

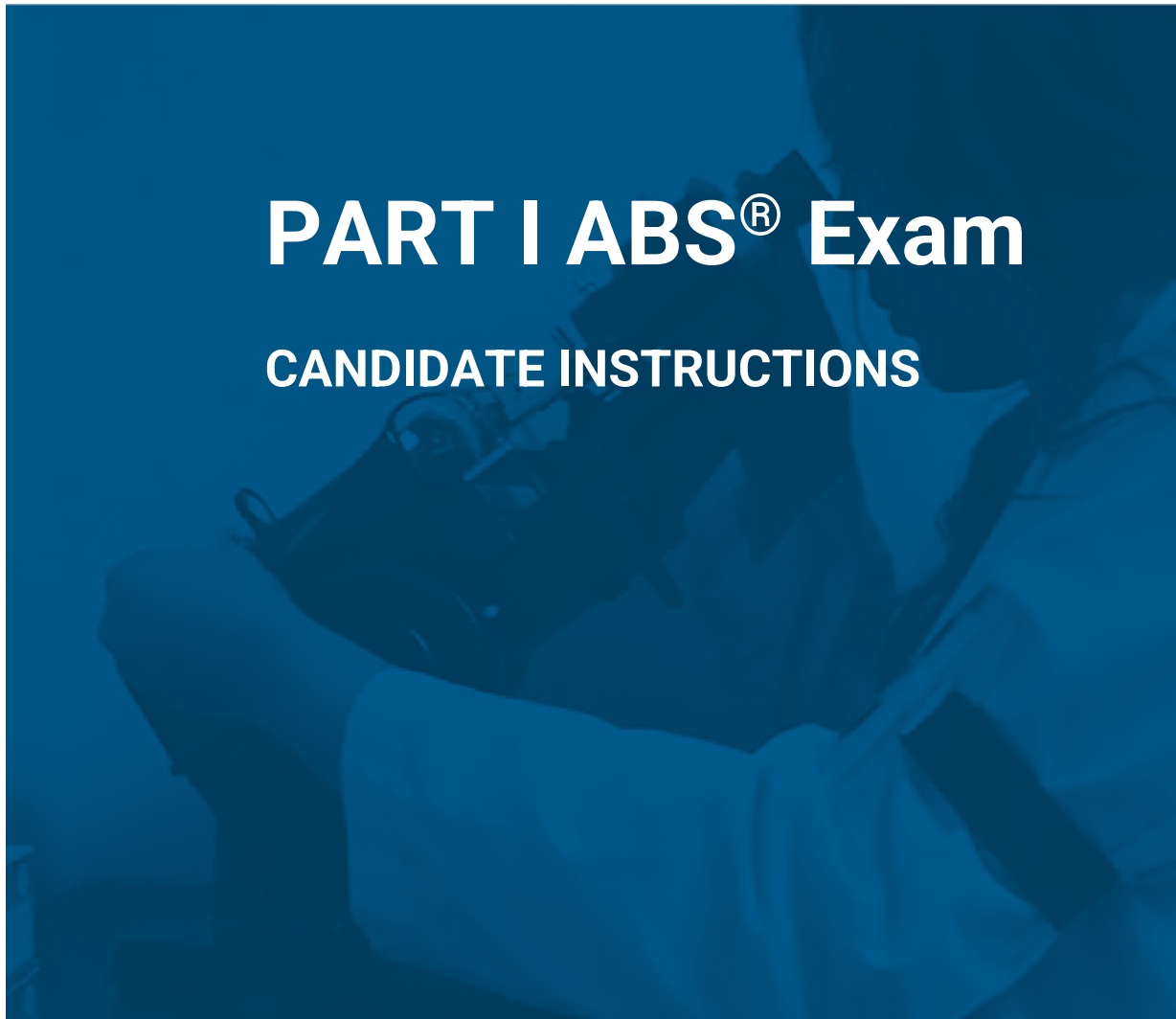


NBEEO

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

PART I ABS[®] Exam

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS



PART I ABS EXAM

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

WHEN/WHERE TO REPORT

All candidates receive a verification email from Pearson VUE indicating the date, time, and location of the examination. [Please confirm that all information in the verification email is correct.](#) The starting time of the exam varies depending on the appointment you schedule with Pearson VUE. Candidates should **arrive at the test center 30 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment** to allow adequate time for the check-in procedure. Candidates who arrive more than 15 minutes after their scheduled appointment time may be denied admission and are not eligible for a refund of the exam fee.

The verification email also includes directions to the exam center and telephone contact information.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAM

You will be required to show two valid forms of personal identification. No admittance will be permitted without the proper identification. In order to be considered valid, the ID must match the name used to register for the exam. Both forms of identification must contain your signature and must be current (expired IDs are not acceptable). At least one form must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, a passport, or a military ID. The other ID may be a student identification card, a credit or debit card, or another card that has your name and signature. Candidates who do not have proper ID may be denied admission to the exam and are not eligible for a refund of the exam fee.

No personal items may be taken into the testing room. This includes all bags, purses, books, pencils, pens, notes, coats, watches, wallets, cameras, cell phones, recording devices, weapons, and any other electronic devices. Lockers are provided for storage of personal belongings.

