ABO Scenario-Based Clinical Exam

Examinee Orientation | (rev. 11.18.2026)

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Disclaimer:

The following slides include basic information about the administration of the ABO Clinical Exam at Pearson Professional Assessments. Additional details may be given by the proctor directly before each examination.

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Disclaimer:

The examples shown of the Pearson Professional Assessments testing system may differ slightly due to Pearson system upgrades.

The technology used at testing centers may cause some distortion in images.

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Examination Orientation:

- The Scenario-based Clinical Examination will be presented electronically on computers at Pearson Professional testing centers.
- Examinee responses to questions will be typed using a keyboard.
- Responses should be given in a numbered list format (i.e., each numbered response consists of 1 to approximately 12 words). You must enter a new number for each item in your list.
- While spelling and grammar are not being graded in the scoring of the exam, answers must be clear and comprehensible.
- Whiteboards will be available for note taking **during** the exam. Examinees are not allowed to take notes before the countdown clock begins.

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Examination Orientation:

- Examinees will have 4 hours (240 minutes) to complete the question sets for 6 – 10 different scenario cases in the Pearson system.
- Each scenario case is comprised of 1 – 6 questions.
- Each question will have case images that will be available separated by named tabs. Images will open in the split screen window, and they can be manipulated (zoom in, zoom out, scroll vertically/horizontally, click on tab for new image, etc.).
- Examinees are responsible for managing their own time.
- A countdown clock will be available on the screen and may be hidden if preferred.

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Examination Orientation:

- Examinees will **not** be able to preview exam questions before beginning the exam. If you click to see the next question(s) without answering, you will not be able to return and you will lose points.
- Once an exam question has been answered and submitted in the system, the examinee **will not be permitted to go back**.
- It is strongly recommended that you review ALL of the provided images (all tabs) prior to answering the question.

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Examination Orientation:

- Try to relax and read the questions carefully.
- Be thorough with answers and do not skip to obvious conclusions.
- Do not be afraid to be redundant and repeat responses for related questions. Include everything you think is a correct response for each question.
- Unless you are positive that an abbreviation or acronym is universally known and accepted, the Board advises that you avoid using them, so examiners know what you are referring to in your answers. We understand if pressed for time it may not be avoidable, however, abbreviations can lead to misinterpretation by an examiner.

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Examination Orientation:

- Identify appropriate Angle classification.
- Be specific about the molar classification comparing the patient's right or patient's left sides when appropriate.
- Dental midline deviations should be identified relative to the facial midlines and the examinee should indicate if it is left or right of the patient's facial midline.
- Reference the lip position relative to E line. Use ALL available reference measures to accurately assess facial characteristics.
- Identify individual teeth by name to avoid confusion.

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Examination Orientation:

- Comment on all dimensions when appropriate (AP, Vertical, Transverse) (e.g., there can be transverse responses for dental treatment objective questions, when you may be focused on a cephalometric image).

- Conversely, make sure to check radiographs on all appropriate questions. Do not just focus on photos (e.g., listing non-parallel roots in a treatment deficiency question, check ceph. for facial diagnosis).

- If TADs are an appropriate treatment modality, list HOW and where they will be utilized. The rubric may contain 1, 2, 3… specific TAD options IF appropriate (e.g., palatal TAD supported TPA, bilateral mandibular buccal shelf TADs, maxillary buccal TADs to intrude the maxillary molars).

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Examination Orientation:

- If headgear is an appropriate treatment modality, list the MOST ideal choice of headgear (e.g., high-pull, combo, or cervical).

- If listing inadequate, non-ideal, etc… to describe torque, correction, or other position, you likely need to be more specific. Which direction, vector, etc… is inadequate? If you list something that needs to be improved, made more ideal, etc… you likely should include more information regarding the specific case (e.g., “Improve the overjet”, should be “reduce the overjet”). Examiners can’t assume vague responses are correct.

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Examination Orientation:

- For cases where retention could be problematic, identify the problem and properly address the retention protocol.
- When a question asks for treatment choices, list ALL appropriate considerations. Do not limit your answers to just the options/appliances used in your offices.
- Do not pair answers together (e.g., do not list “crowding” if there is crowding in both arches). Separate the two into two separate responses:
    1.) Maxillary crowding
    2.) Mandibular crowding

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Examination Orientation:

- The countdown clock will continue to run for examinees if they choose to excuse themselves in the middle of their exam for a break.
- Examinees who exit the main testing area may be asked to show their photo ID and go through the security protocol (including a palm vein scan) by the Pearson proctor upon reentry.

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Examination Orientation:

- Personal items and electronic devices must be stored in the provided lockers at the testing center and will not be permitted in the examination area (this includes all bags, books, notes, phones, pagers, watches, and wallets). The ABO and Pearson Professional Assessments will not be held liable for any examinee's personal items that are stored at the test site.

