AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

ANALYST EXAMINATION

Study Guide for Examination Preparation

Analyst in Forensic Toxicology (A-ABFT)

Examination Content Areas

Recommended References

Sample Questions

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STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Introduction

The ABFT Analyst Examination challenges the Candidate’s mastery of fundamental concepts applied to the practice of forensic toxicology. It is recommended that the Candidate successfully complete an in-house training program prior to sitting for this examination. Additionally, the Candidate may find that in-house procedures and manuals, (e.g. safety, quality) may be of benefit during examination preparation.

The Analyst Examination consists of 80 single answer, multiple-choice questions. Questions are evenly distributed over the content areas as listed below.

Candidates will be given three hours to complete the examination.

Content Areas

- Abbreviations/Acronyms/Nomenclature
- Basic alcohol toxicology
- Basic pharmacology/major drug classes
- Basic gas chromatography/detectors
- Basic liquid chromatography/detectors
- Basic mass spectrometry
- Basic statistics
- Basic toxicology – not related to alcohol
- Buffers/pH
- Drug slang
- Evidence handling
- Immunoassay theory
- Laboratory safety/PPE
- Legal Matters
- Metric system/conversions
- Molality/Molarity/Normality
- Presumptive / confirmatory tests
- Quality assurance/Quality control

Recommended References

The references provided below are intended to serve as a guide for examination preparation and are not exhaustive. Information may be common to several sources. Candidates are encouraged to access the most recent editions of each book cited. Books and journals should be used in conjunction with the Candidate’s training and practical experience.

Books


General Chemistry: Any introductory college/university text intended for science majors.

**Statistics:** Any introductory college/university text intended for science majors.

Laboratory Safety and Chemical Hygiene: Any manual appropriate for a toxicology laboratory.

**Journals**

- Forensic Toxicology
- Journal of Forensic Sciences
- Forensic Science International
- Journal of Analytical Toxicology

**Sample Questions**

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer.

1. TOF is an abbreviation for:
   
   A. top of form  
   B. transfer of funds  
   C. time of flight  
   D. time of fracture  
   E. time of file
2. Calculate the mean of the following five blood ethanol concentrations:
0.078% – 0.084% – 0.091% – 0.072% – 0.065%

A. 0.072%
B. 0.074%
C. 0.077%
* D. 0.078%
E. 0.079%

3. The highest court of law in the United States is the:

A. United World Court
B. United States District Court
C. United States Final Circuit Court
D. United States Federal Court of Appeals
* E. United States Supreme Court

4. A male of average size consumes 6 beers in one hour. Thirty minutes after consumption ceases, ethanol could be measured in all of the following EXCEPT:

* A. bone
B. brain
C. liver
D. arterial blood
E. venous blood