Clinical Sciences
- Special Problems or Issues in Anesthesiology

Each BASIC Exam form is built to the same content specifications, known as an exam blueprint. The blueprint is used to ensure that every form of the BASIC Exam measures the same depth and breadth of content knowledge. The data below shows the number and relative percentage of questions from each of the four content categories shown above that will appear on each form.

Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Basic Sciences (24%)	44 – 52
Clinical Sciences (36%)	65 – 79
Organ-Based Basic & Clinical Sciences (37%)	66 – 82
Special Problems or Issues In Anesthesiology (3%)	4 – 8

Exam Specifications

The BASIC Exam consists of 200 questions and examinees have 4 hours to complete the exam. The BASIC Exam includes A-type items only. A-type questions are single-best-answer multiple-choice questions that require the application of knowledge rather than simple recall of factual information. These questions often include a brief clinical vignette followed by a lead-in question and three response options.

The BASIC Exam includes questions that reference static images.

Exam Administration

All residents that have completed 18 months of satisfactory training in an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology residency training program are eligible to take the BASIC Exam. The BASIC is a computer-based exam that is administered twice each year through Pearson VUE centers nationwide.

Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
BASIC SCIENCES (24%)	44 – 52
Anatomy	10 – 12
Physics, Monitoring & Anesthesia Delivery Devices	12 – 14
Mathematics	3 – 5
Pharmacology	19 – 21
CLINICAL SCIENCES (36%)	65 – 79
Evaluation of the Patient & Preoperative Preparation	13 – 15
Regional Anesthesia	9 – 11
General Anesthesia	14 – 16
Monitored Anesthesia Care & Sedation	5 – 7
Intravenous Fluid Therapy During Anesthesia	8 – 10
Common Complications	8 – 10
Postoperative Care	8 – 10
ORGAN-BASED BASIC & CLINICAL SCIENCES (37%)	66 – 82
Central & Peripheral Nervous Systems	10 – 12
Respiratory System	12 – 14
Cardiovascular System	13 – 15
Gastrointestinal/Hepatic Systems	6 – 8
Renal & Urinary Systems/Electrolyte Balance	7 – 9
Hematologic System	6 – 8
Endocrine & Metabolic Systems	6 – 8
Anatomy and Physiology of Neuromuscular Junction	6 – 8
SPECIAL PROBLEMS OR ISSUES IN ANESTHESIOLOGY (3%)	4 – 8
Physician Impairment or Disability	2 – 4
Ethics, Practice Management, & Medicolegal Issues	2 – 4