

Examination Format

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) QBRs qualification examination is composed of 50 questions given in a 90-minute time frame. All examination questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. More information is available on the ASCP BOC website.

The examination questions may be both theoretical and/or procedural. Theoretical questions measure skills necessary to apply knowledge. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to perform biobanking techniques and follow quality assurance protocols.

Examination Content Areas

The examination questions encompass the following content areas within biorepository science. Each of these content areas comprises a specific percentage of the overall 50-question examination.

Content Area	Examination Percentage
Specimen Handling (Collection, Processing, and Storage)	25 – 30%
Sample/Data Inventory Management and Quality Control	25 – 30%
Safety and Infection Control	25 – 30%
Biorepository Operations	15 – 20%

Examination Topic Outline

- Regulatory questions on the examination are based on U.S. sources (e.g., AABB, FDA, CLIA, etc.).
- The examples provided in this topic outline (as indicated by e.g.,) are not limited to those listed.
- The laboratory results and reference ranges on the examination will be provided in both conventional and SI units.

I. Specimen Handling (Collection, Processing, and Storage)

25 – 30% of total examination

- A. Specimen Collection (e.g., blood, tissue, urine, swabs)
- B. Specimen Deidentification and Labeling
- C. Specimen Stabilization and Processing (e.g., centrifugation, aliquoting, cryopreservation)
- D. Timepoint Document (collection, processing, transport, storage)
- E. Specimen/Data Entry
- F. Communication with Collaborators
- G. Enhanced Technical Areas (e.g., histology, tissue microarray, slide imaging, microdissection, viable cell isolation, nucleic acid/protein extraction)
- H. Specimen Storage (e.g., time, temperature)

II. Sample/Data Inventory Management and Quality Control

25 – 30% of total examination

- A. Sample/Data Chain of Custody
- B. Sample/Data Receipt, Inspection, and Verification
- C. Shipment
 1. Coordination
 2. Preparation
 3. Implementation
 4. Tracking/Follow-up
 5. Documentation
- D. Documentation
- E. Sample/Data Destruction
- F. Specimen Quality/Acceptability

III. Safety and Infection Control

25 – 30% of total examination

- A. Subject
- B. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- C. Laboratory/Hospital (e.g., fire, chemical/SDS, electrical, biological, radiation)
- D. Equipment (e.g., dry ice, liquid nitrogen, sharps)
- E. Risk Assessment and Management
- F. Disaster Preparedness
- G. Incident Reporting
- H. Hazardous Waste Disposal
 - 1. Biological
 - 2. Chemical

IV. Biorepository Operations

15 – 20% of total examination

- A. Government and Non-Government Regulations and Guidelines
 - 1. Standard operating procedure (SOP) development and review
 - 2. Best practices (e.g., ISBER, NCI, GCP, IACUC, ISO9001, and ISO20387)
- B. Professionalism and Ethics
 - 1. Subject confidentiality
 - 2. Subject eligibility and informed consent
 - 3. Customer support and service
- C. Facilities, Equipment, and Supply Inventory
 - 1. Use and monitoring
 - 2. Quality control (validation, calibration)
 - 3. Maintenance

END OF TOPIC OUTLINE