Sealants (SE)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

The SE exam is a component of the Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA®) and Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA®) certification programs.

CPFDA component exams
Coronal Polish (CP)
Sealants (SE)
Topical Fluoride (TF)

CRFDA component exams
Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)
Impressions (IMP)
Temporaries (TMP)
Isolation (IS)
Sealants (SE)
Restorative Functions (RF)

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Exam Outline Overview

SE Exam Weighting by Domain

I. Evaluation (20%)

II. Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

III. Procedure (45%)

IV. Administration (15%)

SE Exam Administration

- Number of Questions: 80
- Time for Exam: 60 minutes
- Tutorial Time: 5 minutes
- Comment Time: 5 minutes

DANB uses computer adaptive testing (CAT) to present questions to candidates. Each candidate starts with a question at or around the pass point. If the candidate gets a question correct, the next question will be slightly harder. If the question is incorrectly answered, the next question will be slightly easier. Question selection takes into account the content of the question, as each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain on the exam outline. Using this method of testing, DANB can more accurately pinpoint a candidate’s ability level. The average candidate will get around 50% of the questions correct and around 50% of the questions incorrect. The candidate’s score is based on the difficulty of the questions that were answered correctly.
SE Exam Outline

DANB exams are created using the exam outline, which is reviewed annually by subject matter experts (e.g., Certified Dental Assistant™ [CDA®] certificants and dentists). The outline is developed using a content validation study (CVS), which includes a job analysis survey where practicing CDA/Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA®) certificants are surveyed about how often tasks are performed and how important competent performance of tasks is to the health and safety of the public. This study is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the outline is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB’s Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam outlines. The SE exam measures a candidate’s knowledge of national practices for sealant application.

Domain I: Evaluation (20%)

A. Describe how to complete and review patient medical and dental history.

B. Identify indications and contraindication for sealant placement, including but not limited to:
   1. abnormalities of the oral cavity.
   2. existing restorations.
   3. occlusion.
   4. pit and fissures.
   5. stages of eruption.
   6. types, presence and location of dental caries.

Domain II: Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

A. Identify armamentarium needed for sealant application.

B. Demonstrate understanding of acid etch and bonding agent materials.

C. Identify sealant material characteristics by:
   1. color and tint.
   2. filled/unfilled.

D. Identify isolation methods used in sealant application.

E. Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) required during a sealant application by:
   1. operator.
2. patient.

**Domain III: Procedure (45%)**

A. **Demonstrate understanding of tasks involved in sealant application, including but not limited to:**
   1. applying acid etch.
   2. applying bonding agent.
   3. applying sealant.
   4. checking occlusion and adjusting sealant as needed.
   5. curing sealant.
   6. flossing to remove excess sealant material.
   7. removing debris from pits and fissures.

B. **Demonstrate understanding of safety and standard precautions as they relate to infection control, including but not limited to:**
   1. disinfection of treatment room and equipment.
   2. sterilization of instruments.

C. **Understand maintenance of armamentarium for sealants, including but not limited to:**
   1. curing light.
   2. slow speed handpiece.

D. **Describe how to provide patient information, including but not limited to:**
   1. patient education, including oral hygiene instructions, disease prevention and progression, and benefits of sealant placement.
   2. pre- and post-operative instructions.

**Domain IV: Administration (15%)**

A. **Demonstrate how to maintain records, including but not limited to:**
   1. clinical/treatment notes.
   2. legal requirements.

B. **Demonstrate understanding of how to maintain patient privacy in accordance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).**

C. **Understand how to use and maintain safety data sheets (SDS) for sealant materials.**
SE Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials to develop this exam. This list does not include all the available textbooks and materials for studying for this exam; these are simply the resources that exam committee subject matter experts determined as providing the most up-to-date information needed to meet or surpass a determined level of competency for this exam. Any one reference will likely not include all the material required to study to take the exam.

This list is intended to help prepare for this exam. It is not intended to be an endorsement of any of the publications listed. You should prepare for DANB certification and component exams using as many different study materials as possible.

Textbook References

Organizational References
   - *Glossary of Dental Terms*
State Regulations

Each state's dental board implements regulations and establishes rules for delegating legally allowable duties to dental assistants. Passing one or more of the DANB component exams or earning DANB certification only conveys authority to perform these duties in those states that recognize these exams or this certification as meeting state dental assisting requirements. This information is available at www.danb.org.