



2020 Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Questions related to Covid-19

1. Are we going to be in masks during the exams?

Yes. All candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and supporting staff will be required to use appropriate PPE at all times, including the use of a procedure mask that covers the mouth, nose and chin. Homemade/cloth masks etc. will **not** be permitted during the exam.

2. Will gloves be required during exams due to Covid?

Yes. Candidates will be required to wear gloves for Part 4 – Modalities Clinical Evaluation and Part 5 – Acupuncture Points Clinical Evaluation. Gloves will be provided upon entering the exam room. Candidates will be reminded to practice hand hygiene and wear gloves.

3. How far away from the examiners will we be?

Candidates, examiners and supporting staff all must respect physical distancing of minimum 2 metres where possible. Tape or other visual cues will be placed at areas where persons are expected to congregate such as sign-in desks to promote physical distancing.

4. Due to Covid-19 measures, are we not allowed to needle close to areas such as the mucas membrane and umbilicus?

Candidates will not be asked to locate acupuncture points around the standardized patient's mouth, nose, eyes, genitals and anus, as the virus is found in saliva, fecal matter and mucosa.

Questions related to Part 4 – Modalities Clinical Evaluation

1. Is the layout table short enough for shorter people to stand beside?

The counter is traditional counter height. For anyone worried about height of table and comfortability, please send an email to Frank at frank@acupuncturealberta.ca to request accommodation.

2. Do we have to verbalize as we do the actions of the modalities? For example, while setting up my clean field verbalize that I am opening the swab.

It is a good idea to do that. It helps in the event of a rescore or review. It is mostly about your ability to recognize the safety of Acupoints, verbalizing checking in with your patient, exploring the risks of the procedure, obtaining informed consent, etc. Verbalizing every little action is not necessary, such as tearing open the swab packet. The examiners will be watching you closely and can see you doing it.

3. Are there Acupuncture kits for us to purchase?

No, but the Appendix has a supply list so make sure you supply list so make sure you have all of them ahead of time.



- 4. Do we need to set up a biohazard container as well as general waste?**
No, it is not one of the prompts, but some people do set one up. You are not going to gain or lose points.
- 5. For countertop washing and disinfecting, can we just verbalize that we have done it?**
Yes, you will verbalize the same as when you will verbalize “handwashing”. For example, saying “Clean and disinfect my counter surface, once it is dry, I set out my clean field”.
- 6. Are we required to separate the needles, or can we open them as a pack?**
You can open them as pack as instructed in your clean needle courses. You do not want needles falling onto your clean field, they should be propped up, this is easier to do if they are in a pack.
- 7. For the cotton ball used for cupping, if we do not use the presoaked cotton ball, can we just put together ourselves with a clean ball?**
Yes, most people use 99% Isopropyl, a clean cotton ball, drain off the excess and use that.
- 8. Do the heat shields need to be sterile or disinfected?**
No, but examiners are paying attention. The point is for you to make sure the heat shield is not touching the needle; it cannot touch the shaft of the needle.
- 9. For the needle depth and angle, do we need to say it or just do it properly?**
It is best to explain your procedure, but you do not have to. Saying one thing and doing another can cause a critical error, so make sure what you are saying is being done properly and/or what you are doing is being said properly.
- 10. Can I set up the clean field with all the things I will need, without having to take things out of my kit one by one?**
We do not recommend setting out all your stuff ahead of time because the examiner is going to prompt you. The prompts must be followed so examiners can go through the checklist. If this question was meant as: Can I set out all my stuff so I can see it all and bring in what I need to use in my work area, then it should be okay as long as critical instruments are not being contaminated. Otherwise, just make sure your kit is well organized.

Questions related to Part 5 – Acupuncture Points Clinical Evaluation

- 1. Is there certain criteria such as height and weight considered when choosing models for acupoints?**
Yes, we try to find people with a standardized BMI and well-defined features for landmarking.
- 2. Will measuring devices be available at the exam or do we bring our own?**
Candidates will **NOT** be permitted to bring their own measurement tool for proportionate and straight-line measurement. A measurement tool will be made available in each examination room.



3. Are the lungs, heart, and central nervous system the only 3 critical errors marked? What about the peritoneum, full bladder, spermatic cord...?

Those are important because they could cause injury, but the only automatic fails are lungs, heart, and the central nervous system.

4. Often points can be needled in different body positions such as sitting rather than prone or supine. Will that be allowed?

You will be marked in either prone or supine positions. You will not be marked in sitting positions.

5. Are we verbalizing handwashing between each point location?

That is not necessary in this part.

6. Which methods do we use for locating the 4 CUN lateral line on the chest and abdomen?

Deadman's references for 8 CUN, nipple to nipple, midpoint of clavicles for chest and border rectus abdominus for abdomen. The measurements on the chest will not apply to abdomen and vice versa.

7. Will both the Chinese names as well as the WHO nomenclature be provided?

Yes.

8. Will we be provided with pillows for patient support for the sticker application? Will draping be required?

Yes, Blankets and pillows will be in the room for use.

9. Do we lose marks if more contraindications are checked than required?

No, not if they are correct. But be careful, putting in too many answers may look like you are unsure and just guessing. It is important not to miss the very important ones.

