Physician Associate National Examination

Knowledge-Based Assessment Blueprint

The Physician Associate National Examination (PANE) Knowledge-Based Assessment (KBA) has been designed for candidates who have completed the requirements of the Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant. The full list of areas that may be covered as part of the examination's blueprint can be found at the end of this document.

The KBA comprises 200 multiple choice ('best-of-five' or single best answer format) single best answer questions, which are split into two papers, each containing 100 questions. Candidates have 2 hours to complete each paper, with both papers being completed during a single day. The papers are sat online at an appropriate location (a candidate's home or office, for example)

Candidates' overall results are calculated as an aggregated total of the points awarded in both papers. For the purpose of the exam and subsequent result processing, the two papers are considered a single assessment, with candidates receiving a single overall mark for the KBA in its entirety.

The marking system is as follows:

> One mark (+1) is awarded for each correct answer

> No mark is deducted for an incorrect answer (ie there is no negative marking)

> No mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered

> The pass mark for the KBA is calculated using the Angoff method of standard setting.

> One standard error of measurement (SEM) is then added to this total exam score to generate the total pass mark for each KBA[1].

> To achieve a pass in the KBA candidates must achieve or exceed this overall pass mark.

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[1]Working process: For clarity, the working process will be that a non-integer (whole number) total pass mark will be rounded up to the next integer.

The distribution of questions across tasks and specialties for each PANE KBA are selected as shown below:

Table: Exam composition by specialties	
Specialty	**Percentage of questions in KBA**
Cardiovascular	12
Pulmonary	12
Endocrine	8
Eyes, Ears, Nose & Throat	5
Gastrointestinal / Nutrition	12
Urinary / Renal	6
Reproductive	7
Musculoskeletal	6
Neurology	9
Psychiatry	9
Dermatology	5
Haematology	3
Infectious Disease	3
Other (e.g. safeguarding/ consent/ethics)	3

Table: Exam composition by task	
Specialty	**Percentage of questions in KBA**
Using Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies	25
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis (includes history, examination & diagnosis aspects of prognosis)	35
Managing Patients (Health Maintenance and Clinical Intervention/Therapeutics)	40

Please note that the above is a guide, and the actual number of questions relating to each specialty area and/or task may vary in each KBA.