MOC Exam Preparation - Diagnostic

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Disclosure

- Member of ABR Certifying Exam Physics Oversight Committee, 2011-2015
- Member of ABR Part II Diagnostic Physics Exam Committee, 2011-2015

Learning Objective

Receive preparation advice for the diagnostic medical physics MOC exam.

my ABR

- 2004: ABR certified in Diagnostic Medical Physics
- 2012: eligible for taking the MOC exam
- Oct 2013: completed the MOC exam
- May 2014: received the ABR notification letter
- Dec 2014: received the new certificate with no expiration date on it

plan as early as you can

- The MOC exam was scheduled on 10/24/2013
- I registered for taking the exam on 10/14/2013
- The exam was coming in 10 days!!!

register as soon as you decide to do it!

- create a Pearson VUE Web account at www.pearsonvue.com
- make an appointment for the exam at www.pearsonvue.com

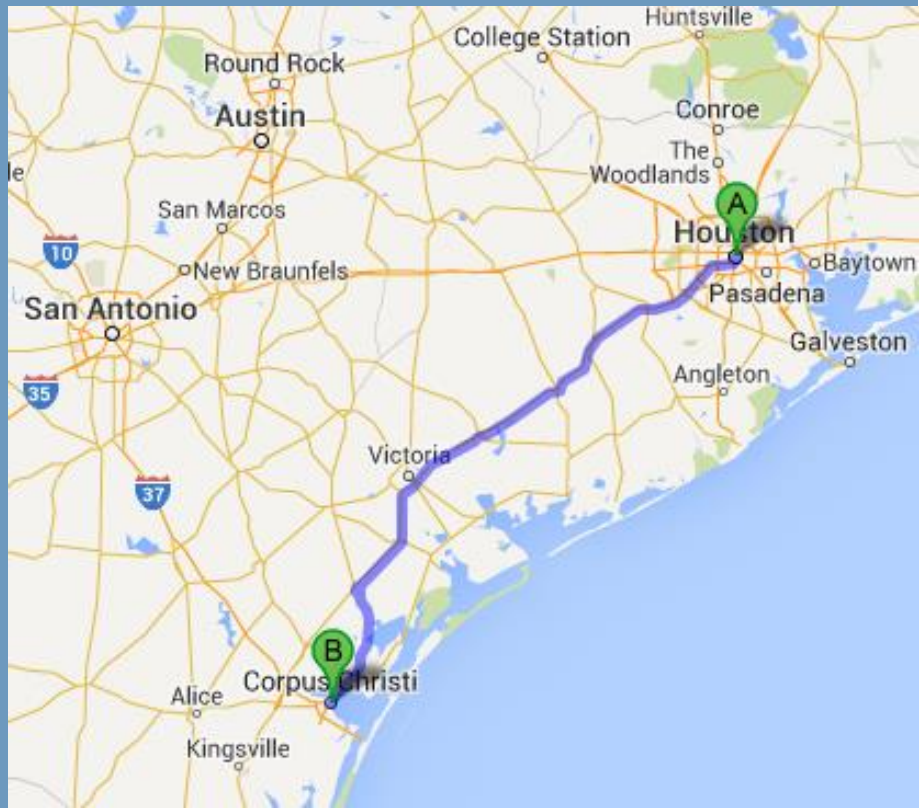
Nuclear Medical Physics Exam	**October 14, 2015**	Pearson VUE Test Centers
Therapeutic Medical Physics Exam	**October 23, 2015**	Pearson VUE Test Centers
Diagnostic Medical Physics Exam	**October 30, 2015**	Pearson VUE Test Centers

http://www.theabr.org/moc-rp-comp3

lesson learned

- I was really late in the game but lucky enough to find an available seat for the 2013 exam
- The closest Testing Center available for me was in Corpus Christi!
- ~200 miles away
- Had to stay in a hotel the night before the exam

Register early!



where to start the preparation?

Maintenance of Certification

MOC > Medical Physics > MOC Exam

Medical Physics

Part 3: Cognitive Expertise

Diplomates are expected to maintain the essentials of core knowledge fundamental to the practice of medical physics, and to remain up to date on evolving technologies, protocols, procedures, and techniques involving applications of physics in medicine.

This part requires passing the MOC exam once every 10 years for each certificate. Specific details about the MOC exam include the following:

- Proctored, secure, administered at Pearson VUE computer testing centers.
- For information about the length of the exam, including break time, please click here.
- For information about exam dates and locations, please click here.
- New exams will be offered once each year.
- Multiple-choice format covering core knowledge (approximately 30 percent) and current evolving technologies (approximately 70 percent).
- If you fail an exam, you will have the opportunity to take the examination offered in the next year.
- Multiple certificate holders must complete the exam for each discipline for which they hold a certificate.

In 2014, the number of questions in the MOC exam will increase from 100 to 125. Due to the increased number of exam questions, the MOC exam has been lengthened from 3 hours to 3.5 hours.

In 2015, the number of questions in the MOC exam will increase from 125 to 150. Due to the increased number of exam questions, the MOC exam will be lengthened from 3.5 hours to 4 hours.

No further changes in the exam are anticipated in the near future.

http://www.theabr.org/moc-rp-comp3

- exam date
- where/how to register
- multiple-choice format
- how many questions
- how long

study guide was everything to me!

Study Guides

Updated April 2014

The study guides are meant as help in preparation for the MOC examination (Part 3) of a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. The guides are not all inclusive, but indicate the general topics that will be included in each subspecialty.

- Diagnostic Medical Physics Study Guide
- Nuclear Medical Physics Study Guide
- Therapeutic Medical Physics Study Guide

ñgeneral overview of the cognitive examò

from the ñStudy Guideò

- General Information

  Approximately 30% of the material on the examination is core diagnostic medical physics, technology, and safety. The remaining 70% is taken from recent advances in the field.

- Length and Structure

  The exam is approximately 125 questions in length. All questions are multiple-choice, and most have three to five possible answers. A standard calculator is available, but no complex calculations are required.

- Clinical Procedures

  Candidates should have a general knowledge of common diagnostic radiology procedures.

identified my weaknesses

General Information

- core diagnostic medical physics, technology, and safety: MR & US
- recent advances in the field: MR, US, Mammo (tomosynthesis)

ñitems may be used to generate content for the examò

from the ñStudy Guideò

- Reports from the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP)
- Reports from the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)
- Reports from the American College of Radiology (ACR)
- Journal articles
- Additional references

A long list of ~ 3 pages!!!

develop a plan for studying

- had a taste of the Sample Questions first
- it was unrealistic to go through all the materials!
- worked down the list and circled the ones that I was unfamiliar with
- collected the materials
- started reviewing immediately ~2-4 hrs everyday and 2 full weekend days

results

- Good: was able to complete my review of the *selected* materials as planned (had to study at the night prior to the exam date)
- Bad: exhausted

what else I did

- visited the Pearson testing center prior to the exam date
- arrived 30min early for the exam
- completed the exam in ~120min (exam length was 180min)

felt great when it was finally done!

what could I have done better

- registered earlier
- reviewed all the study materials (?)
- studied 1-2 hours everyday till one week prior to the exam date
- took time off (3 days?) for doing extensive review in the last week
- did NOT study in the day before the exam day, definitely NOT the evening/night prior to the exam
- brought my reading glasses!

Questions ?

Thank you for your attention!

Good luck to your MOC exam!