

Guidelines for Taking National Registry Tests

Do

Read chapters before the class
Highlight and take notes during lecture
Review, rewrite notes, and make review cards
Reread the chapter after the lecture
Study glossary of medical terms
Prepare ahead of time
Organize Notes
Form a study group
Utilize recommended study guides

Don't

Try to reread all assigned material before the test
Cram for the test
Deprive your body of rest

Other things to remember:

Exam contents should match course objectives
More difficult questions will be weighed more heavily than less difficult topics
Test items should be representative of instructional goals
Cover the basis! Paramedic students will miss questions (especially airway and breathing) because they want to move to advanced interventions.

Most of the questions that you will see on the National Registry will consist of two types of questions:

1. "Application of Knowledge questions" are items that require an examinee to reach a conclusion, make a prediction, or select a course of action such as scenarios.

"Application of Knowledge questions" test your ability to apply facts that you know. These may be in the form of scenario questions:

- a. There will be a brief description of a patient or situation. The scenario may include vital signs, treatments performed prior to your arrival, signs and symptoms or something that the patient tells you. You may receive one or a combination of these pieces of information.

b. There will be a series of lead-in questions; for example, a (patient description) has (symptoms, signs, or disease). Then a question or a series of questions similar to the following will be listed:

- Which of the following structures is most likely to be affected?
- Which of the following is the appropriate treatment?
- Which of the following is the most likely cause?
- Which of the following should you perform next?
- What should be your next action?
- Which of the following is the most appropriate intervention?
- For which of the following conditions is the patient at greatest risk?
- Which of the following is the appropriate next step?
- Which of the following would prevent disability from this injury?
- Which of the following is abnormal?
- Which of the following is normal?
- Which of the following is the most likely cause?
- Which of the following should be administered?
- Which of the following is defective/deficient/nonfunctioning?
- What drug should be administered?
- Which of the following is the appropriate initial dosage?
- What would be the correct drip rate?
- Treatment should include?
- Your first consideration should be?

There will be a list of options or choices. You will be given a hierarchy of choices whereby you will be able to immediately exclude two (2) wrong distracters then choose between the remaining two (2). Review the choices for a single “best” answer.

2. “Recall Questions” are items that test only rote memory of isolated facts.

Test Question Formats

The questions that you will see on National Registry Tests will be multiple choice, but you must understand both multiple choice and true/false. Explanation follows:

True/False

- Basic strategy assumes that all statements are true.
- The following statements tend to be false:

Statements containing extreme modifiers (always, all, only, never)
Statements of reason

- True/False questions are questions in which the student must choose one absolutely right or wrong response.

Require examinee to select all of the options that are true.

Problem: The test taker must decide where the “cut-off” is. Test taker must decide to what extent an item must be true to be considered true.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Read the question and before looking at the choices, you may know the answer already just from reading it. See if you can get an answer in your head.
2. Read all of the choices.

Don't stop when you see the answer in your head.

Is the correct answer one of similar answers?

There may be more than one correct answer (one will be the best three nearly correct answers).

3. If you are uncertain, look for a clue to the correct answer

Is the correct answer “all of the above?”

Does the correct answer contain the most information?

Can you eliminate incorrect possibilities?

Can you rank possible choices?

Use grammatical clues (an or a, singular or plural)

Can you eliminate an answer that contains an unfamiliar term?

Can you eliminate an answer that is a joke?

Can you eliminate an answer that has an extremely low or high set of numerical values?

The correct answer is longer, more specific, or more complete

A word or phrase is repeated in the stem (question) and the correct answer
“unreal” and “derealization”

Metaphorical sense “bone pain” and prefix “osteo”

Are some of the choices more closely related or do the elements have more in common with one other?

A) Pencil and pen

B) Pencil and highlighter

C) Pencil and crayon

D) Pen and marker

A) Non-rebreather mask and bag-valve mask

B) Non-rebreather mask and endotracheal tube

C) Non-rebreather mask and dual lumen airway

D) Bag-valve mask and endotracheal tube

4. If you absolutely cannot determine the correct answer, skip the question.

Make sure that you skip the question on the answer sheet.

It is a good practice to check about every 15 minutes to make sure the answers are in the correct place on the answer sheet.

Use the rest of the test and test items or other stems to find the answer.

5. After completing the exam, review unanswered questions. Be sure not to read anything into the question; base your answer only on the information given. If you absolutely must guess, go with your first instinct. If the choices involve a number or range, go with the choice corresponding to the middle number or range. Do not go back and change answers unless you are absolutely sure that you marked the incorrect answer.

Best Answer Questions

Questions in which the student must assess which answer is MOST correct from a list of 4-5 options.

Best Answer questions consist of:

A stem (case representation)

A lead-in question

A series of choices including one correct answer and 3-4 distractors

Negative-type multiple choice:

Each of the following is true "EXCEPT"

Which of the following statements is NOT correct

Even in the multiple choice format, these are True/False questions

Example of negative-type multiple choice question:

A 70-year old man presents with confusion and does not seem to understand what your role is in caring for him. Which of the following would NOT be the most appropriate intervention:

OR

General communication techniques with the elderly include all of the following EXCEPT:

- 1) Being aware of how you present yourself (True, you should do this)
- 2) Not assuming he/she knows who you are (True)
- 3) Speaking loudly and distinctly to the patient (False, the patient may not have decreased hearing; talking loudly will offend him)

National Registry Test Plan for Paramedics

Airway and Breathing	27-33 questions
Cardiac	30-36
Trauma	26-34
Medical	26.34 n
OB/GYN	24-32
<u>Operations</u>	<u>26-32</u>
	180 items

National Registry Test Plan for Basics

Airway and Breathing	24-30
Cardiac	24-30
Trauma	21-29
Medical	21-27
OB/GYN	19-25
<u>Operations</u>	<u>21-27</u>
	150 items