

# **Comprehensive Eye Care Section** **Diplomate Program Exam Information**

## **Eligibility for the Written Examination:**

The candidate is eligible to take the Written Examination following successful completion of two case reports. This examination will be given during the Annual Meeting of the Academy.

Note: Bring a writing utensil (pen or pencil) to the exam, as well as a basic non-programmable calculator.

## **Written Examination Details:**

The purpose of the written examination is to assess the candidate's skills in clinical diagnosis, pathophysiology, data analysis, and patient management. The exam is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of basic science relevant to clinical care; anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology will be tested. Multiple choice questions pertaining to state-of-the-art information for the Comprehensive Eye Care practitioner will be included.

The Written Examination is constructed to determine if the candidate practices Comprehensive Eye Care beyond the entry level and at a level of excellence consistent with Diplomate Status. Practitioners are expected to understand and design management plans that may be technically beyond their current scope of direct care as allowed by state law.

The written examination consists of a two-hour multiple choice examination that consists of 120 questions or 40 questions per category as follows:

- Clinical optometry: Contact lenses, low vision, binocular vision, refraction
- Ocular disease: Anterior and posterior segment, glaucoma, lens and refractive surgery
- Ocular-related systemic disease: neuro-ophthalmic disorders, clinical pharmacology, laboratory testing, diagnosis and management of ocular manifestations of systemic disease

The second section of the written examination is the Clinical Correlations examination. This is a one-hour short answer examination with a photographic identification module (12 pathological slides) that assesses how well a candidate can analyze and solve a clinical problem. This is NOT a multiple-choice examination format, as candidates must provide a written response to the questions on each of the slides. The general structure of each item format will be as follows:

- Patient scenario: including demographic data, history, initial data results
- Examination questions: pertaining to pathophysiology, additional test findings, differential diagnoses, treatment and management/co-management
- Comment: the Candidate may comment on the nature of his/her responses to
- the exam questions

Candidates must achieve at least 70% on every individual section of the test to pass. If the candidate fails to achieve 70% on an individual section, the candidate will only have to repeat those section at the next meeting.

### Recommended Resources for Written Exam:

Concerning the textbook sources for the questions, more than 70% of the questions on the written examination are referenced to Ophthalmology (Yanoff M, Duker J, 4th Ed. St. Louis, MO., Mosby 2014). There will be no questions drawn from part 1 and 8 of Yanoff's Ophthalmology textbook. Less than 30% of the questions on the written examination are drawn from the following textbooks:

- Clinical Manual of Contact Lenses (Bennett ES, Henry VA (Eds). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2014)
- Contact lens Complications (Efron, N. London: Elsevier Saunders; 2012)
- Clinical Management of Binocular Vision: Heterophoric, Accommodative, and Eye Movement Disorders (Mitchell Scheiman and Bruce Wick, 2014)
- Essentials of Low Vision Practice (Brilliant, R.L., Boston, MA, Butterworth - Heinemann 1999)

The AOA Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines are a useful resource for the contact lens and pediatric sections; however, more than 95% of the questions are referenceable to the above textbooks.

### Eligibility for the Clinical Examination:

The candidate is eligible to take the Clinical Examination following successful completion of four case reports. This examination will be given during the annual meeting, or virtually 1-2 months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Academy.

### Clinical Examination Details:

The purpose of the clinical examination is to represent various clinical scenarios (as if the patient were in the clinician's exam chair) that allow the candidate to demonstrate life-long learning, excellence in evidence-based clinical reasoning and decision making, and excellent communication skills. The test is designed to evaluate how the clinician analyzes each case as though the data presented. During this examination, the Candidate will be tested on clinical case-based scenarios developed by the Diplomate Committee in the topics of anterior segment disease, posterior segment disease, contact lenses, binocular vision, and low vision. The candidate may be asked about clinical history, diagnosis, treatment, and management of each of the five cases. Each case will be presented via PowerPoint slides that include exam findings and sometimes photos or test results. The candidate will not be asked to demonstrate specific technical skills, only clinical thinking/case analysis that will be discussed verbally. Two or three Diplomate Committee members will be present in the exam. The committee members will verbally ask questions to see how the candidate approaches each patient case.

Discussion questions may include:

- What additional HPI questions would you ask the patient?
- What additional exam data or testing would you perform?  
(If that test result is available (e.g., visual field, OCT, MRI, topography, B-scan, etc, it will be shown via PowerPoint. You may be asked to interpret the test results.)
- What is your diagnosis and treatment plan?
- How would you educate the patient about this diagnosis and plan?

Note: Five cases will be presented, one from each category above. Twenty minutes will be allowed per case; please allow 2 hours total time. Do not bring anything to the exam.

