



Written Component Information Session – Questions and Answers

EXAM DEVELOPMENT AND CONTENT

Who writes the exam questions?

- The questions on the Written Component are developed by Written Item Generation Teams (WIGT) across the country. Each WIGT is comprised of physiotherapy clinicians and educators with diverse levels of experience, areas of practice and specializations, and training backgrounds. All WIGT members receive training from CAPR on item writing best practices, physiotherapy entry-to-practice expectations, and content and style standards to ensure the consistency and quality of new questions that are developed for the exam.

Are there any math questions and are we provided with a calculator for the exam?

- The Written Component does not have questions that involve complex mathematical computations that would require the use of a calculator. As such, you will not be provided with a calculator for the exam.
However, if you have a documented severe clinical impairment that requires the use of a calculator, you may apply to bring one into the exam by submitting a [Testing Accommodations](#) request.

Will there be questions about management approaches that are not within the physiotherapy scope of practice?

- The Written Component does NOT test knowledge/competencies outside the physiotherapy scope of practice.
More information on what is covered in the Written Component can be found in the [Exam Blueprint](#).

Should I know the specific names of medications for the exam?

- The items on the Written Component are created following industry best practices and using inclusive language. Item writers are trained to avoid using trade names of medications or products unless absolutely necessary. You are expected to know the generic names of products and medications that may be encountered in entry-level practice (i.e., typically used by clients for conditions encountered at entry to practice.)

EXAM ELIGIBILITY

Which candidates have a maximum of five attempts to pass the Written Component?

- Candidates who took their first Written Component attempt before 2013 (Section B candidates) have a maximum of five attempts to pass the Written Component.
- Candidates who took their first Written Component attempt in 2013 or later (Section A candidates) have a maximum of three attempts to pass the Written Component.
More information on Exam Eligibility can be found in the [Examination Eligibility Policy](#).



I am Section A candidate – what happens if I fail the Written Component on my third attempt? Will I be able to retake the exam again?

- If you fail the exam on your third attempt, you have exhausted your eligibility and you CANNOT take the Written Component again. The same applies to a Section B candidate failing the exam on their fifth attempt.

If I enrol in a Bridging Program after failing the Written Component three times, will I get additional attempts at the Written Component after completing the program?

- No. Completing a Bridging Program will NOT grant you any additional attempts for the Written Component. Once you have exhausted your exam eligibility, there is no way to gain additional attempts.

Is there a time limit for making all three (or five) attempts?

- If you are an internationally-educated physiotherapist, your credentialing assessment results are valid for a period of two years. You MUST take your first attempt at the Written Component by the deadline outlined in your credentialing results letter. If you fail to complete your first attempt of the Written Component within this period, your file will be closed.
- There is no time limit to complete the three (or five) attempts. This enables you to take subsequent attempts at the Written Component when you feel ready.

EXAM PREPARATION

How can I prepare for questions on Domains 2-7?

- Information on appropriate approaches related to Domains 2-7 can be found in most of the resources on the [PCE Key Reference List](#). A good place to start is the Professional Practice section of the list.

Are there any specific reading materials that internationally-educated physiotherapists can use to prepare for the exam?

- The resources listed on the [PCE Key Reference List](#) are useful for Canadian- and internationally-educated candidates alike.
For internationally-educated physiotherapists, it may be helpful to review learning materials from the course on the Knowledge of the Practice of Physiotherapy within the Canadian Healthcare System that you completed as a requirement for Credentialling.

Are Bridging Programs equivalent to the Written Component?

- Bridging Programs are a great resource for additional training and support for internationally-educated physiotherapists who wish to practice in Canada. While they are not solely targeted as exam preparation courses, the experiences that a candidate gains through participating in a Bridging Program may be helpful in preparing for the Written Component.
- Participation in a Bridging Program does NOT substitute for taking the exam.



EXAM DAY

Do I need to bring printouts of my Registration Notice and other confirmation emails from CAPR on exam day?

- It is not necessary to have printouts with you on exam day, and you will NOT be allowed to bring any paper printouts into your exam environment.
For both remotely proctored and test centre exams, you are only required to bring a valid government-issued to verify your identity on exam day.

Am I allowed to speak aloud or whisper to myself to figure out the answers?

- Speaking aloud or whispering to yourself is not permitted in the Written Component (for both remotely proctored and test centre exams.) You are not allowed to behave in any manner that could compromise exam security or disrupt other exam takers. If you must read the exam aloud, an appropriate [Testing Accommodations](#) request must be submitted.
More information on appropriate exam conduct can be found in the [Rules of Conduct and Examination Security](#).

Am I allowed to move my body to help answer the questions during the exam (e.g., simulating finger deformities, lifting limbs into different planes of motion, etc.)?

- You are allowed to perform minor movements during the exam, but you should be mindful of actions that can be flagged as suspicious or disruptive behaviour by examination proctors.
More information on appropriate exam conduct can be found in the [Rules of Conduct and Examination Security](#).

I am taking the exam via remote proctoring, and I live in a basement. Would that pose a problem on exam day?

- You can take the exam via remote proctoring in any room of your house, as long as you are able to meet all the environmental and network connectivity requirements for the duration of the exam.

Is it okay to have a filing cabinet in my testing environment during the remotely proctored exam?

