

Part I Certifying Examination Content

The purpose of the Part I examination is to evaluate a candidate's knowledge of general orthopaedics, the basic science of orthopaedics, and a candidate's ability to use this information for problem solving in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. To this end, the subject matter of this examination will consist of:

- Acute and chronic disease, disorders and injuries to the musculoskeletal system in all age groups.
- Diagnosis and management of congenital, developmental, infectious, inflammatory, neurological, vascular, metabolic, neoplastic, degenerative and traumatic conditions affecting the limbs and spine. Questions about diagnosis may include interpretation, use of clinical information, laboratory tests, and imaging procedures. Questions about management may require knowledge of specific operative and non-operative treatment modalities including physical therapy and rehabilitation.
- Basic sciences of anatomy, pathology, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, embryology, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, and molecular biology as specifically applied to the musculoskeletal system.

The number of questions on the examination varies from 310 to 320 and it is anticipated that the examination will be composed of:

- 1) Adult reconstruction – 33%
- 2) Basic orthopaedic knowledge, including tumors – 30%
- 3) Pediatrics including disease, trauma, and sports medicine – 17%
- 4) Rehabilitation – 4%
- 5) Trauma of the musculoskeletal system – 16%

Examinees will be given their content area performance profiles based upon these 18 content domains:

- 1) Adult Trauma
- 2) Adult Disease
- 3) Pediatric Trauma
- 4) Pediatric Disease
- 5) Sports (Adult/Pediatric)
- 6) Rehabilitation
- 7) Diagnosis
- 8) Operative Management
- 9) Non-Operative Management
- 10) Basic Science
- 11) Neoplasms

- 12) Spine
- 13) Upper Extremity (Clavicle, Scapula, Shoulder Joint)
- 14) Humerus, Elbow Joint, Radius/Ulna
- 15) Upper Extremity (Wrist Joint, Hand)
- 16) Lower Extremity (Pelvis, Hip Joint, Femur)
- 17) Lower Extremity (Knee Joint, Tibia/Fibula)
- 18) Lower Extremity (Ankle Joint, Foot)