Sealants (SE)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

The SE exam is a component of the Certified Preventive Function Dental Assistant (CPFDA®) certification program.

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

**CRFDA component exams**
Impressions (IM)
Temporaries (TMP)
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/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 topical fluoride application.

Domain I: Evaluation (20%)

A. Review medical and dental history prior to a sealant procedure.
B. Inspect the oral cavity for abnormalities.
C. Inspect teeth for suspected caries.
D. Evaluate pits and fissures.
E. Determine state of eruption.
F. Identify and evaluate existing restorations.

Domain II: Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

A. Prepare armamentarium for sealant placement.
B. Select acid etch material.
C. Select sealant material.
D. Choose isolation method for sealant placement.
E. Evaluate occlusion.
F. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) for operator/patient for a sealant procedure.
Domain III: Procedure (45%)

A. Remove debris from pits and fissures.
B. Apply acid etch.
C. Apply bonding agent.
D. Apply sealant.
E. Cure sealant.
F. Adjust sealant as needed.
G. Floss to remove excess sealant material.
H. Apply topical fluoride after a sealant procedure.

Domain IV: Administration (15%)

A. Record a sealant procedure in the clinical notes.
B. Maintain patient confidentiality according to HIPAA protocol.
C. Maintain safety data sheets (SDS) for sealant materials.
D. Sterilize instruments after a sealant procedure.
E. Perform routine maintenance of armamentarium (slow speed handpiece, curing light).
F. Clean and disinfect the treatment room following a sealant procedure.
G. Provide oral hygiene instructions to a patient receiving a sealant procedure.
H. Provide sealant education to a patient.
I. Provide pre- and post-operative instructions.
SE Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials (excluding the Additional/Optional Study Resources) 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.

Suggested References


Additional/Optional Study Resources

   - EFDA Practice Test
   - 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.