- You are allowed to have storage furniture in your examination room, provided that your workspace isn't overly cluttered or crowded.

I have shelves and posters in my testing environment that I am unable to move out of the room/take down for the exam. Can I cover these objects with a white towel/sheet for exam day?

- Your testing environment must be free of content that could potentially provide an unfair advantage to you during your exam, including items posted on your walls or within your immediate area. If you have such items that cannot be removed, these must be covered before exam day.

I have two monitors set up in my testing environment, mounted on a wall. Must I remove these monitors from the room for my remotely proctored exam?

- Dual-monitor configurations are NOT permitted for testing in a remotely proctored exam. If you have external monitor(s) in your testing environment that will not be used on exam day, they must either be removed or covered before exam day.



Am I allowed to have my laptop placed on a laptop stand on my desk (for ergonomic positioning) during a remotely proctored exam?

- You may place your device on a stand during your remotely proctored exam. The stand will be inspected by the proctor before you start your exam.

Why can I not have a blank piece of paper to take notes on during my remotely proctored exam?

- You are not allowed to remove any items or materials used during the exam when you leave the testing environment. As your notes from the exam will contain examination content and CAPR cannot guarantee the secure disposal of paper-based materials in a remotely proctored exam, you are not allowed to use this mechanism of notetaking. Instead, you will be able to use the Notes function on the exam platform.

Is there a maximum number of breaks that I can take during the exam?

- You may take multiple breaks during the exam. While there isn't a specified limit regarding the number of breaks, frequent departures from the testing environment may be flagged as suspicious or disruptive behaviour by examination proctors. Note as well that CAPR reviews candidate responses following all breaks to identify potential suspicious activity patterns.
- More information on appropriate exam conduct can be found in the [Rules of Conduct and Examination Security](#).
- If you have a documented clinical impairment that requires frequent breaks, you may request flexible break time for your exam by submitting a [Testing Accommodations](#) request.

SCORING

Is there a separate pass mark for each area of the blueprint?

- There is one overall passing score (cut score) for the exam. For feedback purposes, we provide candidates with information on how they scored in each of the four Areas of Practice and seven Domains of the blueprint (this information is provided in the score report that is emailed to candidates along with their pass/fail result). Note, however, that there is no minimum score required for each Area of Practice or Domain. Only the overall score determines pass/fail.

What is the difference between the raw passing score and scaled passing score?

- The raw passing score is the number of questions a candidate needs to answer correctly to pass. For example, if the raw passing score is 132 out of a maximum possible raw score of 200, this indicates that a candidate needs to answer 132 questions correctly to pass. When converting raw scores to scaled scores, the testing organization needs to choose a score scale and the value that represents the passing score. We have chosen the score scale of 200-800 and have selected the scaled passing score to be 600. Even though the raw passing score might vary (e.g., on one form it could be 132/200 and on another it could be 137/198) by performing a linear transformation of raw scores to scaled scores, the passing score becomes fixed.

Why doesn't CAPR report raw scores?

- For fair and consistent decisions to be made on exam results, scores should be comparable. This means that scores from different exams should indicate the same level of performance, regardless of which exam a candidate writes. We do not disclose the raw passing score for the Written



Component because it varies from exam to exam, depending on the difficulty of the exam. Between 2017 and 2021, the percentage of questions that candidates needed to answer correctly to pass the Written Component has ranged from a low of 64% to a high of 71%. Note that because of variations in exam difficulty, the same raw score on two different exam administrations cannot be interpreted as being equivalent.

Raw scores do not allow CAPR to ensure that exam scores can be fairly and accurately compared. It is industry best practice to report scores on high-stakes exams in this way to ensure candidates interpret their results against the same standard.

If all questions carry an equal mark and there are no deductions for incorrect responses, then how is it that the raw passing score varies between exam administrations if the scaled passing score is fixed at 600?

- The raw passing score varies for each administration depending on the sampling of questions used for an administration and how difficult the questions are. Mathematically converting raw scores to scaled scores allows for differences in exam form difficulty to disappear, thus allowing the scaled passing score to remain constant.

Does this mean I must answer 600 correctly to pass the exam?

- The Written Component has 200 multiple choice questions, and the number of questions that must be answered correctly (raw passing score) varies, depending on the difficulty of each exam.
- A scaled passing score of 600 means your scaled score must be equal to or greater than 600 to pass. A scaled passing score of 600 on a score scale ranging from 200-800 does not indicate how many questions must be answered correctly. The only inferences that can be made from scaled scores are as follows:
 - The higher your scaled score, the better you performed on the exam.
 - If your scaled score is equal to or greater than 600, it means you have met the minimum standard (a Pass score).
 - If your scaled score is lower than 600, you have not met the minimum standard (a Fail score).

The minimum scaled score is 200 and the maximum is 800. Does this mean that a candidate who answers all 200 questions incorrectly on the Written Component still ends up with a scaled score of 200?

- Correct. The minimum possible score is 200, which means that, even if a candidate were to answer all questions incorrectly, their scaled score would be 200.

POST-EXAM

If I apply for an Administrative Reconsideration after writing the exam and manage to pass, will that pass be counted?

- You may only apply for an Administrative Reconsideration AFTER receiving a “Fail” result. More information on Administrative Reconsiderations can be found in our [Exam Policies](#).

For all questions related to LICENSURE: please visit the relevant [regulator website](#).