



**VALID ONLY FOR CT(ASCP) and  
SCT(ASCP) TESTING DATES  
BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2015**

## TECHNOLOGIST IN CYTOTECHNOLOGY, CT(ASCP) SPECIALIST IN CYTOTECHNOLOGY, SCT(ASCP) EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE & OUTLINE

### EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

#### EXAMINATION MODEL

The CT(ASCP) and SCT(ASCP) certification examinations are composed of 100 examination questions given in a 2 hour 30 minute time frame. All examination questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. The CT(ASCP) and SCT(ASCP) certification examinations are administered using the format of computer adaptive testing (CAT).

With CAT, when a person answers a question correctly, the next test question has a slightly higher level of difficulty. The difficulty level of the questions presented to the examinee continues to increase until a question is answered incorrectly. Then a slightly easier question is presented. In this way, the test is tailored to the individual's ability level.

Each question in the test bank is calibrated for level of difficulty and is assigned a content area that matches with the subtest area of the content outline for a particular examination. The weight (value) given to each question is determined by the level of difficulty. Therefore, the examinee must answer enough difficult questions to achieve a score above the pass point in order to successfully pass the certification examination.

#### EXAMINATION SUBTESTS

The CT(ASCP) and SCT(ASCP) certification examination questions encompass four different subtests within the area of Cytotechnology: Gynecological Cytology, Non-Gynecological Cytology (subdivided into Respiratory System, Genitourinary System, Body Cavity Fluids), Fine Needle Aspiration and Other, and Laboratory Operations. Each of these subtests comprises a specific percentage of the overall 100-question certification examination. The subtests for the CT and SCT examinations are described in the following table:

SUBTESTS	EXAM PERCENTAGES	
	CT	SCT
<b>Gynecological Cytology (GC)</b>	<b>37 – 41%</b>	<b>18 – 22%</b>
<b>Non-Gynecological Cytology:</b>	<b>24 – 28%</b>	<b>19 – 23%</b>
• <b>Respiratory System (NGRESP)</b>	6 – 10%	4 – 8%
• <b>Genitourinary System (NGGU)</b>	6 – 10%	4 – 8%
• <b>Body Cavity Fluids (NGBF)</b>	8 – 12%	7 – 11%
<b>Fine Needle Aspiration and Other (FNA)</b>	<b>18 – 22%</b>	<b>23 – 27%</b>
<b>Laboratory Operations (LO)</b>	<b>13 – 17%</b>	<b>32 – 36%</b>

For a more specific overview of the four subtest areas on the CT(ASCP) and SCT(ASCP) certification examinations, please refer to the **CONTENT OUTLINE** on pages 2 –3.

# EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

## TECHNOLOGIST (CT) and SPECIALIST (SCT) in CYTOTECHNOLOGY

Examination questions, which are related to the subtest areas outlined below, will be both theoretical and procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge of cytologic criteria, identify/evaluate microscopic findings, and correlate microscopic findings to disease states. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to select appropriate laboratory techniques, evaluate laboratory data, and follow quality assurance protocols.

### I. GYNECOLOGICAL CYTOLOGY (CT, 37 – 41%; SCT, 18 – 22%)

Body Sites to include:

- Cervix
- Endocervix
- Endometrium/uterus
- Fallopian tube
- Ovary
- Vagina
- Vulva

- A. Anatomy, Physiology and Embryologic Origins
- B. Histology and Normal Cellular Morphology
- C. Pathology, Cytopathology, Biologic Behavior
  - 1. Congenital anomalies
  - 2. Benign lesions/reactions
    - a) Inflammation
    - b) Organisms and contaminants
    - c) Benign tumors, hyperplasias and cysts
    - d) Effects of therapeutic regimens
  - 3. Functional disorders/endocrinology
  - 4. ASCUS/Atypical glandular cells/premalignant epithelial/indeterminate lesions
  - 5. Malignant tumors, epithelial and nonepithelial

