Topical Anesthetic (TA)

Exam Blueprint and Suggested References

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Exam Blueprint Overview

TA Exam Weighting by Sub-Content Area

I. Preparation for Application (10%)

II. Classifications (20%)

III. Precautions and Contraindications (20%)

IV. Indications for Use (30%)

V. Application of Topical Anesthetic (Including Infection Control/OSHA Protocol) (20%)

TA Exam Administration

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

DANB administers the TA exam as a linear exam. Each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain on the exam outline. The candidate’s overall performance on the exam determines the candidate’s pass/fail status.
TA Exam Blueprint

DANB exams are created using the exam blueprint, which is annually reviewed by subject matter experts. The blueprint is developed through a rigorous content validation study (CVS) and validated by DANB certificants using a job analysis survey. A CVS is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the blueprint is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB’s Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam blueprints.

Sub-Content Area I: Preparation for Application (10%)

A. Identify important factors in patient medical history.
B. Describe the purpose of topical anesthetic for patient education.
C. Identify armamentarium used in the application of topical anesthetic.

Sub-Content Area II: Classifications (20%)

A. Identify various forms.
B. Identify various agents.

Sub-Content Area III: Precautions and Contraindications (20%)

Sub-Content Area IV: Indications for Use (30%)

Sub-Content Area V: Application of Topical Anesthetic (Including Infection Control/Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] Protocol) (20%)
TA 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 at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).