AOBNP General Certification Examination

Part II General Certification Examination

A passing grade on the Part I examination will be valid for the board eligibility period of a candidate or three opportunities to complete the Part II examination successfully, whichever comes first. Approximately six weeks prior to the date of the assigned Part II examination, a candidate will receive information and notice specifying the date, time, and place to report for the examination.

Candidates must pass all sections of the Part II examination. A candidate who fails one or more sections of the examination must repeat the entire exam. If a candidate has not passed the Part II examination after three tries he/she will be required to retake the Part I examination and pass before proceeding once again to the Part II examination. These candidates must request and submit a new Part I application and examination fees. If a candidate does not complete the examination process within the allotted six years the candidate may petition the Board for an extension of eligibility. If board eligibility status has already terminated, he/she must submit a reapplication for eligibility status.

All candidates taking the Part II examination are required to be examined in all sections for which they are scheduled. If a candidate does not appear for a section of his or her examination, no fees will be refunded. Candidates who are unable to sit for all sections of their scheduled Part II examination due to a medical or other emergency may submit documentation of the emergency to the Board office, in writing, no later than 30 days after the date of the examination. The Board will then evaluate the documentation and determine whether the absence is excusable.

Candidates who fail the Part II examination can be scheduled for the next Part II examination as long as they pay the re-examination fees and have not forfeited their three opportunities or exhausted the six years to pass the examination.

Candidates will receive written notification as to whether they passed or failed approximately 90 days after the Part II examination. Successful candidates will receive their certificates from the Executive Office of the AOBNP after formal approval of their certification has been accepted by the BOS and Board of Trustees of the AOA. Following the gathering of necessary signatures of recognition, the certificates will then be sent to the new diplomats.

Format and Content
The Part II examination consists of two sections; clinical and oral testing.

The oral section will include the examination of patients under the observation of at least two examiners and focuses on the evaluation of clinical skills. The manner of examining patients and the reasoning and deductions of the candidates will constitute an important part of examination scoring. Knowledge of basic science principles, special diagnostic procedures, management recommendations, and assessment of risk are also essential parts of the examination. Candidates are expected to discuss their findings with assigned examiners. Questions cover such areas as diagnosis, differential diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, prognosis, and management. Reference to the basic sciences of psychiatry and neurology and recent pertinent research may be made.
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Note-taking is permitted during the Part II examination and notepaper with writing materials will be provided for the candidate’s use.

Psychiatry Part II Examination

The Part II exam will consist of a live patient interview which will be for approximately 30 minutes followed by a 30 minute discussion with examiners where diagnostic formulation will occur and focus on physician-patient interaction, conduct of the clinical examination, capacity to elicit clinical data, differential diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, and knowledge of therapies. Additional questions may address the basic practice of psychiatry and new clinical research.

The audiovisual section will consist of 2 videotaped clinical vignette psychiatric case examinations, approximately 20-25 minutes in length, which the candidate will observe. Candidates will then be individually examined by two or more examiners with particular reference to the content of the tapes. Each recorded interview will be discussed with the examiners for 30 minutes each. During the discussion diagnosis, theory, and treatments in recent literature applying to the cases will be covered. This discussion may also include other clinical topics in psychiatry.

Osteopathic principles and theory as applied to psychiatry will be discussed throughout both live patient and recorded vignettes.

Neurology Part II Examination

Oral Section

The oral section is comprised of at least one live patient exam, viewing a neurological case videotape, and discussion of written clinical vignettes. Candidates are expected to bring with them their own neurological medical equipment for use during the live patient examination.

The candidate will be given approximately 30 minutes to examine a live patient. During the patient examination, the candidate’s ability to obtain a history and perform a neurological examination will be observed. Following the live patient examination, there will be a discussion with assigned examiners which will focus on the candidate’s evaluation of the neurological findings and discussion of the diagnosis, treatment, and management.

