

American Board of Emergency Medicine

2021 EMS Cognitive Expertise Examination Scoring

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- 1. How was the passing score determined?** The passing score, 146, was established through a formal standard setting process involving certified practicing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) physicians in 2017. The standard-setting process is based on ABEM's approved standards for EMS practice. All candidates meeting the standard will pass the examination. Quotas or required percentages of candidates passing are not used to determine the passing score.
- 2. What is the pass rate on the 2021 Cognitive Expertise Examination?** The pass rate is 75% for all candidates taking the exam for recertification purposes.
- 3. What is my percentile rank among all candidates who took the examination in 2021?** The Emergency Medical Services Cognitive Expertise Examination is a criterion-referenced examination, meaning that all candidates are judged against a pre-determined standard, which is reflected in the passing score. The relative standing of an individual candidate is not relevant. Therefore, percentile rankings are not calculated and are not available.
- 4. How was my result determined?** The EMS Cognitive Expertise Examination is a criterion-referenced examination. This means that a predetermined standard is applied, against which all candidates are judged. All candidates meeting the standard pass the examination. Quotas or required percentages of candidates passing are not used to determine the passing score.

Not all the questions on the examination were included in the scoring. Some were being field-tested for future use. In addition, the statistical performance of each question received a thorough review before the examination was scored. Questions that did not meet quality standards were not used in determining final scores.

Your final score on the EMS Cognitive Expertise Examination was determined by first adding together the number of scored questions you answered correctly. This number-correct score was then psychometrically equated and transformed to a score equivalent to previous administrations of the assessment. The final reported scores range from 0 to 195. Any candidate receiving a final score of 146 or greater passes the examination.

- 5. Can results be obtained by phone or fax?** No. Examination results will not be reported or confirmed by phone or fax. This policy is intended to assure the confidentiality of all candidate scores.

This document includes answers to the most frequently asked questions concerning how the examination was scored and how the scores are reported. If you have a question that this document does not answer, please contact the ABEM office:

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

Please include your candidate identification number (shown on your score report) in all correspondence.

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