

Examination Format

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) QIA 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 apheresis techniques and follow quality assurance protocols.

Examination Content Areas

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

Content Area	Examination Percentage
Basic Science	10 – 15%
Clinical Applications	15 – 25%
Donor/Patient Care	30 – 40%
Operational Considerations	15 – 25%
Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations	10 – 15%

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. Basic Science

10 – 15% of total examination

- A. Hematology/Coagulation
- B. Immunohematology/Genetics
 1. Blood component therapy
 2. HLA
 3. ABO
- C. Immunology
 1. Antibodies
 2. Immune complexes
- D. Laboratory Testing

II. Clinical Applications

15 – 25% of total examination

- A. Donor Apheresis
 1. Platelets
 2. Red blood cells
 3. Plasma
 4. White blood cells (e.g., granulocytes)
- B. Therapeutic Apheresis
 1. Plasma exchange
 2. Red blood cell exchange
 3. Cellular reductions
 4. Selective adsorption/filtration procedures
- C. Cellular Therapy
 1. Hematopoietic progenitor cells (HPCs)
 2. Extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP)
 3. Mononuclear cell collections (e.g., lymphocytes, monocytes)
- D. Diseases Treated with Apheresis

III. Donor/Patient Care

30 – 40% of total examination

- A. Assessment/Monitoring
- B. Replacement Fluids
- C. Anticoagulation
- D. Medications (e.g., calcium, antihistamine) and Drug Interactions
- E. Venous Access
- F. Fluid Balance
- G. Age-Related Considerations
- H. Adverse Reactions

IV. Operational Considerations

15 – 25% of total examination

- A. Quality Assurance (e.g., cGMP, cGTP, validation)
- B. Quality Control
 - 1. Product yield
 - 2. Instrument efficiencies
- C. Instrumentation (Note: Instrumentation questions will address general processes and procedures applicable to most instruments.)
 - 1. Theories and techniques of separation (e.g., centrifugation [intermittent and continuous flow])
 - 2. General principles of automated instruments
- D. Equipment Maintenance
- E. Safety (e.g., OSHA, CDC)
- F. Infection Control

V. Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations (ASFA, AABB, CAP, FDA, FACT-JACIE, HIPAA, etc.)

10 – 15% of total examination

- A. Informed Consent
- B. Confidentiality
- C. Donor Selection
- D. Facility Licensure and Accreditation
- E. Training and Competency

END OF TOPIC OUTLINE