- Please refer to the study guide for Pearson check-in procedures and rules.

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Examination Orientation:

- Examinees will be monitored at all times during their exam by a trained Pearson proctor.
- Pearson testing center staff may respond to examinee questions about the test administration process and the equipment provided by Pearson, but they will not respond to questions related to content of the test.

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Examination Orientation:

- Examinees are required to present **two** valid, unexpired forms of identification, both with a signature, and at least one form must be a government issued photo ID to the exam proctor on exam day (for more information please refer to the study guide).
- If your first and/or last name(s) have changed, please contact Info@americanboardortho.com at least **six (6) weeks in advance of the examination date**. You will be required to provide legal documentation (i.e., marriage license, legal name change) for this information to be updated in the ABO system. If you have more than one last name listed on your government-issued ID, the same last names must be reflected in your ABO profile.

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What does the ABO Scenario-Based Clinical Exam look like in the Pearson test system?

Pearson Exam Environment

The instructions on the next three slides will be given to the candidate prior to beginning their exam. This is an untimed portion of the exam. **Examinees are NOT permitted to begin writing notes on their white board until after they have reviewed the instructions and non-disclosure agreement and the timed portion of their examination begins**. If an examinee begins writing notes during the untimed portion of the exam they will be asked to erase them by the Pearson proctor. If the examinee does not erase their notes per the proctor's request, this is considered irregular behavior and will be handled according to the ABO disciplinary policy.

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Pearson Exam Environment

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Clinical Examination

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Welcome to the ABO Clinical Examination. This examination is given in one section. After you END this section you will not be permitted to return to it. It is in your best interest to answer all of the questions presented. You will have 4 hours (240 minutes) to complete the examination.

A countdown clock (that can be hidden) will be visible during the exam for your reference. Please manage your time accordingly.

The exam consists of total questions.

Responses should be given in a numbered list format (i.e., each numbered response consists of 1 to approximately 12 words). You must enter a new number for each item in your list.

You will **not** be able to preview exam questions before you begin your exam. If you click to see the next question(s) without answering, you will not be able to return and you will lose points.

Please ensure that you review your answers before clicking to the next question - you will **not** be permitted to go back to previous questions at any point during your exam.

It is strongly recommended that you review ALL of the provided images (all tabs) prior to answering the question.

Pearson Exam Environment

You must remain in your seat during the examination, except when authorized to leave by a testing center staff member. Raise your hand to notify the administrator if you:

- Have a problem with your computer

- Need additional noteboards

- Need to take a break

- Have inadvertently brought an electronic device or watch into the testing room

- Need the administrator for any reason

If you must leave the room for any reason during a testing session, the test administrator will set your computer in an "Unscheduled Break" mode. During the testing session, no extra time will be allowed for the time you are away from your workstation. While the computer is set in "Unscheduled Break" mode, the screen will display the overall session time remaining with the clock counting down, and the display screen you are working on cannot be seen.

You should move to the exit as quietly as possible and refrain from any discussion. You must not leave the immediate vicinity of the examination room and restrooms while the sessions are in progress. You must provide a palm vein image each time you enter and exit the testing room. When you return to your workstation, the test administrator will turn off the "Unscheduled Break" mode so that you may continue with the examination.

By selecting the Next button, you attest that this information has been provided and you acknowledge that you may be videotaped and audio recorded while taking this examination. If you have any questions, please raise your hand for the test administrator.

