

Board Case Examination Overview

The Board Case Examination (BCE) is a multiple choice, web-based assessment. Each examinee will be randomly assigned a test form that is made up of 50-60 questions depending on the examination received. The examination will allow the candidate a 90 minute preset amount of time. Once an examination is started, you may not stop or pause. Therefore, please ensure that you are in an environment conducive to taking a timed examination with a reliable internet connection.

All examinees are required to agree to the following Confidentiality Agreement as part of the registration process for the BCE:

I understand that the content of all ABO Examinations, and each of its items contained therein, is proprietary and strictly confidential, and that the unauthorized retention, possession, copying, distribution, disclosure, discussions, or receipt of any examination question, in whole or in part, by written, electronic, oral or other form of communication, including but not limited to texting, e-mailing, social media outlets, copying or printing of electronic files, and reconstruction through memorization and/or dictation, before, during, or after an examination, is strictly prohibited. I further understand that, in addition to constituting irregular behavior subject to disciplinary action such as revocation of certification, revocation of eligibility for future certification, and disciplinary fines, such activities violate the rules and regulations governing ABO certification.

Please note that not all case records presented are of ABO standards. This this is done intentionally for the intended line of questioning.

The examination is composed of four domains:

1. Data Gathering and Diagnosis
2. Treatment Objectives and Planning
3. Treatment Implementation and Management
4. Critical Analysis and Outcomes Assessment.

The Board Case Examination is based on contemporary general knowledge of clinical orthodontic topics. All possible answers may be valid, but only one response is the MOST correct.

General test-taking tips:

1. Read the entire question carefully
2. Try to answer without referring to the answer choices
3. Read all the answer alternatives carefully
4. Use the process of elimination if you do not immediately know the correct answer
5. If you are struggling with a question, flag it so you can return to it later (if time permits)
6. Select the response that best answers the questions

The examination will be automatically scored based on preset passing points and you will be notified automatically about a successful/unsuccessful outcome once the examination is completed. If unsuccessful, the examinee may attempt re-examination for a limited number of attempts following re-registration. If all of these opportunities have been exhausted, the examinee will be required to petition the board for further instruction regarding options to fulfill the necessary certification requirements.

Once you have satisfied all components and relevant requirements for the current examination you are taking, you will be notified by an ABO staff member.

Exam content is based on clinical case analysis. Examinees that are looking for resources beyond the knowledge gained in their residency program and/or clinical practice may refer to the list below.

1. AAO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
2. Berridge NL, Burke GAE, Reynolds PA, et al: 3D Head & Neck Anatomy for Dentistry, Primal Pictures Ltd, 2009. **(Or any contemporary anatomy resource)** Use this link to obtain discounted access for six months: <https://www.primalpictures.com/adoptions/abo/>
3. Esthetic and Biomechanics in Orthodontics Author: Ravindra Nanda Publisher: Elsevier/Saunders Second Edition 2015
 - Chapter 4
 - Chapter 8
 - Chapter 18 – 20
 - Chapter 27
4. Contemporary Orthodontics Authors: William R. Proffit, Henry W. Fields, Jr., David M. Sarver Publisher: Mosby Fifth Edition 2012
5. Management of Temporomandibular Disorders and Occlusion Author: Jeffrey P. Okeson Publisher: Elsevier Seventh Edition 2013
6. Mosby’s Orthodontic Review Authors: Jeryl D. English, Sercan Akyalcin, Timo Peltomäki, Kate Litschel Publisher: Elsevier Second Edition 2014
7. Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Authors: Brad W. Neville, Douglas D. Damm, Carl M. Allen, Angela C. Chi Publisher: Elsevier Fourth Edition 2015
8. Ten Cate’s Oral Histology: Development, Structure and Function Author: Antonio Nan1ci Publisher: Elsevier Eighth Edition 2013
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 5
9. Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Authors: James A. McNamara, William L. Brudon Publisher: Needham Press First Edition 2001
10. Orthodontics: Current Principles and Techniques Authors: Lee W. Graber, Robert L. Vanarsdall, Jr., Katherine W.L. Vig Publisher: Mosby Sixth Edition 2017
 - Chapter 1 – 4
 - Chapter 6 – 7
 - Chapter 12
 - Chapter 14
 - Chapter 20
 - Chapter 22 – 23
 - Chapter 27
 - Chapter 33 – 34
11. Radiographic Cephalometry: From Basics to 3 - D Imaging Author: Alexander Jacobson Publisher: Quintessence Second Edition 2006

12. Huang GJ, Richmond S, and Vig KWL: Evidence-based orthodontics, ed 2, Wiley-Blackwell, 2019.