

BCAT Examination Content Outline

The BCAT exam is composed of 175 multiple choice items, which includes 25 unscored, pretest items used for statistical analysis that do not count towards the candidate's score. Candidates have 3 hours to complete the exam.

Topics covered by the exam are listed below, followed by a detailed content outline.

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (10-12%)
- Principles of ABA (18-22%)
- Treatment: Skill Acquisition (28-34%)
- Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (24-30%)
- Behavioral Data Collection (5-7%)
- Ethical/Legal Considerations (4-6%)

A. Autism Spectrum Disorder (10-12%)

1. Distinguishing between evidence-based interventions vs. nonevidence-based interventions
2. Knowledge of deficits in social-emotional reciprocity
3. Knowledge of deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction
4. Knowledge of deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships
5. Knowledge of stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech
6. Knowledge of insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior
7. Knowledge of highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus
8. Knowledge of hyper or hypo reactivity to sensory input or unusual interests in sensory aspects of environment
9. Knowledge of levels of severity across social communication and restricted, repetitive behaviors
10. Knowledge of research regarding treatment intensity
11. Knowledge of early intensive behavioral intervention research
12. Knowledge of foundational autism research

B. Principles of ABA (18-22%)

1. Positive reinforcement
2. Negative reinforcement
3. Positive punishment
4. Negative punishment

5. Reinforcer
6. Punisher
7. Conditioned reinforcer
8. Unconditioned reinforcer
9. Extinction
10. Deprivation
11. Satiation
12. Habituation
13. Contingency
14. Motivating operation
15. 3-term contingency (Antecedent, Behavior, and Consequence)
16. Operant behavior
17. Operant conditioning
18. Stimulus
19. Discriminative stimulus
20. Stimulus control
21. Response
22. Discrete trial

C. Treatment: Skill Acquisition (28-34%)

23. Discrimination training
24. Discrete trial training
25. Natural environment training
26. Fluency-based training
27. Generalization
28. Maintenance
29. Caregiver training
30. Premack principle
31. Preference assessment
32. Prompt
33. Errorless learning

34. Most-to-least prompting
35. Least-to-most prompting
36. Prompt fading
37. Prompt dependency
38. Time delay prompt
39. Chaining
40. Shaping
41. Pacing
42. Alternative and augmentative communication
43. Functional approaches to teaching language skills
44. Mand training
45. Tact training
46. Training echoic behavior
47. Training intraverbal behavior
48. Teaching joint attention
49. Teaching play skills
50. Teaching motor skills
51. Teaching adaptive and safety skills
52. Teaching social skills
53. Teaching cognition skills
54. Teaching executive function skills
55. Teaching academic skills
56. Visual supports
57. Curriculum modification

D. Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (24-30%)

58. Behavior intervention plan
59. Target behavior
60. Operational definition
61. Operant conditioning
62. Respondent conditioning

63. Pairing with the client
64. Functional behavior assessment
65. Escape function
66. Attention function
67. Access to tangible function
68. Automatic function
69. Antecedent interventions
70. Functional communication training
71. Token economy
72. High-p request sequence | behavioral momentum
73. Noncontingent reinforcement
74. Replacement behavior
75. Escape extinction
76. Attention extinction
77. Access to tangible extinction
78. Extinction burst
79. Deprivation
80. Satiation
81. Continuous reinforcement
82. Intermittent reinforcement
83. Differential reinforcement of alternative behavior
84. Differential reinforcement of incompatible behavior
85. Differential reinforcement of other behavior
86. Response blocking
87. Redirection
88. Overcorrection
89. Response cost
90. Time-out from reinforcement
91. Spontaneous recovery

E. Behavioral Data Collection (5-7%)

1. Measurement dimensions (e.g., rate, duration, percentage)
2. Measurement procedures (e.g., event recording, timing, time sampling)
3. Skill acquisition data
4. Problem behavior data
5. Interobserver agreement (IOA)

F. Ethical/Legal Considerations (4-6%)

6. Safety (including OSHA)
7. Responding to emergencies
8. Confidentiality (including HIPAA)
9. Recognition of client abuse
10. Reporting client abuse
11. Dual relationships
12. Mandatory reporter
13. Maintain professionalism
14. Remain objective
15. Transparency