

# SUBJECT EXAMINATION PROGRAM

COMPREHENSIVE BASIC SCIENCE EXAMINATION

CONTENT AREA ITEM ANALYSIS REPORT



## Content Area Item Analysis and Score Interpretation

NBME® subject examinations provide institutions with one tool for measuring examinees' understanding of the basic biomedical and clinical sciences. While responsibility for use of subject examinations lies with the institution, this document provides information to assist institutions in carrying out that responsibility and offers recommendations regarding use of test scores. Test scores should not be used alone, but rather in conjunction with other indications of examinee performance in determination of grades.

This report provides an item-by-item summary of examinee performance, making it possible to identify areas of high and low achievement. Areas of poorer performance may primarily reflect lack of emphasis in course coverage; this may be useful information for score interpretation. The item analysis data and content area descriptors of the items, when reviewed together, can be helpful in determining the extent to which your examinees have learned the content of individual items.

The Content Area Item Analysis is provided solely for faculty use to better understand examinee performance. The written authorization of NBME must be obtained prior to any other use of the information contained in the analysis.

A Content Area Item Analysis is available for any subject examination with 5 or more examinees.

## Information included in the Content Area Item Analysis

- The content area classification, including a description summarizing the general content of the item
- The proportion of your examinees who correctly answered the item
- The projected proportion of United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) Step 1 examinees nationally who correctly answered the item
- The difference between the two proportions

Content area classifications may include a Physician Task/Competency that appears at the beginning of the item description. Physician Task/Competencies are described below.

- FOUNDATION: Clinically relevant basic science principles and concepts
- DIAGNOSIS: Knowledge pertaining to history, exam, diagnostic studies, and patient outcomes
- PREVENTION: Health maintenance, disease prevention, and surveillance for disease recurrence
- MANAGEMENT: Medical or surgical treatment strategies, including pharmacotherapy

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### CONTENT AREA ITEM ANALYSIS REPORT



**000000 - Generic Medical School**  
**Reporting Group: Medical Students**  
**Test Purpose: During Instruction/Training**  
**N Scored Items: 200**

**Test Date(s): mm/dd/yyyy**  
**Order ID: A00000**  
**N Examinees: 100**

This report provides the content area classification for each item on the examination along with the proportion of examinees from your institution (Schl) and a projected proportion of Step 1 examinees nationally (Natl) who answered each item correctly. These proportions (also referred to as p-values) represent the difficulty of the items for the examinees at your institution and for the national group. In addition, differences between the p-values for your examinees and for the national group are shown in the last column (Difference). Items are sorted in ascending order by content area classification.

Content Area Classification	Item Difficulty (p-value)		Difference (Schl-Natl)
	Schl	Natl	
1) Diagnosis: Blood and lymphoreticular system: hypocoagulable disorders	.86	.95	-.09
2) Diagnosis: Blood and lymphoreticular system: neoplasms of blood and lymphatic system	.43	.92	-.49
3) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: congenital disorders	.57	.93	-.36
4) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: diseases of the myocardium	.71	.89	-.18
5) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: diseases of the veins	.52	.89	-.37
6) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: disorders of the great vessels	.67	.89	-.22
7) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: heart failure	.76	.92	-.16
8) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: hypertension	.90	.96	-.06
9) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: repair/regeneration/age-related changes	.76	.94	-.18
10) Diagnosis: Cardiovascular system: valvular heart disease	.76	.96	-.20
11) Diagnosis: Endocrine system: adrenal disorders	.81	.94	-.13
12) Diagnosis: Endocrine system: diabetes mellitus	.67	.85	-.18
13) Diagnosis: Endocrine system: multiple endocrine neoplasia	.62	.88	-.26
14) Diagnosis: Endocrine system: pituitary disorders	.38	.72	-.34
15) Diagnosis: Endocrine system: thyroid disorders	.76	.94	-.18
16) Diagnosis: Gastrointestinal system: alimentary canal	.24	.52	-.28
17) Diagnosis: Gastrointestinal system: bacterial infections	.57	.85	-.28
18) Diagnosis: Gastrointestinal system: congenital disorders	.38	.83	-.45
19) Diagnosis: Gastrointestinal system: disorders of the pancreas	.62	.87	-.25
20) Diagnosis: Gastrointestinal system: traumatic and mechanical disorders	.38	.70	-.32