
Written and Performance Exam General Overview

- The intent of this exam is to assess your ability to teach the skills found in the Massachusetts Technical Education Framework.
- This exam is aligned to the frameworks which can be accessed [here](#).
- Many questions and tasks require a synthesis of knowledge based on experience in the field and may not be found in any book.
- Candidates are encouraged to prepare for their exam by reviewing textbooks and reference material which has been listed as part of this exam outline. These resources can be found using online search tools, online vendors, and websites.
- Contact the Technical Teacher Testing Office if you need further assistance in locating resources listed in the exam outline.
- Use this exam outline and the Massachusetts Technical Education Framework to focus your preparation for the exam.

Written Exam

- Number of Questions: 100
- Administration Time: 3 hours
- Administration Method: Remote Proctoring Online Session

Written Exam Content Coverage

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- 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

Performance Exam

- Administration Time: 4 hours
- Administration Method: Onsite at an approved Teacher Testing Location

Performance Exam Content Coverage

9% ***Infection Control***

- Demonstrate Aseptic Technique
- Perform Disinfection/Sterilization Procedures for instrument processing
- Perform Standard Precautions and Disease Transmission Prevention of Cross-Contamination and Disease Transmission

16% ***Dental Materials***

- Demonstrate the Manipulation and Preparation of Dental Materials and Impressions
- Demonstrate Laboratory Procedures

4% ***Identification of Dental Instruments***

- Identify Restorative and Specialties Instruments

25% ***Radiology***

- Demonstrate Knowledge of Basic Analogue and Digital Radiography
- Select Appropriate Supplies and Equipment for Radiographic Techniques
- Identify Radiographic Pitfalls and Corrections
- Identify Dental Anatomy
- Demonstrate Mounting of X-Rays

20% Chairside Procedures

- Perform Basic Chairside Dental Procedures
- Demonstrate Four Handed Dentistry
- Demonstrate Finishing, Polishing and use of Cleaning Agents
- Obtain and Record Vital Signs

12% Patient Data

- Collect and Record Clinical Data
 - Diagnostic aids
 - Treatment documentation
 - Record condition of oral cavity

5% Safety

- Demonstrate and Apply Dental Safety Practices and Procedures
- Demonstrate Application of PPE
- Occupational Safety
 - OSHA bloodborne pathogen standard
 - Engineering and work practice controls
 - Safety measures for chemical and physical hazards

Materials Required for the Performance Exam (Candidate Must Supply)

Uniform: Candidates are expected to wear a clean, professional uniform, which is a Scrub Top and Pants (white or solid colored ONLY) and no open toe or no backless shoes. Hair must be worn pulled back and up off the collar. No jewelry other than wedding band, watch and one pair of stud earrings are to be worn. Length of nails is at working length and may not exceed the tip of the finger.

Candidates are expected to use appropriate dental terminology when verbalizing given procedures. All materials listed below should be brought to the test site.

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|---|-----------------------------|
| • Watch with a second hand | • Box of gloves |
| • Black pen and pencils (red/blue) | • Masks/respirator N95/KN95 |
| • Protective eyewear with side shields or face shield | • Treatment gown |

Note: Additional lab equipment/supplies will be provided. No books or notes will be allowed. Cell phones are prohibited during the exam administration.

Onsite Performance Exam Requirements

- Candidate must practice social distancing and wear the appropriate face covering that covers the nose and mouth while at the exam site.
- Testing sites may have individual requirements based on location and the current guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Performance 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)
- **Competency Skills for the Dental Assistant** by Charlene Doftka (Delmar- Division of Thomson Learning)
- **Dental Assisting a Comprehensive Approach** by Donna Phinney and Judy Halstead (Delmar – Division of Thomson Learning)
- **Safety Orientation** by NCCER (Pearson Prentice Hall)
- www.DANB.org (Practice exams available for a fee)
- www.osha.gov
 - Go to Regulations, select sections:
 - [1910.1200 - Hazard Communication](#)
 - [1910 Subpart I - Personal Protective Equipment](#)