Please review the [NBEO Ethics Policy](#) and [Candidate Agreement](#). Candidates are expected to know and observe the NBEO examination rules. Non-compliance with any of the rules may be considered Improper Conduct (as defined in the Ethics Policy). A violation of the Ethics Policy or Candidate Agreement may subject a candidate to certain consequences as explained in more detail in the Candidate Agreement.

Food and drink are not permitted in the exam room but may be consumed during breaks. Candidates with special dietary/nutritional needs relating to a medical condition (e.g., diabetes) should request accommodations in accordance with the [NBEO Test Accommodations Policy](#). Smoking is not permitted in the test center at any time.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON TEST DAY

Candidates are encouraged to log on to the Pearson VUE website at <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/nbeo.html> and click on the Pearson Professional Center Online Tour link. This brief video will familiarize candidates with the test center and what to expect on exam day.

During check-in at the center, candidates will have a digital photograph and palm vein scan taken.

(Candidates assigned to test centers other than Pearson Professional Centers may have a fingerprint scan in lieu of a palm vein scan.)

CALCULATORS

An on-screen scientific calculator (TI-30XS) will be available to candidates throughout the Part I ABS exam. Candidates should note, however, that all Optics items on the exam are designed such that the correct answer can be determined without the use of trigonometric functions. The scientific calculator is provided to give candidates the option of using trigonometric functions should they choose to do so.

SCRATCH PAPER

A marker and a booklet of pages that can be used as “scratch paper” will be given to each candidate at the test center. **Candidates should be aware that they are not allowed to write any notes in the booklet until the first exam item appears on their screen. No notes may be written down during the time allotted for the NDA or tutorial. Further, candidates should be aware that they cannot have more than one booklet at a time; to receive a new booklet, candidates must turn in their old booklet.**

Additionally, candidates will have access to the “My Notes” function on the test interface during the exam. Unlike the “Critiques” function described below, the “My Notes” function is for personal notetaking and will not be considered or reviewed by NBEO. Please see the exam [Tutorial](#) for more information.

TEST CRITIQUES

During the exam, a “Critiques” button can be found on each screen. If you have a critique regarding an item, click on the “Critiques” button on that screen. This will open a comment box, which provides a space for typing in your critique. Please be as specific as possible and substantiate your comments. Your comments will be returned to NBEO for review.

Upon completion of Session 2, space is provided to inform NBEO of any unusual occurrences during the administration of the exam. You may also email NBEO at nbeo@optometry.org within 72 hours after the completion of the exam to report an unusual occurrence. Emails received more than 72 hours after the exam will not be considered.

RESTROOM BREAKS

Candidates are allowed restroom breaks during the examination although no additional testing time is allotted. If you need a break, raise your hand and a Test Administrator will escort you out of the testing room. If a candidate must leave the testing room for any reason (e.g., to use the restroom), the candidate may be required to re-verify their identity prior to re-entering the test room. Additional instructions will be reviewed at the testing center prior to the exam.

Laptops, mobile phones, smart watches, and other electronic communication devices are not permitted inside a test center including any examination room or restroom. Such devices cannot be used during restroom or other types of breaks, or at any time while the NBEO Examination is ongoing; provided, however, candidates may use mobile devices during scheduled breaks at Pearson Vue Test Centers, if allowed by the test center rules.

BREAK BETWEEN SESSIONS

The Part I ABS exam consists of two sessions. At the end of the first session, candidates may take a break of up to 45 minutes. Following this break, candidates will **not** be able to return to Session 1.

IRREGULARITIES

Non-compliance with any aspect of the NBEO Candidate Agreement or Ethics Policy will be regarded as an irregularity, which will be reported to NBEO by the Test Administrator and may be subject to the consequences associated with Improper Conduct (as defined in the Ethics Policy).

Collaboration, pirating, copying, talking (even to oneself), and other disruptive behavior during an examination is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary actions.

Please review the Candidate Agreement and Ethics Policy for potential consequences of Improper Conduct, including but not limited to, score cancellation, disqualification from taking future NBEO examinations, and legal action. NBEO has the right, in its sole discretion, to determine the appropriate consequence for any Improper Conduct or violation of the Candidate Agreement or the Ethics Policy.

In the event of an emergency (e.g., fire, electrical blackout, weather), candidates are required to follow the directions of the Test Administrator. Not following such directions will be considered disruptive behavior.

SCORES

Once scores are released and available to be viewed online (<https://www.optometry.org/scores/>), NBEO will post an announcement on the NBEO homepage (<http://www.optometry.org/>). Candidates are urged not to call the NBEO office to inquire about score release; rather, they are encouraged to check the NBEO homepage for an announcement.

NBEO EXAMINATIONS

NBEO exams are the culmination of many hours of work by hundreds of contributors, including faculty, state board members, and private practitioners who originally submitted items; Examination Development Committee and Council members; NBEO staff; and the NBEO Board of Directors. Every attempt has been made to present a relevant, valid, and fair examination based on the Content Matrix and Content Outline as published on the NBEO website.

Everyone involved in the preparation of these examinations extends their collective best wishes for your success.