

NPTE Outline

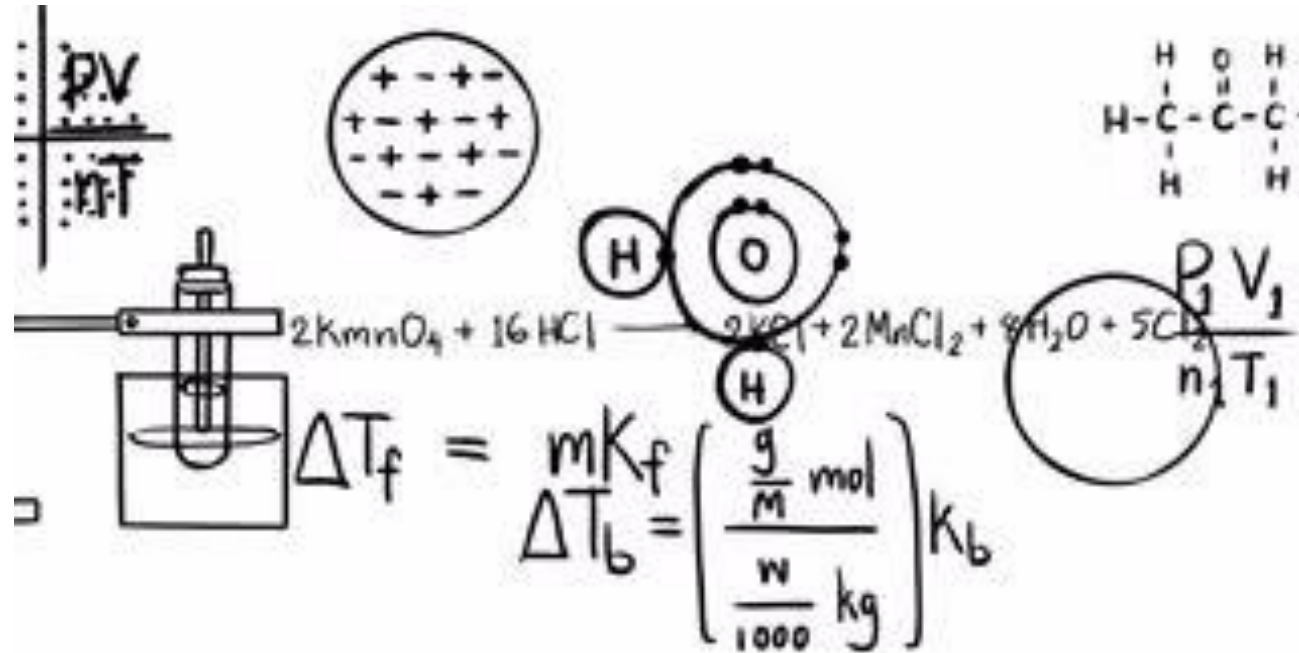
Changes Affecting the NPTE

- Beginning with the January 2024 administration
 - PT updated exam design (NPTE-PT)
 - 225 items total. 180 scored + 45 unscored = 225 total
 - Up to 45 scenario-based items
 - Approximately 180 stand-alone multiple-choice items
 - Includes graphic, video, or text items
 - PTA updated exam design (NPTE-PTA)
 - 180 items total. 140 scored + 40 unscored = 180 total
 - Up to 35 scenario-based items
 - Approximately 145 stand-alone multiple-choice items
 - Includes graphic, video, or text items

NPTE Changes at a Glance (2024 and beyond)

	PT Content (NPTE-PT)	PTA Content (NPTE-PTA)
Total Items	225	180
Scored Items	180	140
Unscored Items	45	40
Scenario-Based	Up to 45	Up to 35
Test Time	<u>5 hours</u>	4 hours
Scoring	<u>600/800</u>	600/800
Cost	\$485	\$485
Prometric Fee	\$100.30	\$82.60

What is actually on the NPTE?



PT Content Outline

NUMBER OF ITEMS (RANGE)				
BODY SYSTEM	Physical Therapy Examination	Foundations for Evaluation, Differential Diagnosis, & Prognosis	Interventions	TOTAL PER SYSTEM
Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Systems	7-8	7-9	8-10	<u>22-27</u>
Musculoskeletal System	14-18	15-18	15-18	<u>44-54</u>
Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems	13-16	13-16	13-16	<u>39-48</u>
Integumentary System	2-3	3-4	3-4	<u>8-11</u>
Metabolic & Endocrine Systems	-	2-3	2-3	4-6
Gastrointestinal System	1-2	1-2	1-2	3-6
Genitourinary System	0-1	1-2	1-2	2-5
Lymphatic System	1-2	1-2	2-3	4-7
System Interactions	-	8-10	-	<u>8-10</u>
TOTAL ACROSS SYSTEMS	38-50	51-66	47-58	-
NONSYSTEM				TOTAL PER NONSYSTEM
Equipment, Devices, & Technologies				<u>5-6</u>
Therapeutic Modalities				<u>4-6</u>
Safety & Protection				<u>5-7</u>
Professional Responsibilities				<u>4-5</u>
Research & Evidence-Based Practice				<u>3-5</u>
TOTAL				180

What is actually on the NPTE?