10. Some references say no moxa on all the points on the face. Is it accepted for the exam as well? Yes, you can put that. Just assure you are not missing any contraindications.

Questions related to Parts 1 & 2 – Pan-Canadian Multiple-choice (MC) for Acupuncturists and Pan-Canadian Clinical case (CC) for Acupuncturists

1. Can candidates elect to write at a test centre even if they are remotely proctored?

We are working with YAS on a backup plan for individuals who are not able to take the test remotely. That said, there is limited capacity at test centres. We are attempting to reserve enough space in test centres seats for eligible hardcopy exam accommodations and individuals who are not able to take the test remotely.

2. Can candidates use scrap paper and pencil during the exam?

Scrap paper will not be provided or allowed if the exam is being remotely proctored (i.e. if candidates are writing the exam from their homes). Candidates completing their remotely proctored exams can use a small whiteboard that proctors can inspect. Test centres will provide candidates with 1 writing utensil and 1 piece of paper. Both items must be returned before leaving the exam site.



3. When will exam results be available?

Examinations results will be sent to candidates approximately mid-December.

4. What is the pass mark?

The pass mark, or cut score, is set after the exams have been administered. YAS will go through their standard setting process and make a cut score recommendation to the Steering Committee. The pass mark is reported as a single score, not by MCQ and CCS components.

5. If a candidate does not pass the exam, can they retake the component they failed?

In the event that a candidate does not pass the exam, they are required to retake the entire exam including the MCQ and CCS components.

6. What materials will candidates have access to during the exam?

For convenience, the following appendices will be made available to candidates during the exam:

- Appendix E: Common Terminology
- Appendix F: Standard Acupuncture Nomenclature
- Appendix G: Terminology Related to Tongue Diagnosis
- Appendix H: Terminology Related to Pulse Diagnosis
- Appendix I: Index of Materia Medica
- Appendix J: List of TCM Formulae
- Appendix K: List of Biomedicine Conditions
- Appendix L: List of TCM Conditions

Questions related to Parts 1 & 2 – Pan-Canadian Multiple-choice (MC) for Acupuncturists and Pan-Canadian Clinical case (CC) for Acupuncturists **ONLINE PROCTORING**

1. How will candidates who do not have access to a quiet room, working computer, and/or stable internet connection be accommodated?

All candidates are required to complete the systems check through the CARB exam portal (<https://tcmpa.ysasecure.com/>) to ensure that their computer and internet meets the minimum standards. **This can be completed once candidates receive access to the site and must be completed after they have submitted their exam reservation.** Candidates that are experiencing issues should obtain support from ProctorU to troubleshoot and address their deficiencies. If a candidate's deficiencies cannot be addressed, they may be eligible to write at a test centre.

Candidates can also explore the availability of other public or private locations (e.g. private rooms in public libraries, a friend's or relative's home). Candidates can choose to complete the exam from any location that meets the technical and environmental requirements for online proctoring; it does not have to be at their primary residence.

2. What happens if a candidate encounters technical difficulties during the exam?

If there is a power outage, YAS/the proctor will be able to see this on the session and review it together with any chat logs between the candidate and proctor. If the exam disconnects, candidates may use their phone to contact ProctorU for support.



If the exam drops due to a connection issue, the candidate has a maximum of 5 minutes to reconnect. If the candidate reconnects within that 5-minute time frame, their exam will resume from where they left off. If the connection loss lasts more than 5 minutes, the candidate will need to be granted a new exam and rescheduled.

In the event they are unable to reconnect within those 5 minutes, they will be required to reschedule and start over. If there is a momentary connection loss, the timer will automatically be paused during that time. Proctors are trained to recognize when time has been lost and they can request to have this time added back to the candidate's exam.

During the exam, candidates are required to use the chat function to communicate with the proctor/live technician. If needed, the proctor may call the candidate at which time they will be able to retrieve their phone from where they have placed it and speak directly with the proctor.

3. Can candidates still use scrap paper during an online proctored exam?

No, only an erasable writing surface may be used for online proctoring. Access to scrap paper outside of a test centre introduces new security issues and is only available at test centres. Having a whiteboard is not mandatory and candidates will continue to have access to the “notes” function in the exam platform.

The current size limit of 8.5” x 11” whiteboard is similar to a single scrap piece of paper that would be made available at a test centre. Example options on where to purchase a whiteboard:

- Amazon
- Staples

4. Since candidates have to complete the check-in process before the exam begins, if there is a technical difficulty during that time does that count towards my exam time?

No, the timer does not start until the candidate has launched the exam. If a technical issue is being resolved before the exam starts, they will have the full duration once they launch their exam. If they experience a technical issue during the exam, the proctor can request that the lost time be added to the exam.

5. Does everything need to be removed from the walls in the exam environment?

Anything that is standard in any living space is not something the proctor will flag as a concern. The desk must be clear of any study material (i.e. only items allowed on the desk are the computer, whiteboard, drink in a glass) and there can't be any exam or study related materials on the wall (i.e. poster of something related to TCM). Bookshelves, wall art, and pictures are acceptable.