Candidates will also view a 10-15 minute videotaped interview of a clinical neurological case and then meet with assigned examiners to discuss the case. This section of the exam tests the candidate’s observational skills, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, and disposition recommendations.

During the remaining period of time, written clinical case vignettes will be discussed. Multiple written vignettes of patient encounters will be utilized as a basis for discussion of diagnosis and treatment in those areas of neurology in which there is no patient present. The examiners will also ask additional questions concerning other areas of clinical neurology and recent research as well as the application of osteopathic principles in neurological practice.
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Clinical Section - Neurophysiology and Neuroimaging
This section consists of three examinations; Neuroimaging/Neuropathology, EEG/Evoked Potentials, and Electrodiagnosis (EMG, NCV, and Late Potentials). Each written exam is 50 minutes in length.

Neuroimaging and Neuropathology is a slide presentation of clinical adult and pediatric neurological cases which are to be identified and written on the exam answer sheet provided.

EEG and Evoked Potentials is comprised of presented neurophysiologic waveform data with clinical adult and pediatric case information of which questions are to be answered.

Electrodiagnosis is comprised of three sections; a written multiple choice single answer test, a short written essay presenting the electrodiagnostic evaluation and expected findings of a clinical neuromuscular case, and identification of 3 or 4 EMG audio-visual waveforms.

Subspecialty in Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Examination

Written Section
The written examination will be a two-hour examination consisting of 100 questions containing material on child development, adolescent development, diagnoses, case presentation, pharmacology and neurology. Questions are taken from current literature and texts.

Live Patient Interview
The child/adolescent live examination is a 20 minute interview with a child/adolescent and will be testing the candidate’s interviewing skills, data gathering, differential diagnosis, treatment planning and disposition recommendations for 30 minutes after the interview.

Videotape
Candidates will view a videotaped interview of a child or adolescent. This section of the exam tests the candidate’s observational skills, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, and disposition recommendations.

Consultation/Liaison Section
This section includes two written case presentations of pediatric psychiatric consultations and may be given separately or immediately after the video exam. The consultation section encompasses the utilization of osteopathic principles and examines problem definitions; formulation of needs and goals; intervention plan and issues of ethics, law, language and interprofessional relationships. This segment shall last approximately one hour after the video is watched.
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Subspecialty in Child Neurology Examination

The exam intends to measure clinical competency in child neurology. Clinical competency includes an understanding of child neurologic disorders and the ability to utilize this knowledge in clinical practice. It also implies that appropriate ethical standards have been met. The examination consists of oral and clinical sections.

Oral section
The oral section comprises 120 minutes of discussion which includes vignettes and review of live patient exams.

Clinical Section
The clinical section consists of 120 minutes, comprising the history and physical examination of two patients as well as multiple choice questions in pediatric EEG and neuroimaging. The candidate is given 30 minutes to examine each patient followed by 30 minutes of discussion.

The live patients and vignettes will be representative of common and as well as rare problems encountered in clinical practice; for example, an uncommon degenerative disorder and common migraine may be presented.

The child neurology examination will include content questions and discussion in the following areas: Mental Retardation, Hereditary, Movement Disorders, Headache, Epilepsy, Neuroimaging, Neuromuscular, and Neurophysiology.

Appeal Procedure for All Examinations

A candidate who fails any examination may appeal by submitting the following materials to the Executive Office of the Board:

- A written request for appeal.
- The applicable appeal fee.
- Additional written information in support of the appeal.

The appeal materials must be sent together in a single mailing that is postmarked within 30 days of the date indicated on the letter of failure notification. The candidate’s appeal will be considered at the next scheduled Board meeting and a determination will be made. The candidate will be informed in writing of the result by certified mail within 30 days following the meeting.

If the candidate is not satisfied with the results of an appeal before this board, he/she has the right to further appeal to the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS). Where necessary, candidates may appeal the decision of the BOS to the AOA Board of Trustees.