

Examination Model

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) CTgyn certification examination is composed of 50 questions given in a 1-hour 30-minute time frame. All examination questions are multiple-choice with one best answer. The examination is administered using the format of computer adaptive testing (CAT). 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 of cytologic criteria, identify/evaluate microscopic findings, and correlate microscopic findings to disease states. Procedural questions measure skills necessary to select appropriate laboratory techniques and follow quality assurance protocols.

Examination Content Areas

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

Content Area	Examination Percentage
Anatomy, Physiology, and Embryologic Origins	5%
Histology and Normal Cellular Morphology	10%
Pathology, Cytopathology, and Biologic Behavior	75%
Laboratory Operations	10%

For a more detailed overview of the examination, refer to the content outline starting on page 2.

Examination Content Outline

- Regulatory questions on the examination are based on U.S. sources (e.g., AABB, FDA, CLIA, etc.).
- The examples provided in this content outline (as indicated by e.g.,) are not limited to those listed.

Body sites to include:

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

I. Anatomy, Physiology, And Embryologic Origins

5% of total examination

II. Histology And Normal Cellular Morphology

10% of total examination

III. Pathology, Cytopathology, And Biologic Behavior

75% of total examination

- A. Congenital Anomalies
- B. Benign Lesions/Reactions
 - 1. Inflammation
 - 2. Organisms and contaminants
 - 3. Benign tumors, hyperplasias, and cysts
 - 4. Effects of therapeutic regimens
- C. Functional Disorders/Endocrinology
- D. ASCUS/Atypical Glandular Cells/
Premalignant Epithelial/Indeterminate
Lesions
- E. Malignant Tumors, Epithelial and
Nonepithelial

IV. Laboratory Operations

10% of total examination

- A. Quality Management
 - 1. Quality control
 - 2. Quality assurance methodology and tools
 - 3. Risk management
- B. Cytopreparation Techniques/
Instrumentation (to include collection,
processing, and special techniques)
 - 1. Principles
 - 2. Procedures
 - 3. Troubleshooting
 - 4. Fixatives and stains
 - 5. Validation
- C. Safety and Infection Control
- D. Molecular (e.g., HPV)

END OF CONTENT GUIDELINE

