BCAT Examination Content Outline

The BCAT exam is composed of 175 multiple choice items, which includes 25 unscored, pretest items used for statistical analysis that do not count towards the candidate's score. Candidates have 3 hours to complete the exam.

Topics covered by the exam are listed below, followed by a detailed content outline.

> Autism Spectrum Disorder (10-12%)
> Principles of ABA (18-22%)
> Treatment: Skill Acquisition (28-34%)
> Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (24-30%)
> Behavioral Data Collection (5-7%)
> Ethical/Legal Considerations (4-6%)

A. Autism Spectrum Disorder (10-12%)

1. Knowledge of deficits in social-emotional reciprocity
2. Knowledge of deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction
3. Knowledge of deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships
4. Knowledge of stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech
5. Knowledge of insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior
6. Knowledge of highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus
7. Knowledge of hyper or hyporeactivity to sensory input or unusual interests in sensory aspects of environment
8. Knowledge of levels of severity across social communication and restricted, repetitive behaviors
9. Knowledge of research regarding treatment intensity
10. Knowledge of early intensive behavioral intervention research
11. Knowledge of foundational autism research
12. Distinguishing between evidence-based interventions vs. nonevidence-based interventions

B. Principles of ABA (18-22%)

13. Positive reinforcement
14. Negative reinforcement
15. Positive punishment
16. Negative punishment
17. Reinforcer
18. Punisher
19. Conditioned reinforcer
20. Unconditioned reinforcer
21. Extinction
22. Deprivation
23. Satiation
24. Contingency
25. Motivating operation
26. Antecedent
27. Behavior
28. Consequence
29. 3-term contingency
30. Stimulus
31. Discriminative stimulus
32. Stimulus control
33. Response
34. Discrete trial

C. Treatment: Skill Acquisition (28-34%)

35. Discrimination training
36. Discrete trial training
37. Natural environment training
38. Fluency-based training
39. Generalization
40. Maintenance
41. Caregiver training
42. Premack principle
43. Preference assessment
44. Prompt
45. Errorless learning
46. Most-to-least prompting
47. Least-to-most prompting

48. Prompt fading
49. Time delay prompt
50. Chaining
51. Shaping
52. Pacing
53. Alternative and augmentative communication
54. Functional approaches to teaching language skills
55. Mand training
56. Tact training
57. Training echoic behavior
58. Training intraverbal behavior
59. Teaching joint attention
60. Teaching play skills
61. Teaching motor skills
62. Teaching adaptive and safety skills
63. Teaching social skills
64. Teaching cognition skills
65. Teaching executive function skills
66. Teaching academic skills
67. Visual supports
68. Curriculum modification

D. Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (24-30%)

69. Behavior intervention plan
70. Target behavior
71. Operational definition
72. Functional behavior assessment
73. Escape function
74. Attention function
75. Access to tangible function
76. Automatic function
77. Antecedent interventions
78. Functional communication training
79. Token economy
80. High-p request sequence / behavioral momentum
81. Noncontingent reinforcement
82. Replacement behavior

83. Escape extinction
84. Attention extinction
85. Access to tangible extinction
86. Extinction burst
87. Continuous reinforcement
88. Intermittent reinforcement
89. Differential reinforcement of alternative behavior
90. Differential reinforcement of incompatible behavior
91. Differential reinforcement of other behavior
92. Response blocking
93. Redirection
94. Overcorrection
95. Response cost
96. Time-out from reinforcement
97. Spontaneous recovery

E. Behavioral Data Collection (5-7%)

98. Measurement dimensions (e.g., rate, duration, percentage)
99. Measurement procedures (e.g., event recording, timing, time sampling)
100. Skill acquisition data
101. Problem behavior data
102. Graphing
103. Interobserver agreement (IOA)

F. Ethical/Legal Considerations (4-6%)

104. Safety (including OSHA)
105. Responding to emergencies
106. Confidentiality (including HIPAA)
107. Recognition of client abuse
108. Reporting client abuse
109. Dual relationships