



**FORENSIC ALCOHOL EXAMINATION
(D-ABFT-FA)**

Study Guide for Examination Preparation

Examination Topics

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Sample Questions

September 2026

STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Introduction

The ABFT forensic alcohol examination challenges the candidate's mastery of fundamental concepts applied to the practice of forensic alcohol 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.

Each diplomate examination consists of 130 single answer, multiple-choice questions, distributed over the content areas as shown below. 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. Laboratory Practice	20%
2. Analytical Procedure	15%
3. Chemistry & Forensics	15%
4. Pharmacology & Pharmacokinetic Foundations	15%
5. Quality Assurance	10%
6. Pharmacology & Pharmacokinetic Interpretations	10%
7. Pharmacology & Pharmacokinetic Other Specimens	5%
8. Related Drugs	5%
9. Statistics and Measurements	5%

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, journals, scientific guidelines, and published standards (e.g., Academy Standards Board) should be used in conjunction with the candidate's training and practical experience.

Books

Baselt, R.C. (2020) *Disposition of toxic drugs and chemicals in man*, 12th edition. Biomedical Publications, Seal Beach, CA.

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.

Negrusz, A. and Cooper, G. (eds.) (2013) *Clarke's Analytical Forensic Toxicology*, 2nd edition. Pharmaceutical Press, London, U.K.

Saferstein, R. and Hall, A. (eds.) (2020) *Forensic Science Handbook*, 3rd edition. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

Other Resources

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 122 – Best Practice Recommendation for Performing Alcohol Calculations 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 color stopper for blood collection tubes is best for the analysis of volatiles?

- A. Blue
- B. **Gray**
- C. Green
- D. Purple
- E. Red

- Topic: Laboratory Practices

2. What is the disadvantage to using flame ionization detectors?

- A. Increased sensitivity
- B. **Destroys the sample**
- C. Increased specificity
- D. Broad linear dynamic range
- E. Does not require use of chromatography

- Topic: Analytical Procedure

3. How many carbons atoms are in the isopropanol molecule?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. **Three**
- D. Four
- E. Five

- Topic: Chemistry & Forensics

4. Where is the largest amount of ethanol absorbed after oral consumption?

- A. Large intestine
- B. **Small intestine**
- C. Liver
- D. Kidney
- E. Stomach

- Topic: Pharmacology & Pharmacokinetic Foundations

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. Approximately how long would it take a person in post-absorptive phase with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.20% to completely metabolize ethanol in their body?

- A. 5 hours
- B. 10 hours
- C. **15 hours**
- D. 25 hours
- E. 50 hours

- Topic: Pharmacology & Pharmacokinetic Interpretations

7. Which biological organ metabolizes the majority of ethanol?

- A. Kidney
- B. Large intestine
- C. Small intestine
- D. **Liver**
- E. Spleen

- Topic: Pharmacology & Pharmacokinetic Other Specimens

8. What is the primary metabolite of cocaine?

- A. **Benzoylecgonine**
- B. Ecgonine methyl ester
- C. Anhydroecgonine methyl ester
- D. Norcocaine
- E. Cocaethylene

- Topic: Related Drugs

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 Measurements