

United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry
Written Examination
Content Outline

REV 5/12/05

The UCNS Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry (BN & NP) examination was established to determine the level of competence for Behavioral Neurologists and Neuropsychiatrists. The examination will assess current clinical practice.

The following content outline is provided to examination candidates interested in the certification examination. The content outline consists of four primary categories followed by subcategories. A complete description of the core content required of Behavioral Neurologists and Neuropsychiatrists can be found in the BN & NP Core Curriculum at http://www.ucns.org/accreditation/application/BN_NP_Core_Curriculum_8-2-04.pdf.

The written examination consists of 200 multiple choice questions.

	Content Area	Percentage of Questions
I.	Structural and Functional Neuroanatomy	25%
II.	Neuropsychiatric Assessment	25%
III.	Treatments	25%
IV.	Neurobehavioral and Neuropsychiatric Syndromes	25%

I. Structural and Functional Neuroanatomy

- A. Brain Organization
 1. Cerebral cortex
 2. Basal ganglia
 3. Brainstem
 4. Cerebellum
 5. Cortico-cortical and cortical-subcortical circuits
 6. Regional cerebral specialization
 7. Neurochemistry – neurotransmitters, neuropeptides, neurohormones
 8. Cerebrovascular – functional brain relationships

- B. Cognition, Emotion, and Behavior
 1. Cognition (e.g., attention, memory, language, etc.)
 2. Emotion (e.g., mood, affect, prosody, etc.)
 3. Behavior (e.g., motivation, comporment, personality)

II. Neuropsychiatric Assessment

- A. Neurological Examination
 - 1. Elemental neurological function
 - 2. Neurological “soft-signs”
 - 3. Standardized rating scales
- B. Mental Status Examination
 - 1. General assessment
 - 2. Cognitive examination
 - 3. Clinical interpretation
- C. Neuropsychological Assessment
 - 1. Content, sensitivity, and specificity of neuropsychological testing
 - 2. Influence of confounding variables on test performance
 - 3. Indications for neuropsychological testing in evaluation and treatment planning
 - 4. Relationship of neuropsychological test results and
 - 5. Neuropsychological test abnormalities and
- D. Neuroimaging
 - 1. Principles and applications of structural and functional imaging
 - 2. Correlation between neuroimaging and clinical examination
- E. Electrophysiologic Testing
 - 1. Principles and applications of electrophysiologic recordings
 - 2. Correlation between electrophysiologic findings and clinical examination
- F. Laboratory Studies
 - 1. Indications for serum and urine studies
 - 2. Indications for and interpretation of results from CSF examinations

III. Treatments

- A. Somatic Therapies
 - 1. Neuropharmacologic agents
 - 2. Drug-drug interactions
 - 3. Other therapies
- B. Psychosocial Interventions
 - 1. Supportive therapy
 - 2. Family therapy
 - 3. Environmental interventions
 - 4. Behavioral management strategies

IV. Neurobehavioral and Neuropsychiatric Syndromes [exam does not necessarily, but may include material in the following areas]

A. Focal Neurobehavioral Syndromes

1. Arousal
2. Perception
3. Attention
4. Language
5. Memory
6. Praxis
7. Recognition
8. Executive function
9. Comportment and social behavior
10. Motivation

B. Neuropsychiatric Syndromes

1. Attention-deficit and disruptive behavior disorders
2. Learning, communication, and motor skill disorders
3. Dyslexia
4. Developmental disabilities, including mental retardation
5. Autism and pervasive developmental disorder
6. Age-related cognitive impairment
7. Amnestic disorders
8. Cortical, subcortical, white matter, and mixed dementias
9. Substance abuse and dependence
10. Disorders of mood
11. Disorders of affect
12. Anxiety disorders
13. Psychotic disorders
14. Personality disorders and personality change due to neurological/medical conditions
15. Impulse control disorders
16. Somatoform disorders
17. Factitious disorders
18. Malingering
19. Sexual disorders
20. Sleep disorders
21. Tic disorders, including Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome

C. Cognitive, Emotional, and Behavioral Manifestations of Neurological Disorders

1. Neurodegenerative disorders
2. Stroke and other cerebrovascular diseases
3. Epilepsy
4. Multiple sclerosis

5. Traumatic brain injury
6. Hydrocephalus
7. Primary and secondary brain tumors
8. Central nervous system infections
9. Neuroendocrine disorders
10. Toxic exposures/ingestions
11. Metabolic disorders, including solid organ failure and transplantation and inborn errors of metabolism
12. Movement disorders
13. Headache
14. Acute and chronic pain
15. Collagen-vascular diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus