**ABAT STUDY GUIDE -- TABLE OF SPECIFICATIONS**

**Specifications for the Multiple Choice Questions**

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| --- | --- |
| Topic | Number of Questions |
| Drugs | 40 |
| Chemicals | 35 |
| Environmental/Occupational | 15 |
| Biologicals | 15 |
| Theory (e.g.: toxicokinetics, interactions, laboratory) | 10 |
| General (e.g.: antidotes, history) | 10 |
| TOTAL | 125 |

The questions will measure the candidate’s ability to recall certain general facts about specific agents within the above categories. More importantly, the candidate will apply this basic factual knowledge to make clinical decisions presented within the framework of the questions. The multiple choice questions will be of a type with 4 possible choices with one correct answer. This multiple-choice examination lasts five (5) hours.

**Specifications for the Problem Solving Section**

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| --- | --- |
| Topic | Number of Questions |
| Clinically oriented problems to include a toxin(s) that fall in each of the categories of biological, drug, and chemical/environmental. | 3 |
| Literature critique | 1 |

The clinically-oriented, problem solving cases (3) are geared to assess the ability of the candidate to assess a patient scenario provided in a layered pattern (with no regression to the earlier section) typically providing a diagnostic (eg. differential diagnosis based on history and clinical findings, assessment strategies to include laboratory, radiologic, and use of pharmacologic antagonists), stabilization (eg. initial supportive care, empiric therapies), and therapeutic plan (eg specific interventions to include antidotes, methods of enhanced elimination) to work the problem through to resolution in an evidenced-based approach. In addition, the candidate should be able explain the underlying rationale and mechanisms of action for all assessment and management interventions, as well as organ-specific pathophysiology and sequelae for potential toxins. . A second type of problem (1) will assess a more non-clinical role in addressing a statistical review of a toxicology literature article (critiquing a published study with regards to its study design strengths and weaknesses, and interpretation with extrapolation of results to practice).

The candidate is given a brief introductory vignette of each of the four topics and is allowed to decide the order in which they choose to answer each of the four topics. Each topic is comprised of two to four separate sections which are further broken down to specific questions that focus on information provided in that section, as well as, past sections. Once a candidate completes a section of the case study, the questions, responses as well as the exam book are turned into the proctor before receiving the next section of the case study. Once each part of the exam is completed and submitted to the proctor, there is no regression to the earlier section. Once all sections of a case study are completed, the individual is free to start any of the remaining case studies during the six (6) hour examination period.