- Entry level (within 12 months of practice)
- Current content (recently published textbooks)

Exam Development

- FSBPT:
 - The test is developed by a diverse set of item writers across the country in various practice settings
 - Each item is edited and analyzed in approximately 8 committees
 - Each item becomes a “pre-test item”
 - Analyzed via Item Response Theory for psychometric qualities



Exam Development

- Grouped into 180 question “blocks,” or exam forms
- 180 scored questions + 45 unscored “pretest” items
- 5-10 different exam forms on any given test day
- Each form is then compared to previous forms for statistical validity and then scaled appropriately, using Item Response Theory
- Each test item is used only 1-2x before retirement
- 225 total items (PT)



PT vs PTA

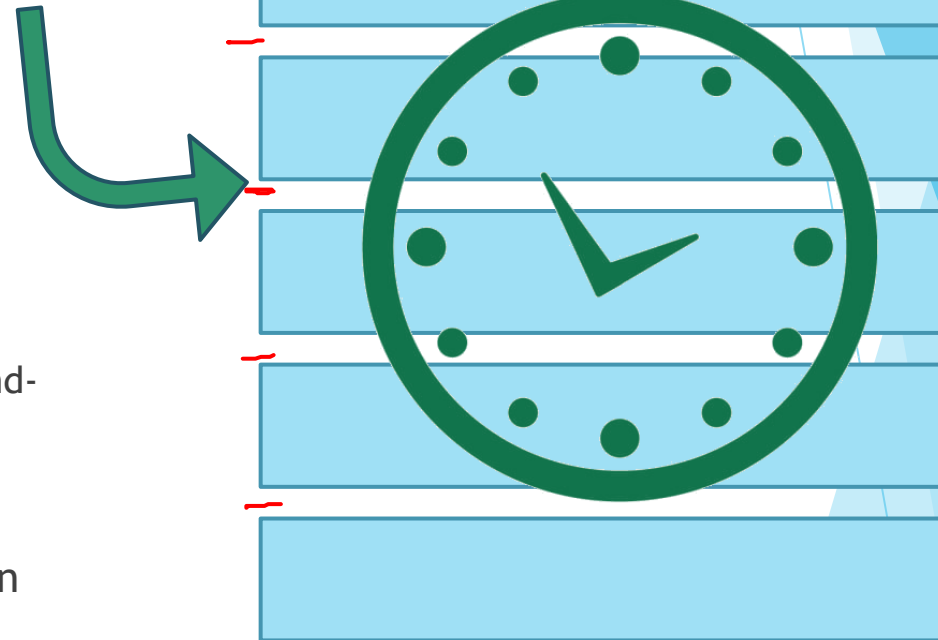


- Total
 - 225 items (PT), 5 sections
 - 180 items (PTA), 4 sections

Exam Timing

- Standard time: 5 hours time bank
 - 5 sections x 45 questions
 - Target 1 hour per section
 - Approx. 80 seconds/item
 - Scenario-based items will take more time and stand-alone items will take less time
 - “Scheduled Break” after section 2
 - “Unscheduled Breaks” between any other section
 - Running clock shown in test window

Scheduled Break:
15 min. after section 2



Exam Structure

- 5 sections x 45 questions each (225 total)
- Can “strikethrough” or “mark” questions if desired
- Scratch paper available for making calculations or “braindumping”



Exam Scoring

25%

- Must have **600/800** scale score to pass the exam
 - Approximately 68.5% (66-70% range) 126/180 raw score
 - Same for every state board governed by FSBPT
 - Exam scoring is done electronically and automatically
 - Manual review only occurs if there was an incident at the test site or if there was an unusual answer pattern
 - “Score withheld” most commonly occurs after large score increase or irregular answer pattern
- No penalty for guessing



NPTE Myths

MYTHS
BUSTED

NPTE MYTHS!

- FALSE:
 - ‘The test is “harder” in July and “easier” in January.’
 - ‘A score of 800/800 means you answered every question correct’ 92%
 - ‘There are “multiple correct answers” to each question’
 - ‘The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy is “out of touch” with reality’
 - ‘The test is purely academic’ vs Clinical
→ ←

Conclusion