### NON-GYNECOLOGICAL CYTOLOGY: (TOTAL CT, 24 – 28%; TOTAL SCT, 19 – 23%)

#### II. RESPIRATORY SYSTEM (CT, 6 – 10%; SCT, 4 – 8%)

Body sites to include:

- Upper respiratory system
- Lower respiratory system

- A. Anatomy, Physiology and Embryologic Origins
- B. Histology and Normal Cellular Morphology
- C. Pathology, Cytopathology, Biologic Behavior
  - 1. Congenital anomalies
  - 2. Benign lesions/reactions
    - a. Inflammation
    - b. Organisms and contaminants
    - c. Benign tumors, hyperplasias and cysts
    - d. Effects of therapeutic regimens
  - 3. Functional disorders/endocrinology
  - 4. Premalignant epithelial/indeterminate lesions
  - 5. Malignant tumors, epithelial and nonepithelial

#### III. GENITOURINARY SYSTEM (CT, 6 – 10%; SCT, 4 – 8%)

Body sites to include:

- Bladder
- Kidney
- Male genital organs
- Ureters
- Urethra

- A. (SEE II.A)
- B. (SEE II.B)
- C. (SEE II.C.1-5)

#### IV. BODY CAVITY FLUIDS (CT, 8 – 12%; SCT, 7 – 11%)

Body sites to include:

- Central nervous system
- Pericardial, peritoneal and pleural cavities
- Other (e.g., amniocentesis, hydrocele, synovial)

- A. (SEE II.A)
- B. (SEE II.B)
- C. (SEE II.C.1-5)

## V. FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATIONS and OTHER

(CT, 18 – 22%; SCT, 23 – 27%)

### Body Sites

- Adrenal glands
- Bone
- Breast
- Kidney
- Liver
- Lung
- Lymph nodes
- Pancreas
- Salivary glands
- Soft tissues
- Thyroid gland
- Other (e.g., alimentary, anal, brain, eye, ovary, prostate, skin)

- A. (SEE II.A)
- B. (SEE II.B)
- C. (SEE II.C.1-5)
- D. Rapid Onsite Evaluation and Triage of FNA
- E. FNA, EBUS/EUS

## VI. LABORATORY OPERATIONS

(CT, 13 – 17%; SCT, 32 – 36%)

- A. Quality Management
  - 1. Quality control
  - 2. Quality assessment methodology & tools
  - 3. Risk management
- B. Cytopreparation Techniques/Instrumentation (to include collection, processing, and special techniques)
  - 1. Principles
  - 2. Procedures
  - 3. Troubleshooting
  - 4. Fixatives and routine stains
  - 5. Validation
- C. Safety and Infection Control (e.g., OSHA, MSDS, NFPA, NIOSH)
- D. Compliance
  - 1. Governmental agencies (e.g., CLIA, HIPAA)
  - 2. Laboratory accreditation (e.g., CAP, The Joint Commission)
- E. Companion Diagnostics (Theory and Application)

- 1. Molecular (including HPV)
- 2. FISH/CISH
- 3. Flow Cytometry
- 4. Immunohistochemistry (including digital IHC image analysis)
- 5. Special Stains (e.g. AFB, PAS, GMS)

### F. Management\*

- 1. Work flow, scheduling and productivity
  - 2. Laboratory information systems/information technology
  - 3. Policies and procedures
    - a. Accreditation
    - b. Operations manuals
    - c. Quality assurance plan
    - d. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute Guidelines
  - 4. Financial management
    - a. Operating budget
    - b. Capital budget
    - c. Accounting principles (e.g., balance sheets, income statements, cash flow, depreciation)
  - 5. Personnel management
    - a. Principles of supervision
    - b. Hiring/interviewing/selection
    - c. Motivation/discipline/counseling
    - d. Job descriptions
    - e. Performance standards, evaluation, and competency assessment
  - 6. Communication (principles of communication)
- ### G. Education and Training\*
- 1. New employee orientation
  - 2. In-service training
  - 3. Principles of education
  - 4. Standards & guidelines for accreditation of CT programs

### \*SCT EXAMINATION ONLY

All Board of Certification examinations use conventional units for results and reference ranges.

### END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE