

About Your Study Plan

This Study Plan is your syllabus for the American Board program. We encourage you to use the recommended resources to target preparation to your needs and goals. There will be hyperlinks throughout this document. Please make sure that you visit the relevant pages to access all of the resources. Your commitment to great teaching begins here.

Preparing to Pass

American Board is committed to making sure you are the best possible teacher.

We will provide you with study tips to get ready for the exam and the content and resources to review the material.

Think of the Snapshot below as an overview for what you need to know.

For more detail in each topic, review the exam [standards](#). The ABCTE exams are based on this blueprint, so consider the syllabus for what you want to study.

Your Materials:

- **Standards:** a list of everything that might be on the test.
- **Study Plan:** your syllabus with links to what you need to study for each section.
- **Study Materials:** an overview course on the topics you will be tested on.
- **Practice Exam/Section Quizzes:** a sample test questions and solutions.

Physics Exam Snapshot

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Time Allowed | 240 minutes | |
| Format | Multiple Choice | |
| # of Questions | 125 | |
| On-Screen Exhibits | Scientific Calculator & Formula sheet | |
| Passing Score | Proficient: 258/500 Distinguished: 344/500 | |
| Exam Summary | Areas of Study | Percentage of Exam |
| | General Science Knowledge | 6% |
| | Scientific Investigation | 7% |
| | Classical Mechanics | 24% |
| | Fluids and Thermodynamics | 12% |
| | Electricity and Magnetism | 24% |
| | Waves and Optics | 15% |
| Modern Physics | 12% | |

About This Exam

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled physics teachers should possess a comprehensive body of scientific knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement. The physics exam is a rigorous assessment of a candidate's knowledge and application of general physics. The topics assessed are characteristically covered in introductory college-level physics courses, although some more advanced questions are included, as teachers must hold a more sophisticated understanding of physics content than that presented to their students.

How to use American Board Practice Tests

If you have chosen to use our practice tests, you may have already used the quizzes to get a better idea of where your strengths and weaknesses are. There are two full-length exams that we suggest you use in *testing mode* as a mid-term and final to work on your timing and endurance. You can use them again in *explore mode* to identify distractors.

The Study Plan:

Your study plan includes direction on how to use ABCTE's resources. We also include recommended resources to aid in your mastery. This plan was designed for a 9 month period (4 months for Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK); 4 months for the subject matter; 2 weeks to take each test) in which most people are able to complete the program. Many have completed the program in a shorter amount of time.

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domain 1: Scientific Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Domain 2: General Science Knowledge | <p>Review the specific Physics standards HERE</p> <p>The corresponding sessions can be found in your American Board Study Materials</p> <p>Scientific Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Method <input type="checkbox"/> Measurement and Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> General Science <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easyphysics.net <input type="checkbox"/> The Physics Classroom <input type="checkbox"/> Water Science for Schools <input type="checkbox"/> Web Elements <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Physics Notes <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Practical Geologist <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry: Concepts and Problems <input type="checkbox"/> Physics Demystified |

Your Notes:**Study Tip: Use a science survey test**

A basic survey text on physics like the *Idiot's Guide to Physics* is recommended as a starting point. If you have another survey book from college, or you have access to different text from your library, that is perfectly fine. It is important that you have access to a survey book because it will assist in covering the various domains of the exam.

Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choice before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|---|---|--|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Domain 3: Classical Mechanics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 1: Kinematics and Dynamics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 2: Work, Energy, Power and Momentum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 3: Rotational Motion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 4: Universal Gravitation</p> | <p>Review the specific Physics standards HERE</p> <p>The corresponding sessions can be found in your American Board Study Materials</p> <p>Classical Mechanics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Kinematics <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamics I <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamics II <input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Work <input type="checkbox"/> Momentum and Impulse <input type="checkbox"/> Angular Kinematics and Dynamics <input type="checkbox"/> Angular Momentum and Rotational Kinetic Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Universal Gravitation and Kepler’s Law <input type="checkbox"/> Gravitational Potential Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Motions of the Sun and Moon <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> American Board Physics Exam Formulas and Constants <input type="checkbox"/> Khan Academy: Physics <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Mechanics, Dynamics <input type="checkbox"/> Conceptual Physics with Practicing Physics Workbook |

Your Notes:

Testing on the Computer:

This may be your first time taking a test on a computer. On average, people read 20% slower on a screen vs. paper. Because of this and other issues, practice as much as you can on the computer to become comfortable working in that environment. Familiarity with the test and its standards will go a long way towards your ABCTE success. The online practice tests are great practice to get a feel for the testing environment.

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Domain 4: Fluids and Thermodynamics <input type="checkbox"/> Topic 1: Mechanics of Life (Liquids or Gases) <input type="checkbox"/> Topic 2: Thermodynamics | <p>Review the specific Physics standards HERE</p> <p>The corresponding sessions can be found in your American Board Study Materials</p> <p>Fluids and Thermodynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Density and Pressure of a Fluid <input type="checkbox"/> States of Matter <input type="checkbox"/> The Four Laws of Thermodynamics <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fluid Mechanics <input type="checkbox"/> Thermodynamics and Thermal Physics <input type="checkbox"/> About Temperature <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Complete Idiot's Guide to Physics <input type="checkbox"/> College Physics |

Your Notes:

"The information presented in the courses and the workshops was extremely helpful to me because they provided real examples that I have been able to implement immediately in my classroom."

- Lauren Masino, ABCTE Teacher, FL

We love to highlight ABCTE teachers in local newspapers. Not only does this provide publicity for potential job search, it can also help highlight your school as one that is committed to providing students with the best possible teacher. Visit <https://www.americanboard.org/?s=share+your+story>

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|--|---|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Domain 5: Electricity and Magnetism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 1: Electrostatics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 2: Electric Currents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 3: Magnetism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 4: Ampère’s Law, Faraday’s Law, and Maxmell’s Equations</p> | <p>Review the specific Physics standards HERE</p> <p>The corresponding sessions can be found in your American Board Study Materials</p> <p>Electricity and Magnetism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Charges and Net Electric Charge <input type="checkbox"/> Coulomb’s Law <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Fields <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs of Electric Fields <input type="checkbox"/> Electrostatic Potential and Electric Potential Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Current, Ohm’s Law, Electric Energy and Power <input type="checkbox"/> Resistors in Series and in Parallel <input type="checkbox"/> Magnets and Their Properties <input type="checkbox"/> Magnetic Force and Its Equations <input type="checkbox"/> The Laws of Ampere, Faraday and Lenz <input type="checkbox"/> Inductance and Maxwell’s Equations <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity and Magnetism <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperphysics <input type="checkbox"/> VRML Gallery of Electromagnetism <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Classical Electricity and Magnetism <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Electricity |

Your Notes:

Study Tip:

Websites like Wikipedia and other unverified sources of information are NOT a good source of study. Much information found on the World Wide Web consists of unverified sources. Stick to verified sources with full citations. Many resources selected for study by our experts can be found on ABCTE's resource pages.

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|--|---|--|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Domain 6: Waves and Optics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 1: Waves</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 2: Geometrical (Ray) Optics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic 3: Physical (Wave) Optics</p> | <p>Review the specific Physics standards HERE</p> <p>The corresponding sessions can be found in your American Board Study Materials</p> <p>Waves and Optics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Types and Properties of Waves <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Waves and Electromagnetic Waves <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection <input type="checkbox"/> Refraction <input type="checkbox"/> Lenses <input type="checkbox"/> Diffraction and Interference <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Film Interference <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Waves <input type="checkbox"/> Geometric Optics <input type="checkbox"/> MIT OpenCourseWare: Physics III: Vibrations and Waves <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Modern Optics |

Your Notes:

Questions and concerns can be directed to the Help Desk. Log into your Dashboard to submit a Help Desk ticket.

