

PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIOLOGY EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT

Purpose of the Pediatric Anesthesiology Examination

Pediatric Anesthesiology is a discipline of anesthesiology that includes the evaluation, preparation, and management of pediatric patients undergoing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in operative and critical care settings. In addition, this discipline also entails the evaluation and treatment of children with acute and chronic painful disorders.

The ABA's Pediatric Anesthesiology Examination (PA) is a summative examination designed to assess the knowledge, skills and abilities that are considered essential for the ABA diplomate to function as a practitioner of the subspecialty of pediatric anesthesiology medicine. The examination assesses cognitive and deductive skills as well as the clinical judgment of the candidates.

Exam Content

The PA covers topics in the following five content categories:

- Basic Sciences
- Organ-Based Basic & Clinical Sciences
- Clinical Subspecialties
- Clinical Science of Anesthesia
- Special Problems or Issues

Each PA Exam form is built to the same content specifications, known as an exam blueprint. The examination blueprint is used to ensure that every form of the PA Exam measures the same depth and breadth of content knowledge. Table 1 below shows the number and relative percentage of questions from each of the five content categories shown above that will appear on each form of the PA Exam.

TABLE 1.
Pediatric Anesthesiology Examination (PA) Blueprint

Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Basic Sciences (16%)	30 – 34
Organ-Based Basic & Clinical Sciences (28%)	54 – 58
Clinical Subspecialties (23%)	44 – 48
Clinical Science of Anesthesia (29%)	56 – 60
Special Problems or Issues (5%)	8 – 12

To view the full PA Content Outline, please [click here](#).

Exam Specifications

The PA Exam consists of 200 questions and candidates have up to 4 hours to complete the examination.

The PA Exam includes only A-type questions. 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 four response options.

The PA Exam includes questions that reference static images.

Exam Administration

The PA Exam is administered annually to physicians that have successfully completed an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology subspecialty fellowship training program in pediatric anesthesiology. The PA Exam is a computer-based examination that is administered annually through Pearson VUE centers nationwide. The PA Exam is administered on a single day. Please check the ABA's website (www.theABA.org) for the specific PA Exam administration date each year.

Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
BASIC SCIENCES (16%)	30 – 34
Anatomy	6 – 8
Physics & Anesthesia Equipment	6 – 8
Anesthetic Pharmacology	15 – 18
ORGAN-BASED BASIC & CLINICAL SCIENCES (28%)	54 – 58
Respiratory System	8 – 10
Cardiovascular System	8 – 10
Central & Peripheral Nervous Systems	6 – 8
Gastrointestinal System	6 – 8
Renal / Urinary	4 – 6
Endocrine / Metabolic	4 – 6
Hematology / Oncology	3 – 5
Genetics	4 – 6
CLINICAL SUBSPECIALTIES (23%)	44 – 48
Fetal	3 – 5
Neonatal	10 – 12
Painful Disease States	6 – 8
Otolaryngology	6 – 8
Plastic & Oral-Maxillary Facial Surgery	6 – 8
Ophthalmology	3 – 5
Orthopedic Surgery	6 – 8
Trauma & Burns	6 – 8
CLINICAL SCIENCE OF ANESTHESIA (29%)	56 – 60
Evaluation & Preoperative Preparation of the Pediatric Patient	6 – 8
General Considerations of the Perioperative Period	6 – 8

Regional Anesthesia & Analgesia	6 – 8
General Anesthesia	8 – 10
Complications of Anesthesia	8 – 10
Special Techniques & Situations	6 – 8
Postoperative Period Including Critical Care	6 – 8
Monitored Anesthesia Care & Sedation	6 – 8
Acute & Chronic Pain Management	4 – 6
SPECIAL PROBLEMS OR ISSUES (5%)	8 – 12
Special Surgical Procedures	2 – 4
Professional Issues	4 – 6
Principles of Biostatistics & Study Design	2 – 4