



FORENSIC DRUG DIPLOMATE EXAMINATION (D-ABFT-FD)

Study Guide for Examination Preparation

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June 2026

STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Introduction

The purpose of the ABFT diplomate examination is to challenge the candidate's mastery of fundamental concepts applied to the practice of forensic toxicology, with an emphasis on regulated workplace forensic drug analysis.

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. Regulated Drug Testing	23%
2. Analytical Confirmation	15%
3. Drug Classes	15%
4. Analytical Presumptive	8%
5. Analytical Procedures	8%
6. Results Interpretation	8%
7. Statistics/Measurements/Terminology	8%
8. Laboratory Practices/Quality Assurance	6%
9. Chemistry	5%
10. Forensics/Pharmacology/Toxicology	4%

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

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

Baselt, R.C. (2001) *Drug effects on human performance*. Biomedical Publications, Foster City, CA.

Baselt, R.C. (2001) *Drug effects on psychomotor performance*. Biomedical Publications, Foster City, CA.

Brunton, L.L., Hilal-Dandan, R., and Knollman, B.C. (2011) *Goodman and Gilman's The pharmacologic basis of therapeutics*, 13th edition. McGraw-Hill Education, New York, NY.

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

Klaassen, C.D. (ed.) (2013) *Casarett & Doull's toxicology: the basic science of poisons*, 8th edition. McGraw-Hill, New York, NY.

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

Moffat, A.C., Osselton, M.D. and Widdop, B. (eds.) (2011) *Clarke's analysis of drugs and poisons*, 4th edition. Pharmaceutical Press, London, U.K.

Rifai, N. (2022) *Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine*, 7th edition. W. B. Saunders Co, Philadelphia, PA.

Roper Miller, J. D. and Goldberger, B.A. (eds.) (2008) *Handbook for workplace drug testing*, 2nd edition. AACC Press, Washington, DC.

Other Resources

Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Urine,
Federal Register. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
Department of Health and Human Services

- Federal Register, 82 FR 7920 – 2017
(<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-01-23/pdf/2017-00979.pdf>).

Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Oral Fluid,
Federal Register. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
Department of Health and Human Services

- Federal Register, 84 FR 57554
(<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-10-25/pdf/2019-22684.pdf>).

Couper, Fiona J. et al. (2024). *Drugs and Human Performance Fact Sheets: 2024*.

- [Drugs and Human Performance Fact Sheets: 2024](#)

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. Which drug class is not regularly included in the regulated workplace drug testing panel?

- A. Amphetamines
- B. Cocaine
- C. Opiates
- D. **Benzodiazepines**
- E. Phencyclidine

- Topic: Regulated Drug Testing

2. What is the best pH to extract amphetamines?

- A. One
- B. Three
- C. Five
- D. **Nine**
- E. Fourteen

- Topic: Analytical Confirmation

3. Which compound is unique to smoking cocaine?

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

- Topic: Drug Classes

4. Which compound can cause a false positive for amphetamines?

- A. Oxycodone
- B. Temazepam
- C. **Bupropion**
- D. Metoprolol
- E. Mitragynine

- Topic: Analytical Presumptive

5. Which compound can spontaneously form in alkaline specimens at physiological conditions?

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

- Topic: Analytical Procedures

6. What are possible physiological effects of opioid intoxication?

- A. Dilated pupils, alertness, rapid breathing
- B. Pinpoint pupils, alertness, rapid breathing
- C. Dilated pupils, drowsiness, slow breathing
- D. **Pinpoint pupils, drowsiness, slow breathing**
- E. Pinpoint pupils, alertness, slow breathing

- Topic: Results Interpretation

7. 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/Measurements/Terminology

8. 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: Laboratory Practices/Quality Assurance

9. What is the molarity of a solution containing 10 moles of solute in 500 mL of solution?

- A. 0.20 mol/L
- B. 5 mol/L
- C. **20 mol/L**
- D. 50 mol/L
- E. 100 mol/L

- Topic: Chemistry

10. The consumption of poppy seeds may give a positive for what drug class?

- A. Amphetamines
- B. Cannabinoids
- C. Hallucinogens
- D. **Opioids**
- E. Benzodiazepines

- Topic: Forensics