

2022

Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK™) Protocol



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About the AFK™

The purpose of the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK™) is to test biomedical science and applied clinical science knowledge. A passing grade is required before a participant can continue to the other examinations in the Equivalency Process.

The AFK™ may be offered in two formats, electronic delivery at Prometric test centres or booklet format offered at select exam sites.

The AFK™ consists of 200 single answer multiple-choice questions, delivered in two parts. You will have two hours to complete each part.

The format and schedule for your examination will be provided when registration is confirmed.

Check-in

During check-in, you must present current government-issued photo identification. Acceptable forms of government issued photo identification are:

- driver's licence,
- passport, or
- provincial photo identification card.

The ID must be in English or French.

Photo identification must show your name exactly as it appears in your online profile and must not be expired. If the photo identification does not have an expiry date, it must have been issued within the last 10 years.

If you do not provide government photo identification you will not be admitted.

During check-in, staff may inspect eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories. These inspections will occur each time you enter the examination room. You are advised to refrain from wearing jewelry besides wedding rings as you may be asked to remove other jewelry including ornate hair accessories.

Additional check-in information for Prometric test centres

Prior to the examination, you must read [Prometric's test centre policies](#) including arrival and check-in procedures. These procedures may change at any time. It is your responsibility to know the test centre policies prior to your examination. If you do not comply with Prometric's policies, you may be refused access to the test centre.

Content

AFK™ items are developed based on the Competencies for a Beginning Dental Practitioner in Canada. This document is available in the [How to Prepare](#) section of the NDEB website.

Blueprint

The blueprint below gives the content areas and approximate percentage of questions in each area.

AFK™ Blueprint	Approximate % of Questions
Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Local Anesthesia, Medical Emergencies, Medicine including Physiology	24
Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Geriatric Dentistry, Special Needs Patient including Oral Embryology, Growth and Development	10
Periodontics including Microbiology and Immunology	10
Endodontics	6
Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology including Histology, Oral Radiology	17
Evidence-based Dentistry, Prevention, Infection Control, Ethics & Jurisprudence	7
Oral Surgery, Trauma, Oral Facial Pain, Dental Emergencies including Applied Anatomy	10
Cariology including Microbiology, Biochemistry, Restorative, Prosthodontics, Implants	16
Total	100%

Question Format

The AFK™ uses single answer multiple-choice type questions. Each question has a value of one. The lowest score for any question is zero.

Sample Question

The following is an example of an AFK™ question.

What is the most appropriate antibiotic for infections of pulpal origin?

- Penicillin V.
- Doxycycline.
- Erythromycin.
- Tetracycline.

Preparation Materials

You are encouraged to use the resources available, including the released examination materials, on the NDEB website. These resources are for personal use only.

Reference Texts

A list of reference materials recommended in Faculties of Dentistry in Canada can be found in the [How to Prepare](#) section of the NDEB website. The NDEB also references journal articles, clinical guidelines, and practice standards issued by specialty organizations.

Released Questions

The NDEB publishes many released questions which are available in the [How to Prepare](#) section of the NDEB website.

See the NDEB's Intellectual Property Statement for more information on how the NDEB protects and enforces its rights.

Misconduct

All NDEB content, including examination content, is for personal use only. Any other use of NDEB content is strictly prohibited. Examples of prohibited use of NDEB content include but are not limited to receiving from or disclosing NDEB content, reproducing (through memorization or by any other means), and publishing any NDEB content in whole or in part. Conduct that compromises the confidentiality and integrity of the NDEB's processes and examinations will be investigated and is subject to the NDEB's By-laws regarding misconduct.

Additional information on [misconduct](#) can be found on the NDEB website.

Regulations

This is a closed book examination. No study aids are permitted in the examination room. Failure to comply with any regulation may result in an accusation of misconduct.

General

You must be punctual for all sessions. If you arrive late, you may be denied entry to the examination.

Cell phones are prohibited while taking the exam. They must be turned off and placed in the designated area for personal items.

All watches are prohibited while taking the exam. They must be turned off and placed in the designated area for personal items.

Devices with recording or transmitting and/or receiving abilities are prohibited in the examination room.

You must not wear a hat, hood, coat, hoodie with the hood up, scarf covering the head, or bulky clothing (except where same constitutes religious attire).

You must empty all pockets before entering or leaving the examination room.

You will be required to read and agree to a Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreement before you can begin the examination. If you do not agree, you will not be able to start the examination. This agreement must be signed to receive results.

Food is not allowed in the examination room.

Water is not allowed in the examination room.

If you require water, food, medicine, or medical equipment in the examination room you must submit a request pursuant to the NDEB [test accommodations](#) policy.

You cannot leave and re-enter the examination room once the examination has started.

Booklet Examinations

Your NDEB ID card must always be visible.

You cannot write on anything other than the materials provided by the NDEB.

You will not be allowed to leave the examination room when there are 10 minutes remaining.

You must stop writing when directed by the Test Administrator.

Electronic Examinations

You cannot write on anything other than the scratch paper provided. The scratch paper and pencil must be submitted to Prometric staff at the end of the examination.

You can only use the washroom during the scheduled break.

If may be necessary for the NDEB to introduce new regulations or modify existing regulations for specific examination administrations. Any new or modified regulations will supersede regulations published in the protocol.

Test Accommodations

Test accommodations are granted on an individual basis and are dependent on the nature and extent of the request, documentation provided, and requirements of the examination. Read the NDEB's policies and procedures for [Test Accommodations](#) on the NDEB website.

Exceptional Circumstances: Withdrawals, Compassionate Appeals, and Conduct of the Examination

Withdrawals

If, before the examination, you experience a serious medical circumstance or unanticipated exceptional circumstance beyond your control you must withdraw from the examination. Notice of such a withdrawal should be provided in writing using the [Withdrawal form](#) before the examination if possible, but no later than seven days following the examination. If applicable, supporting documentation must accompany the submission.

More information can be found in the [NDEB By-laws](#).

Compassionate Appeals

If you believe you have been prevented from demonstrating your ability because of a serious medical circumstance or unanticipated medical circumstance during the examination, you can submit a compassionate appeal to have the results of the examination voided. Compassionate appeals must be submitted using the [Compassionate Appeal Request form](#) within seven days of the examination.

More information can be found on the NDEB website and in the [NDEB By-laws](#).

Conduct of an Examination

If, during the examination, you believe there may have been an irregularity or inconsistency in the conduct of the examination that prevented you from demonstrating your ability, it must be immediately reported to staff at the examination centre.

Should you want to submit an appeal based on the reported irregularity or inconsistency, it must be submitted in writing within seven days of the examination using the [Appeal of the Conduct of an Examination Form](#).

More information is available in the [NDEB By-laws](#).

Results

Results are normally released within 10 weeks of the examination. You will receive an email notification when your results are available in your online profile.

Results will be reported as a Pass/Fail. Those who receive less than 75 will also receive their test equated re-scaled score.

Results will not be released by telephone, email, or fax.

Passing Standard

To assure a consistent level of difficulty, the NDEB uses test equating and re-scaling procedures to correlate raw scores to scores on a reference examination and to a standardized passing score of 75.

You must obtain a minimum test equated, re-scaled score of 75 to be successful on an NDEB examination.

Information on test equating and re-scaling is available on the NDEB website.

Appeals and Rescoring

If you receive a failing grade, you have one month from the date results are released to request a verification of your score.

Information can be found in the [Appeals and Rescoring](#) section of the NDEB website.

In no case will you have access to your answer score sheets or examination questions.

Repeats

The AFK™ can be taken a maximum of three times.