



BOARD CASE EXAMINATION OVERVIEW (UPDATED 2022)

The Board Case Examination (BCE) is a multiple choice, web-based assessment. Exam content is based on clinical case analysis.

The BCE is based on contemporary general knowledge of clinical orthodontic topics. All possible answers may be valid, but only one response is the MOST correct.

Not all case records presented are of ABO standards. This is done intentionally for the intended line of questioning.

The examination is composed of four domains:

1. Data Gathering and Diagnosis
2. Treatment Objectives and Planning
3. Treatment Implementation and Management
4. Critical Analysis and Outcomes Assessment

Each examinee is randomly assigned a test form that is made up of an average of 50 questions.

Each exam has a preset time limit of 90 minutes.

Once an examination is started, you may not stop or pause. Please ensure that you are in an environment conducive to taking a timed examination with a reliable internet connection.

The examination will be automatically scored based on preset passing points and you will be notified automatically about a successful/unsuccessful outcome once the examination is completed. If you run out of time (time expired will appear on the screen), you will need to call the ABO office to obtain your results.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BCE FOR CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

How do I study for the BCE? Do I need to study?

Your test taking strategy is entirely up to you. Exam content is based on clinical case analysis.

See the overview information for details of possible topics of questioning you can expect. A list of general test-taking tips and suggested readings is included below for examinees that are looking for resources beyond the knowledge gained in clinical practice.

How many BCEs do I need to take?

Certification renewal requires successful completion of one BCE.

What if I don't pass?

If unsuccessful, an examinee may pursue the BCE up to three times (a different exam assigned for each attempt). If all three opportunities have been exhausted, the examinee will be required to petition the board for further instruction regarding options to fulfill the certification renewal requirements.

It is necessary to re-register each time an examinee will be tested. The registration system is set up to accommodate re-registration as early as the same day, and examinees are not charged for re-examination.

If you do not take the BCE exam until after registration for the testing period is closed, same day re-registration will not be available.

What is the pass rate?

The ABO does not disclose the pass rate for this exam.

The screen says that my exam expired. What does that mean?

An expired exam indicates that you have run out of time. In this situation, you will need to call the ABO office to obtain your results.

Can I find out which questions I answered incorrectly?

No, the BCE is a pass or fail exam.

Can I switch to the mail-in case option?

If you are not successful with the BCE, you can re-register for the mail-in case option as long as you are within your three exam limit and the mail-in option registration is open.

The mail-in case option is only available in May/June of each year, and may not work for your certification renewal schedule.

How do I register?

Registration for certification renewal is handled through your ABO account. You may need to reset your password to gain access to your account. Contact the ABO office for further instructions if needed.

All examinees are required to agree to the following Confidentiality Agreement as part of the registration process for the BCE:

I understand that the content of all ABO Examinations, and each of its items contained therein, is proprietary and strictly confidential, and that the unauthorized retention, possession, copying, distribution, disclosure, discussions, or receipt of any examination question, in whole or in part, by written, electronic, oral or other form of communication, including but not limited to texting, e-mailing, social media outlets, copying or printing of electronic files, and reconstruction through memorization and/or dictation, before, during, or after an examination, is strictly prohibited. I further understand that, in addition to constituting irregular behavior subject to disciplinary action such as revocation of certification, revocation of eligibility for future certification, and disciplinary fines, such activities violate the rules and regulations governing ABO certification.

I am registered for a BCE testing period, but my schedule has changed and I won't be able to take the exam. What should I do?

The Board will allow one transfer without penalty to the next testing period, provided your certification schedule will accommodate the next testing period. Requests for a transfer must be received via email to Michelle Valenti at michelle@americanboardortho.com. Subsequent requests for a transfer will incur a transfer fee.

What happens if I don't take my exam during the testing period that I am registered for and I do not request a transfer or notify the ABO to cancel my exam?

If you do not take the exam during the testing period that you are registered for, it counts as a no show and as one of your three attempts to complete your certification renewal.

How do I start the exam?

Once you are registered, you will see the BCE under Upcoming Exams on your ABO dashboard. Click on the blue button to begin the exam.



How many people choose the BCE option for certification renewal?

Since its introduction in 2018, the number of examinees is constantly growing. The BCE is a popular option for certification renewal because of its scheduling flexibility. However, the board recognizes that case submission is the preference for many board certified orthodontists, and it remains an option for certification renewal.

How long is my renewed certification?

Certification renewal awards a ten year time limited certification period.

Can I recertify early?

Yes. You can renew your certification early, and you will find registration links in your ABO account as soon as you are eligible to register.

There is no drawback to recertifying early - your updated certificate would reflect your current expiration date plus ten years.

GENERAL TEST-TAKING TIPS

1. Read the entire question carefully
2. Try to answer without referring to the answer choices
3. Read all the answer alternatives carefully
4. Use the process of elimination if you do not immediately know the correct answer
5. If you are struggling with a question, flag it so you can return to it later (if time permits)
6. Select the response that best answers the questions

SUGGESTED READINGS

Graber L, Vanarsdall R, Vig KWL, Huang GJ: Orthodontics: Current Principles and Techniques, ed 6, Mosby, 2017.

Huang GJ, Richmond S, and Vig KWL: Evidence-based orthodontics, ed 2, Wiley Blackwell, 2019.

Jacobson A and Jacobson RL: Radiographic Cephalometry: From Basics to 3-D Imaging, ed 2, Quintessence, 2007.

Nanci A: Ten Cate's Oral Histology: Development, Structure, and Function, ed 9, Mosby, 2018.

Nanda R: Esthetic and Biomechanics in Orthodontics, ed 2, Elsevier, 2015.

Neville BW, Damm DE, Allen CM, et al: Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, ed 4, Elsevier, 2016.

Okeson JP: Management of Temporomandibular Disorders and Occlusion, ed 8, Elsevier, 2019.

Proffit WR, Fields HW, Larson BE, et al: Contemporary Orthodontics, ed 6, Elsevier, 2019.

Standring S (ed): Gray's Anatomy: The Anatomical Basis of Clinical Practice, ed 41, Elsevier, 2016. (Or any contemporary anatomy textbook)