

What is an Examination Blueprint?

An examination blueprint is a document that specifies the proportion and number of questions that each examination comprises. It shows the total number of questions on the exam and the target percentage of questions coming from each topic area (e.g., Competency Area from the National Occupational Competency Profile [NOCP]). The COPR Entry to Practice Examination blueprints also show the number and percentage of questions targeted to different levels of cognitive complexity, from basic knowledge and recall to detailed scenario-based questions that require the analysis and synthesis of context and patient presentation.

The purpose of the blueprint is to provide consistency of examination design and to align the percentage of questions to importance for public protection. Consistency ensures that no test taker is advantaged or disadvantaged by taking any version of the examination and receive content they are uniquely familiar or unfamiliar with. Alignment means that the more important a topic is for safe and effective paramedic practice, the more questions appear on the examination. For example, based on the current blueprint, there are more questions on Assess Pulse (NOCP 4.4.a) than on Make Presentations (NOCP 1.2.d).

Blueprint for the EMR Examination (2021)

Competency Area	#Qs (/90)	%
1. Professional Responsibilities	11	12.5%
2. Communication	10	11.0%
3. Health & Safety	7	8.0%
4. Assessment & Diagnostics	19	21.0%
5. Therapeutics	23	26.0%
6. Integration	13	14.0%
7. Transportation	4	4.0%
8. Health Promotion & Public Safety	4	4.0%

Cognitive Level

Knowledge	45	50%
Application	36	40%
Critical Thinking	9	10%

Revised Blueprint for the PCP Examination (2017)

Competency Area	#Qs (/180)	%
1. Professional Responsibilities	10	5.6%
2. Communication	12	6.7%
3. Health & Safety	14	7.8%
4. Assessment & Diagnostics	42	23.3%
5. Therapeutics	38	21.1%
6. Integration	48	26.7%
7. Transportation	8	4.4%
8. Health Promotion & Public Safety	8	4.4%

Cognitive Level

Knowledge	55	30.6%
Application	60	33.3%
Critical Thinking	65	36.1%

Revised Blueprint for the ACP Examination (2017)

Competency Area	#Qs (/180)	%
1. Professional Responsibilities	9	5.0%
2. Communication	8	4.4%
3. Health & Safety	6	3.3%
4. Assessment & Diagnostics	42	23.3%
5. Therapeutics	40	22.2%
6. Integration	65	36.1%
7. Transportation	5	2.8%
8. Health Promotion & Public Safety	5	2.8%

Cognitive Level

Knowledge	50	27.8%
Application	60	33.3%
Critical Thinking	70	38.9%