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domain 7: Modern Physics | <p>Review the specific Physics standards HERE</p> <p>The corresponding sessions can be found in your American Board Study Materials</p> <p>Modern Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Special Relativity <input type="checkbox"/> The Experiments of Modern Physics <input type="checkbox"/> The Physics of the Atom I <input type="checkbox"/> The Physics of the Atom II <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Relativity Tutorial <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of Physics <input type="checkbox"/> Light and Matter <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Modern Optics |

Your Notes:



Did you know that ABCTE is on Facebook? Come be an ABCTE fan.
<http://facebook.com/abcte>

American Board's Stepwise Method

The Right Way to Get Started: using the Standards as your syllabus

The Standards are your study lifeline; you can find with your study materials. Throughout the course of your study, you will learn all of them. How to begin? Here is the American Board's Standards Stepwise method:

1 Approach in bite-sized chunks: don't be overwhelmed or paralyzed by how many standards there are, simply pick a topic of a domain and get started.

2 Define the terms: take the first three items in the topic and make sure you know all the terms. Look up any you do not recognize. After all, you cannot answer a question definitively if you don't even know the terms.

Topic 1: Selects, Organizes, Plans, and Designs Content

| | |
|--------|--|
| 1.1.01 | Writes measurable objectives for both individual or classroom performance based on student data and subject matter. |
| 1.1.02 | Guides curricular planning (e.g., content clusters, instructional methods, learning activities and assessment tools) based on goals of the instruction. |
| 1.1.03 | Substantiates or illustrates ideas. |
| 1.1.04 | Juxtaposes examples that differ in many ways but are the same in defining features, so that students can generalize to new examples and learn to discriminate same/different when faced with new examples. |
| 1.1.05 | Plans lessons, depending on size and content of unit, so that important ideas or skills are studied on several occasions rather than all at once. |
| 1.1.06 | Plans lessons, depending on size and content of unit, so that important ideas or skills are studied on several occasions rather than all at once. |
| 1.1.07 | Selects lessons. |

Guides **curricular planning** (e.g., **content clusters**, instructional methods, learning activities and assessment tools) based on goals of the instruction.

Professional Teaching Knowledge Study Plan | Effective Instructional Delivery

Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choices before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

| Area of Study | Required Resources | Recommended Resources |
|---|---|---|
| Domain 2 (Standards 2.1.01-2.5.01) Effective Instructional Delivery These standards cover: <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting clear and focused instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Effective questioning techniques <input type="checkbox"/> Making efficient use of learning time <input type="checkbox"/> Applications <input type="checkbox"/> Research Strategies | Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the PTK Study Materials (PDF or Canvas version): The Characteristics of Successful Teachers <input type="checkbox"/> Characteristics 1-8 <input type="checkbox"/> Characteristics 9-16 <input type="checkbox"/> VIDEO CASE STUDIES: Characteristics of Successful Teachers | Web Resources <input type="checkbox"/> "The Next Education Champion" TED Talk <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching for the 21st Century <input type="checkbox"/> Personalized Learning Books <input type="checkbox"/> Effective Teaching Methods: Research Based Practice <input type="checkbox"/> The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive Education Checklist |

Your Notes:

3 Use the required resources in your Study Plan or a broad survey text to refresh your memory on the topic.

4 Use the appropriate recommended resources to probe deeper if you need better understanding. Use the Standards to target the sections you need to read.

5 Your Notes: identify additional resources to use as needed.

6 Check for understanding and reflect: think about how you would use this in a classroom or how you would teach the subject. Use your quizzes to check for understanding and move on.

7 Wash, rinse, and repeat: once you finish a chunk of three, go back and attack the next three.

Have a Plan

It is important to have a plan of attack to study. Block out set times to study and if you slip and miss a session, restart your plan instead of letting yourself get paralyzed and procrastinate.