Questions asked by committee members during cases assess the candidate's ability to:

- Ask appropriate history questions related to the diagnosis/differential diagnoses.
- Elicit specific visual goals and concerns of the patient.
- Describe key clinical findings and symptoms for the condition.
- Correlate clinical findings with the patient history to determine diagnosis and address, improve or resolve the patient's complaints.
- Differentiate the condition from other eye problems.
- Recommend, order, interpret and/or understand diagnostic testing for the condition.
- Recognize factors that have a significant impact on visual testing (charts; illumination; visual field status, measurement techniques/procedures)
- Convey the impact on vision and visual prognosis of the condition.
- Appropriately treat, manage, co-manage, and/or refer for additional care of the condition.
- Identify concomitant systemic disease and/or medication complications associated with the condition.
- Educate patients on the condition, showing they not only have a high level of knowledge of the condition but are a caring practitioner who recognizes the individuality of each patient.
- Articulate appropriate referral information to referring providers.

Study Tips for Clinical: Just like in patient-care, there is no one resource that will capture the nuances of every-day patient care to review diagnosis, diagnostic testing interpretation, treatment and management, and communication skills. Reading recent peer-reviewed eye care journals, attending continuing education lectures related to clinical practice are expected as part of life-long-learning. Below are some book suggestions that may be used for general review.

Remember, the test is designed to elicit up to date evidence-based protocols when it comes to diagnosis/treatment/management, and depending on the publication date, books sometimes may not meet this criterion for every condition.

- Clinical Manual of Contact Lenses (Bennett ES, Henry VA (Eds). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2014)

- Contact lens Complications (Efron, N. London: Elsevier Saunders; 2012)
- Clinical Management of Binocular Vision: Heterophoric, Accommodative, and Eye Movement Disorders (Mitchell Scheiman and Bruce Wick, 2014)
- Essentials of Low Vision Practice (Brilliant, R.L., Boston, MA, Butterworth - Heinemann 1999)
- The Wills Eye Manual. Office and Emergency Room Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Disease (Gervasio K, Peck T). 8 th Edition. June 4, 2021
- Ophthalmology Yanoff M, Duker JS. 5th edition.

**Eligibility for the Oral Examination:**

The candidate is eligible to take the Oral Examination following successful completion of all 7 case reports. This examination will be given during the annual meeting, or virtually 1-2 months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Academy.

**Oral Examination Details:**

Three to five diplomate committee members designated by the Diplomate Oral Examination Chair will interview the Candidate. The examination is a two-step process. The first step is to review interesting aspects of the case reports and ask questions of the candidate regarding current standards of care related to their case report, clinical skills, diagnoses, and treatment modalities.

The second step of the interview process comes after all the other steps have been completed. This "exit" interview provides the candidate and the Diplomate Committee members a chance to briefly review the entire process. This interview is meant to be more informative rather than an examination. The committee will discuss with the Candidate his/her strong and weak points on all parts of the Diplomate process.

***Good Luck!***

# **CEC Diplomate Program Study Guide**

Recommended resources for the WRITTEN exam include the following:

More than 70% of the questions on the written examination are referenceable to this text except for parts 1 and 8 of:

- 1) Ophthalmology (Yanoff, M, Duker, J., 4th Ed. St. Louis, MO., Mosby 2014).

Less than 30% of the questions on the written examination are drawn from the following textbooks:

- 2) Clinical Manual of Contact Lenses (Bennett ES, Henry VA (Eds). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2014)
- 3) Contact lens Complications (Efron, N. London: Elsevier Saunders; 2012)
- 4) Clinical Management of Binocular Vision: Heterophoric, Accommodative, and Eye Movement Disorders (Mitchell Scheiman and Bruce Wick, 2014)
- 5) Essentials of Low Vision Practice (Brilliant, R.L., Boston, MA, Butterworth - Heinemann 1999)

Note: The AOA Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines are a useful resource for the contact lens and pediatric sections; however, more than 95% of the questions are referenceable to the aforementioned textbooks.

Recommended resources for the CLINICAL exam include the following:

1. Clinical Management of Binocular Vision: Heterophoric, Accommodative, and Eye Movement Disorders (Mitchell Scheiman and Bruce Wick, 2014)
2. The Wills Eye Manual. Office and Emergency Room Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Disease (Gervasio K, Peck T). 8th Edition. June 4, 2021
3. Ophthalmology Yanoff M, Duker JS. 5th edition.

Recommended resources for the ORAL Exam are your cases. Be well acquainted with each case as it concerns the subject matter and anticipate any follow-on questions during the oral defense.

Note: Key in this process is working alongside your mentor who will assist and advise you to guide and facilitate the process. Use them!