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Pearson Exam Environment

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

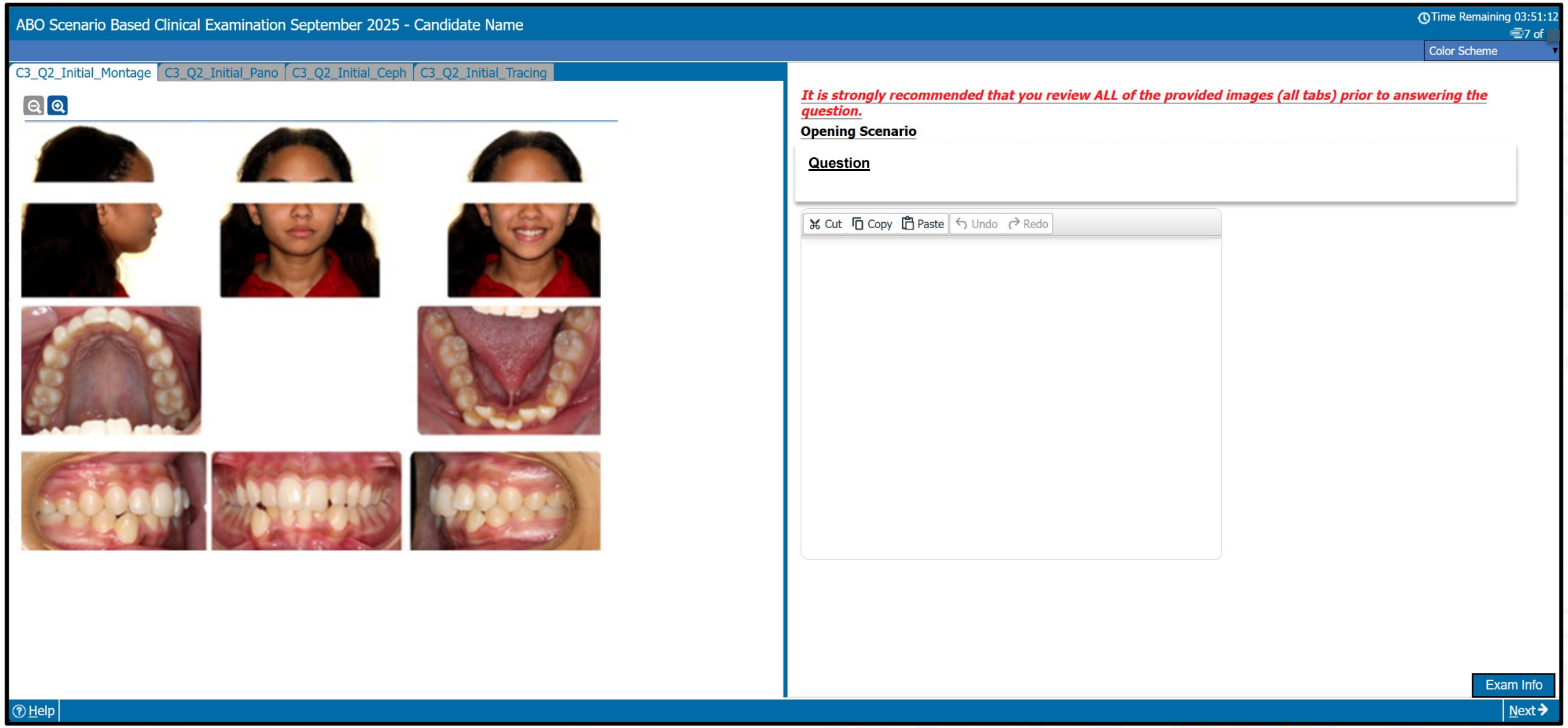
<u>Please read this document carefully before continuing with the examination</u>.

By clicking Next, I pledge that I will not give or receive aid in this examination. I will not disclose, copy, or reproduce any portion of the material contained in this examination. I pledge to comply with the instructions of proctors and with all rules of this examination. Examinees are NOT permitted to begin writing notes on their whiteboard until after they have reviewed the instructions and non-disclosure agreement and the timed portion of their examination begins. If an examinee begins writing notes during the untimed portion of the exam, they will be asked to erase them by the Pearson proctor. If the examinee does not erase their notes per the proctor's request, this is considered irregular behavior and will be handled according to the ABO disciplinary policy.

Click the **Next** button to symbolize your signature and to accept these terms.

Click the **End Exam** button if you do not accept these terms. You must click Next to continue with the exam.

