

Examination Content Areas

The development of JCAHPO's multiple-choice examinations are based on the results of a job task analysis survey conducted every 5 years to ensure the examinations reflect updated practices in the field. The job task analysis survey is distributed to job incumbents and sponsoring ophthalmologists. The survey results identify the tasks performed most often and of greatest importance. The examination content outline is based on these results. The content outline indicated in this book for each examination area is an excellent study aid.

Examination Specifications

- ◆ All examinations are delivered in English.
- ◆ The number of questions and the time allowed to take each examination varies depending on which examination you are completing.
- ◆ In addition to scored items, all candidates receive between 10-25 sample questions. While they are not identified or scored, these questions are being tested for possible inclusion in future examinations.
- ◆ The completion of a Non-Disclosure Agreement and post-exam survey are also required in the time allotment noted below.

Examination Level	Number of Scored Questions	Examination Time
COA	200	3 hours
COT	200	3 hours
COMT	160	3 hours
OSA	75	1 hour
ROUB	170	3 hours
CDOS	175	3 hours
CCOA	200	3 hours

Examination Construction and Scoring

JCAHPO examinations are developed by the JCAHPO Certification Committee, which includes ophthalmologists and certified OMT. A variety of reference materials are used to create examination questions, which are selected from a pool of questions based on the examination specifications and content outlines.

The passing score for the examination is set by a committee of experienced ophthalmic medical technicians and ophthalmologists working with a psychometrician (a specialist in the mathematics of examinations), using methods that are nationally accepted for professional examinations. These methods allow the committee to determine the minimum standard of knowledge and skill necessary to perform the assistant's job. A modified Angoff procedure is used to establish each passing score. In this commonly accepted psychometric procedure, content experts estimate the probability of each question being answered correctly by a person who meets the minimum eligibility requirements. For this reason, passing scores are not released.

Your test performance is measured against the minimum standard set by this committee of experts, rather than measured against other people who have taken the examination. Establishing the passing score in this way helps to ensure that only those candidates who have the knowledge are granted certificates. Passing scores are not based on straight percentage or a curve, nor does the performance of any other test-taker affect how your performance will be judged.

Preparation Strategies

JCAHPO examinations are designed to cover the knowledge and skills needed by ophthalmic medical technicians in a variety of settings. Examinations include questions from every content area. Sub-categories identify topics that questions may cover in the examinations.

- ◆ JCAHPO uses multiple reference sources in the design of its examinations, so it is beneficial to study from multiple resources. JCAHPO offers examination study guides for purchase at www.jcahpo.org or www.eyecarece.org.
- ◆ Examination review courses offered by ATPO are available online at www.eyecarece.org.
- ◆ Before your examination, find the test center and locate parking areas. Knowing where to go will reduce your stress on test day.
- ◆ Study at a pace that suits your needs and do not cram for the examination.
- ◆ Focus on doing your personal best; your score is not affected by another's results.

Sample Items/Answers

The multiple-choice examination is a series of statements or questions followed by four possible answers. One answer is the single-best response; the others are distractors. While some answers may be partly correct, there is only one BEST answer.

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|---|---|---|
| <p>1. The number 75 in lens prescription -5.00 + 1.50 X 75 is the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> power of sphere. axis of cylinder. interpupillary distance. vertex distance. | <p>2. An A-scan is used to measure the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> corneal thickness. scleral rigidity. rod and cone function. eye's axial length. | <p>3. An opacification to the lens is known as a</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> cataract. leukocoria. pinguecula. coloboma. |
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Answers: 1 = B, 2 = D, 3 = A

What Happens After the Examination?

Upon completion of the multiple-choice examination, you will receive notification on your computer screen that you have either passed or failed which is your unofficial Performance Report (Pass/Fail). You will not see your actual score. You will also be provided printed feedback on the content areas where your performance was below the acceptable standard. Take the opportunity to obtain your printout of your Performance Report, which is a very helpful tool to review areas in which you might need further study.

Examination results will be sent via mail only by JCAHPO, two to four weeks after the completion of your exam. Those that have passed all parts of an examination will receive an official certificate and wallet card from JCAHPO.

Those that pass the COT and COMT multiple-choice examination are eligible to complete the simulated skill-based performance test(s) and will receive a form to register for the practical examination with their official results.

Retaking the Examination

If you do not pass the examination the first time, a retest application is automatically included with the Notification of Results letter. For a limited period of time, you can retake the examination at a lower price. Retest fees are included on the fee schedule on page 34.

You have 12 months from your initial examination date to complete two additional multiple-choice retests. Once the retest application is processed, you will have 90 days in which to schedule and complete the examination. If you decide not to apply to retest within 12 months of the initial examination or fail to complete the examination within the 90-day eligibility period, then the complete application process begins again, with eligibility, supporting documentation, and required fees.

If you do not pass your second retest, a waiting period of 12 months from the date of your first examination is required. You will need to submit a new application with eligibility, supporting documentation, and required fees.



"Many uncertified OMT have said JCAHPO certification does not make someone an ophthalmic technician. I tell them that may be true. However, JCAHPO certification is proof that you ARE an ophthalmic technician. Prove it to yourself and get certified."

- Sergina Flaherty, COMT