
Written and Performance Exam General Overview

- The intent of this exam is to assess the candidate’s ability to teach the skills found in the Massachusetts Technical Education Framework.
- The written exam is a state-developed exam aligned to the frameworks which can be accessed [here](#). The performance exam is a NOCTI-developed teacher test and has been determined by DESE to align to the state frameworks.
- Many questions and tasks require a synthesis of knowledge based on experience in the field and may not be found in any book.
- Use this exam outline and the Massachusetts Technical Education Framework to focus your preparation for the exams.
- Candidates are encouraged to prepare for their written exam by reviewing textbooks and reference material which have been listed as part of this exam outline. These resources can be found using online search tools, online vendors, and websites.

Written Exam

- Number of Questions: 100
- Administration Time: 3 hours
- Passing Score: 70.0%
- Administration Method: Remote Proctored Online Testing Session

Written Exam Content Coverage

24% Health and Safety

- Medical Asepsis
- Sanitation

10% Basic Chair Side Dental Procedures

- DAU Technique

18% Dental Radiography Equipment and Practices

- Mounting/Labeling
- ALARA Technique

6% Knowledge of Dental Materials

- Lab Materials and Procedures

4% Prosthodontics Procedures

- Fluoride
- Oral Hygiene
- Diet

- 6% ***Preventative Measures***
- 4% ***Client Needs***
- 2% ***Restorative Procedures***
- 12% ***Radiation Safety***
- 6% ***Tooth Morphology, Dental, Head and Neck Anatomy***
- 8% ***Advanced Dental Assisting***
 - Endodontic Procedures
 - Fundamentals of Healthcare Office Management
 - Oral Surgery and/or Periodontal Surgery
 - Orthodontic Procedures
 - Pediatric Patient Needs
 - Dental Related Mathematics

Written Exam Reference Materials (Reference Current Edition)

- **Modern Dental Assisting**, by Doni Bird, Debbie S. Robinson, Audrey Behrens, Hazel O. Torres, and Ann B. Ehrlich (WB Saunders)
- **OSAP Dentistry’s Resource for Infection Control and Safety from Policy to Practice** (OSAP Publishing)
- **Dental Assisting Exam Preparation** by Hazel O. Torres, Lois E. Massucchi-Ballard (WB Saunders – Division of Harcourt Brace and Company)
- **Dental Assisting Exam Review** by Melissa Thibodeaux (Delmar – Division of Thomas Learning)
- **Competency Skills for the Dental Assistant** by Charlene Dofitka (Delmar- Division of Thomson Learning)
- **Dental Assisting a Comprehensive Approach**, by Donna Phinney and Judy Halstead (Delmar – Division of Thomson Learning)
- **Review Questions and Answers for Dental Assisting** by Betty Ladley Finkbeiner (Mosby)
- www.DANB.org (Practice exams available for a fee)
- www.ADAA.org
- www.ADA.org
- www.testprepreview.com/dat_practice.htm

Materials Needed for the Written Exam

- A four-function calculator is included in the online testing system. No other calculators are permitted.
- Scrap paper and pencil/pen are permitted.

Written Exam Sample Items

Each question on the exam consists of one incomplete sentence or question followed by four choices. Some items reference an image or diagram. A few sample items are included below; the correct answer is designated with an asterisk (*).

Factors that would result in a light, low density film are:

- a. increased time, kVps, and mAs.
- b. vertical angulation is too low.
- c. kVps and mAs are constant, but exposure time is increased.
- d. decreased time, kVps, and mAs. (*)

An accurate dental impression creates a(n) _____ reproduction.

- a. permanent
- b. negative (*)
- c. positive
- d. elevated

NOCTI Performance Exam

- Administration Time: 1 hour and 40 minutes
- NOCTI Criterion-Referenced Cut Score/Passing Score: 91.4%
- Administration Method: Onsite at a DESE approved Massachusetts Area Testing Center (MATC) location. Candidates must register and schedule their exam session through NOCTI.

Performance Exam Content Coverage

19% Procedure 1 – Prepare Instruments for Autoclaving

Participant will assemble materials and equipment necessary to prepare instruments for autoclaving following the correct safety and sanitation procedures.

12% Procedure 2 – Assemble Equipment to Expose Radiographic Film

Participant will assemble radiographic equipment in order to ensure accurate film and tube placement when exposing x-rays.

12% Procedure 3 – Mount Full Series Radiographs

Participant will be given a full series of radiographs and will be required to mount the radiographs for viewing from the labial view.

21% Procedure 4 – Assemble and Disassemble Aspirating Syringe

Participant will properly assemble and disassemble an aspirating syringe in preparation for injection following the correct safety and sanitation procedures. The participant will remove and properly dispose of the needle and cartridge.

- 22%** ***Procedure 5 – Take a Single Mandibular Alginate Impression***
Participant will properly assemble the appropriate armamentarium and make the impression following the correct safety and sanitation procedures.
- 14%** ***Procedure 6 – Prepare Class III (Anterior) Composite Instrument Tray***
Participant will choose the appropriate instruments and armamentarium for a composite restoration following the correct safety and sanitation procedures.

Performance Exam Requirements

Candidate Supplied

Candidates must bring all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), attire/uniform, and any other safety items routinely expected to be used by an employee in the related industry. If the candidate does not bring what is needed to safely complete all jobs on the exam as required in the workplace, the testing session will need to be rescheduled at the candidate's expense. PPE required, but not limited to:

- Gloves
- Mask
- Gown/lab coat
- Safety glasses

Site Supplied

Additional equipment and supplies needed to complete the jobs on the performance test will be provided by the testing site.

Performance Exam Site Requirements

Testing sites may have individual requirements based on location and any relevant and current guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).