

WRITTEN TEST CANDIDATE GUIDE

for

CERTIFIED RECOVERY SPECIALIST (CRS)

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PURPOSE OF THE CANDIDATE GUIDE

The Written Examination for Certified Recovery Specialists is an examination that tests knowledge and skills about the recovery process. This exam has been developed by the PA Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A), the PA Certification Board (PCB) and a select committee of subject matter experts from across the Commonwealth. The exam is based on current research in the field.

The purpose of the Candidate Guide is to provide you with guidance for the CRS written examination process. By providing you with background information on examination domains and sample questions, your preparation for the exam can be enhanced.

EXAMINATION CONTENT

The 2008 PCB Job Task Analysis for the CRS identified three performance domains. Within each performance domain there are several identified knowledge and skill areas that provide the basis for questions in the examination. This Candidate Guide contains detailed information on the domains, knowledge, and skill areas. The following is a list of the performance domains for the examination and the number of test questions in each.

RECOVERY SPECIALIST DOMAINS	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
Recovery Management	18
Education and Advocacy	12
Professional Ethics and Responsibility	20

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The questions on the CRS examination were developed from the domains identified in the 2008 Job Task Analysis. Multiple sources were utilized in the development of questions for these exams. Each question is linked to one of the knowledge and skill areas identified in each domain.

The following is taken from the instructions that will be read to you prior to taking the examination:

The questions in the examination are multiple choice with four (4) choices: A, B, C, and D. There is only one correct choice for each question. Carefully read each question and all the choices before making a selection. Choose the single best answer. Mark only one answer for each question. You will not be given credit for any question for which you indicate more than one answer. It is advisable to answer every question, since the number of questions answered correctly will determine your final score.

Following are sample questions that are similar to those you will find in the CRS exam.

1. A good definition of denial is:
 - A. a common defense mechanism.
 - B. conscience lying.
 - C. the ability to turn down a drink or a drug.
 - D. minimizing the amount you drank or used.

2. What are common signs of alcohol withdrawal syndrome?
 - A. Body aches, disorientated, and agitated
 - B. Sweating, nausea, and increase in body temperature
 - C. Tremors, sweating, mild agitation, anxiety, increased heart rate and blood pressure
 - D. Increase heart rate, increase blood pressure, and cold sweats

3. The most commonly abused substance is:
 - A. marijuana.
 - B. nicotine.
 - C. heroin.
 - D. cocaine.

4. Adolescents often resist treatment because of:
 - A. a lack of employment.
 - B. peer pressure.
 - C. a lack of education.
 - D. the stigma of addiction.

5. A boundary violation is committed when an individual:
 - A. develops a social relationship with the client after services end.
 - B. accepts gifts from the individual receiving the services.
 - C. has a dual relationship with a client.
 - D. all of the above.

6. What are the only exceptions to breaking confidentiality?
 - A. The life of the client or someone else is at risk
 - B. The person is diagnosed with HIV
 - C. The client's mother/father asks for information
 - D. Discussing the client with your sponsor

ANSWER KEY

Question 1	A	Recovery Management
Question 2	C	Recovery Management
Question 3	B	Education and Advocacy
Question 4	D	Education and Advocacy
Question 5	D	Professional Ethics and Responsibility
Question 6	A	Professional Ethics and Responsibility

SAMPLE EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The examination consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. One hour and fifteen minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) have been provided for completion of the written examination.

SCHEDULE

8:30 - 8:45 a.m.

ACTIVITY

Candidates are admitted and registered

8:45 a.m.

Candidates are seated

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Instructions are given
Materials are distributed

9:00 a.m.

Examination begins

10:15 a.m.

Examination ends
Materials are collected

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

The CRS examination follows a 4-option multiple-choice format. Questions of this type begin with a stem, the premise statement, and are followed by four options. In answering the questions, candidates should read the stem and options carefully. They should then select the one best answer and fill in the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the best answer for the question.

The test measures the three major Performance Domains about the recovery process. Test questions are designed to assess knowledge as well as the candidate's ability to work with those in recovery from alcohol and other drug abuse. Successful candidates will draw on knowledge, analysis, and application to identify the one best option.

In taking the test, you may find it helpful to eliminate obviously incorrect responses after the first reading so as to increase the probability of selecting the best response. If you determine that there are two or more reasonable options, you should select the most plausible choice.

The questions in the examination are multiple choice with four (4) choices marked A, B, C, and D. There is only one correct choice for each question. Carefully read each question and all of the choices before making a selection. Choose the single best answer. Mark your answer on the answer sheet by blackening the circle under the letter of your choice.

Mark only one answer for each question. You will not be given credit for any question for which you indicate more than one answer. Be certain to mark your answer on the correct line and in the correct column for the question you are working on.

Read each question carefully. Choose the best answer for each question. If you change your answer, make sure that you completely erase your previous answer.

It is advisable to answer every question since the number of questions answered correctly will determine your final score. You may bring a watch in order to budget your time.

EXAMINATION RULES

No books, papers, or other reference materials may be taken into the examination room.

No examination materials, documents, or memoranda of any type may be taken from the room by any candidate.

The examination will be given only on the date and time noted on the Admission Letter. If an emergency arises and you are unable to take the examination as scheduled, you may call the PCB Office.

No questions concerning the content of the examination may be asked during the examination period. The candidate should listen carefully to the directions given by the Proctor and read the directions carefully in the examination booklet.

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIONS

Individuals with disabilities and/or religious obligations that require modifications in test administration may request specific procedure changes, in writing, to PCB, no fewer than 60 days prior to the scheduled test date. With the written request, the candidate must provide official documentation of the disability or religious issue. Candidates should contact PCB on what constitutes official documentation. PCB will offer appropriate modifications to its procedures when documentation supports the need for them.

ADMISSION TO THE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Upon fulfillment of the appropriate eligibility requirements and completion of the application process for CRS, you will be seated for the examination. PCB will send you an admission letter confirming your enrollment approximately two (2) weeks prior to the examination date. This admission letter will also contain the reporting time, test time, location, contact person, and other relevant information.

Your admission letter and a PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD (Work ID, Driver's License, etc.) must be presented for entrance to the examination.

EXAMINATION DATES

The CRS examination may be administered up to four times per year in March, June, September and December. The exact date, time, and location of the examination will be provided to you after your CRS application has been submitted to and approved by PCB.

SCORING

PCB will score all examinations and mail score reports to candidates. Scores will be broken down by category so that candidates can see areas of strength and weakness. This process takes approximately three to four weeks.

The passing point is fixed to assure that all candidates must achieve the same score to be granted certification. To achieve a passing score, candidates must correctly answer 37 questions out of 50 total questions.

TEST DISCLOSURE

If candidates wish to appeal their scores on the written test, they must submit a written request to PCB within 30 days of the postmark on the test score report. Candidates should be aware that test security and item banking procedures do not permit candidate's access to test questions, answer keys, or other secure materials.

REFERENCES

The following resources were used as the basis for most of the questions on the CRS examination. Consulting these references may be beneficial to you as you prepare for the exam. Please note that not all questions on the exam came from these references.

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