ANALYST EXAMINATION
(A-ABFT)

Study Guide for Examination Preparation

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September 2026

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 100 single answer, multiple-choice questions. At least 70% of the questions must be answered correctly to pass the examination. Questions will be distributed over the topics below. (Note: approximate percentages).

Candidates will be given three hours to complete the examination.

Topics:

1.	Analytical Confirmation	20%
2.	Drug Classes	15%
3.	Laboratory Practices	15%
4.	Analytical Presumptive	10%
5.	Quality Assurance	10%
6.	Terminology	10%
7.	Volatiles	10%
8.	Chemistry	5%
9.	Statistics/Measurements	5%

Recommended References

The references provided below are examples of texts that may be useful in exam preparation. This list is not exhaustive nor is it intended to suggest that test preparation requires studying each book in its entirety. Candidates are encouraged to access recent editions of texts that cover the topics included in the exam. Books, journals, scientific guidelines, and published standards (i.e. Academy Standards Board) should be used in conjunction with the candidate's training and practical experience.

Books

Caplan, Y.H. and Goldberger, B.A. (eds.) (2015) *Garriott's medicolegal aspects of alcohol*, 6th edition. Lawyers & Judges Publishing, Tucson, AZ.

Levine, B. and Kerrigan, S. (eds.) (2020) *Principles of forensic toxicology*, 5th edition. AACC Press, Washington, DC.

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.

Academy Standard Board Resources

Standard 036 – Standard Practices for Method Validation in Forensic Toxicology
Standard 054 – Standard for a Quality Control Program in Forensic Toxicology Laboratories
Standard 098 – Standard for Mass Spectral Analysis in Forensic Toxicology
Standard 113 – Standard for Identification Criteria in Forensic Toxicology
Standard 152 – Standard for the Minimum Content Requirements of Forensic Toxicology Procedures

Journals

Journal of Analytical Toxicology
Journal of Forensic Sciences
Forensic Science International

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer. Correct answer is in **BOLD**.

1. What is a limitation of GC/MS?

   A. Use of less specimen
   B. **Thermal degradation**
   C. Able to distinguish isomers
   D. Can be used for large macromolecules
   E. High sensitivity

   - Topic: Analytical Confirmation

2. What drug class includes bupropion?

   A. Analgesic
   B. Stimulant
   C. Depressant
   D. Hallucinogenic
   E. **Antidepressant**

   - Topic: Drug Classes

3. Which immunoassay technique uses G6P-DH enzyme activity?

   A. CEDIA
   B. KIMS
   C. ELISA
   D. **EMIT**
   E. FPIA

   - Topic: Analytical Presumptive

4. Which term best describes the "non-targeted analytes that may impact the ability to detect, identify, or quantitate a target analyte"?

   A. Ion suppression
   B. Precision
   C. Decision point
   D. **Interferences**
   E. Accuracy

   - Topic: Laboratory Practices

5. What term is used to describe a specimen that measures the quantitative reliability within a batch?

   A. Blank
   B. **Control**
   C. Calibrator
   D. Correlation coefficient
   E. Internal standard

   - Topic: Quality Assurance

6. Which "street drug" is synthetic cathinones?

   A. Molly
   B. Mary Jane
   C. **Bath Salts**
   D. Crack
   E. Speed

   - Topic: Terminology

7. What is the molecular weight of isopropanol?

   A. 32
   B. 46
   C. **60**
   D. 74
   E. 80

   - Topic: Volatiles

8. What is the molarity of 1N hydrochloric acid (HCl)

   A. 0.1 M
   B. 0.5 M
   C. **1 M**
   D. 2 M
   E. 4 M

   - Topic: Chemistry

9. What is a nanogram?

   A. **One billionth of a gram**
   B. One hundredth of a microgram
   C. One hundredth of a milligram
   D. One millionth of a gram
   E. One thousandth of a milligram

   • Topic: Statistics and Measurement