



AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

ITEM WRITER ATTRIBUTES

ABEM appreciates the significant time commitment required for item writers to successfully develop test items. The item development process of which they are a part is a complex system in which several discrete but related processes need to flow together each year for the overall project to succeed. The first and most crucial step in this overall process is the drafting and submission of new test items by ABEM item writers. To be successful as an ABEM item writer, individuals must possess the following attributes:

1. Substantial Breadth and Depth of Medical Knowledge

- Ability to draw upon a significant store of medical knowledge and clinical practice when writing on a wide variety of Emergency Medicine topics

2. Strong Writing Skills

- Ability to translate complex ideas and concepts into written form following established writing guidelines
- Ability to use proper syntax and grammar
- Submission of test items that conform to ABEM's item writing principles and item writing guidelines

3. Timeliness and the Ability to Follow Direction

- Willingness and ability to submit three item assignments per year, i.e., a combined total of 24 items, by the established deadlines.
- Willingness to compose test items within the assigned content areas

4. Acceptance of Constructive Criticism

- Willingness to receive feedback from editors and peers and integrate that information into their work
- Successful remediation of any concerns or problems identified by the examination editors

5. Ability to Attend Required ABEM Meetings

- Regular attendance and active participation in the annual Item Writers' Workshop
- Attendance at a new item writer training and orientation session before beginning their first term as a writer

6. Willingness to Adhere to the ABEM *Policy on Conflict of Interest*