

Be Prepared: Information about Pediatric Board Exam

General Pediatrics In-training Examination (ITE)

- Offered by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) annually since 1971 as a service to residents and program directors.
- 4-hour written examination
- Approximately 200 multiple-choice items
- Administered on designated days in July

The purpose of the ITE is threefold:

(1) To enable residents to assess strengths and weaknesses in general pediatric knowledge at the time of the examination

(2) To assess their progress from year to year

(3) To compare their performance with national peer groups. Because the ITE is designed as an abbreviated version of an examination used for certifying purposes and is based on the same content outline, residents who take the ITE can familiarize themselves with ABP examinations and to some extent predict their performance on a subsequent certifying examination. Program directors can use results from the ITE to provide counseling and remediation to residents. The examination should not be used as the sole means of determining if a resident has satisfactorily completed a year of training. It is recommended that this philosophy and your proposed use of this examination and its results be explained to the residents you plan to register for testing. Program directors can also use the accumulated results over several years as one measure of the quality of training provided by their programs.

American Board of Pediatrics Certification Examination

- One-day examination
- One morning session and one afternoon session; each session is 3.5 hours long.
- Items for the examination randomly assigned to either the morning or afternoon booklet. All questions (including “graphics” and “clinical scenarios” are integrated within the morning and afternoon booklets.
- The number of items on the entire examination will consist of 330-350 questions.
- The mean score of the reference group (first-time takers who have recently graduated from an American medical school) will be set to a scaled score of 500 with a standard deviation of 100. Standard scores will be based on this scale, allowing an examinee’s score to be evaluated against his/her peers. Historically, the passing score for the examination has been 410, although the ABP evaluates this passing score each year to be sure that it is appropriate for each particular administration.
- Exam is administered via paper and pencil.

General Pediatrics Certifying Examination. Monday, October 12, 2009
New Applicants Regular Registration. December 2, 2008 - February 26, 2009
New Applicants Late Registration. February 27, 2009 - May 7, 2009
Re-registrants Regular Registration. February 17, 2009 - May 7, 2009
Re-registrants Late Registration. May 8, 2009 - May 28, 2009

2007 Exam - Candidate Group Number of Takers Pass Rate

	Number	% Pass Rate
Total Takers	4444	62.8%
All First Takers	3009	76.5%
All Repeaters	1435	34.0%

From: American Board of Pediatrics
<https://www.abp.org/ABPWebStatic/#murl%3Dhome.html>

Program Director's Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2008. Available online:
<https://www.abp.org/abpwebsite/publicat//programdir08.pdf>