

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 (8.67%)
- Principles of ABA (19.33%)
- Treatment: Skill Acquisition (27.33%)
- Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (30.00%)
- Behavioral Data Collection (9.33%)
- Ethical/Legal Considerations (5.33%)

A. Autism Spectrum Disorder (8.67%)

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 (19.33%)

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 (27.33%)

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 (30.00%)

- 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 I 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 (9.33%)

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 (5.33%)

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