Pearson Exam Environment



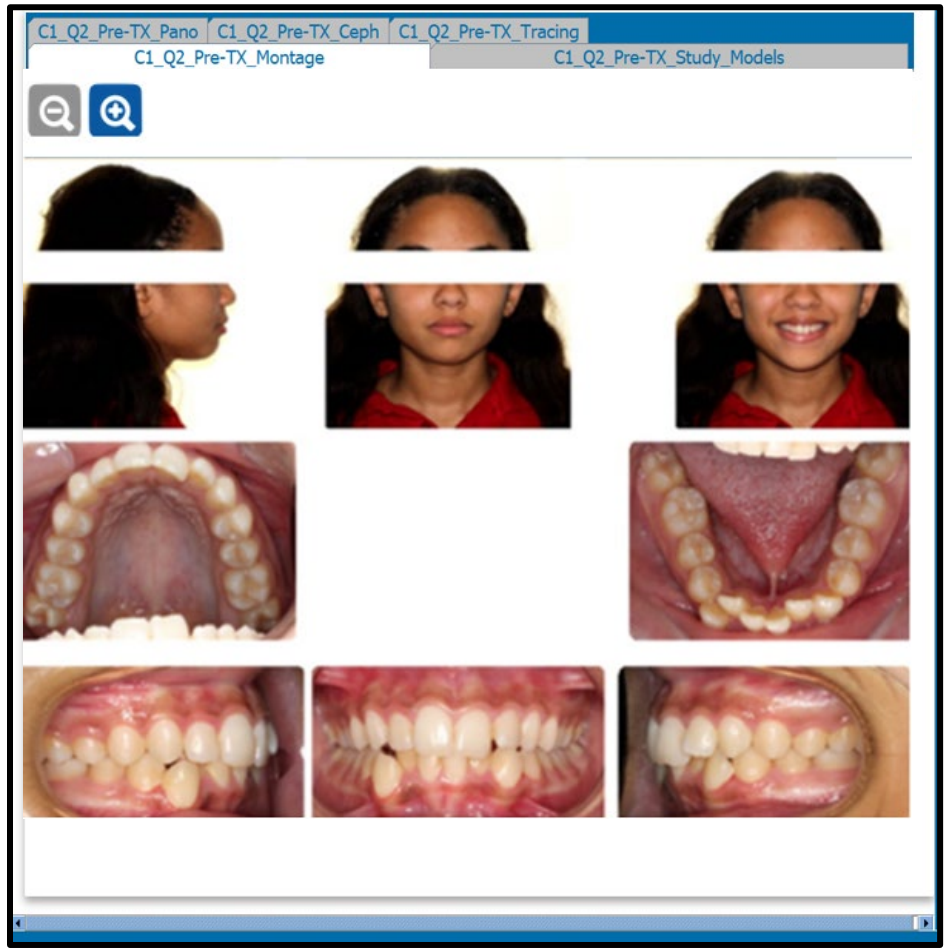
Pearson Exam Environment



- The *time remaining* clock can be hidden by clicking on the clock icon in upper right corner. To unhide the countdown clock you will click on the icon again.
- You can see where you are at in the exam at any time by looking next to the icon. This will tell you that you are on question # _ of _ total questions in the exam.
- To change the color scheme of your testing environment click on the Color Scheme button in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
- To view case records for the question you will click on the named tabs (circled in red above).

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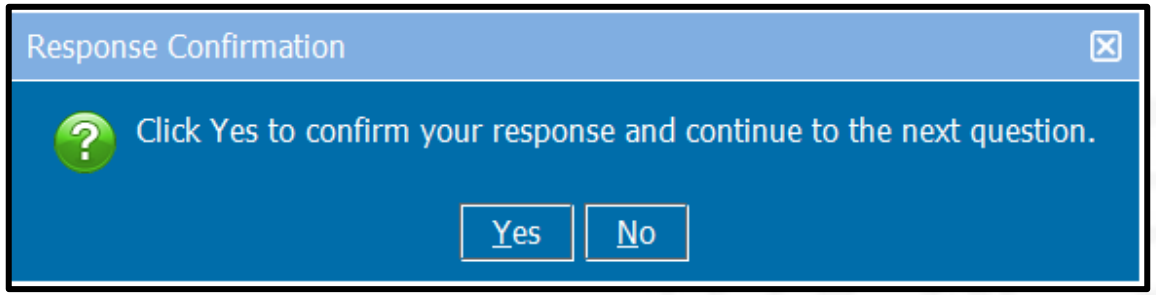
Pearson Exam Environment



- Use the scroll bars to scroll up, down, left, and right. Use the zoom in “+” and zoom out “-” buttons enlarge or decrease the image size.
- It is strongly recommended that you review **ALL** of the provided images (all tabs) prior to answering the question.

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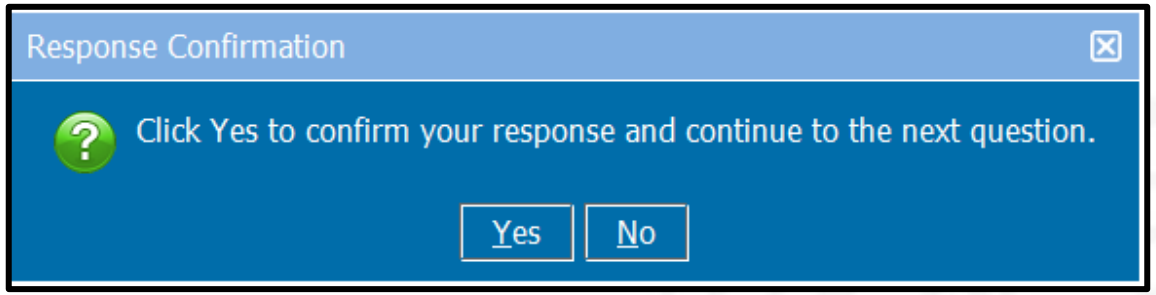
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- Once you have answered a question you will click the Next → icon (in the bottom right corner of the screen.
- Your responses are automatically saved when you click the Next → icon.
- Once you click the Next → button, a response confirmation window will be displayed that asks you to confirm your response to proceed to the next question. To proceed to the next question you will click "Yes", and to stay on the current question you will click "No". This will be displayed after you click next for every question in the exam.

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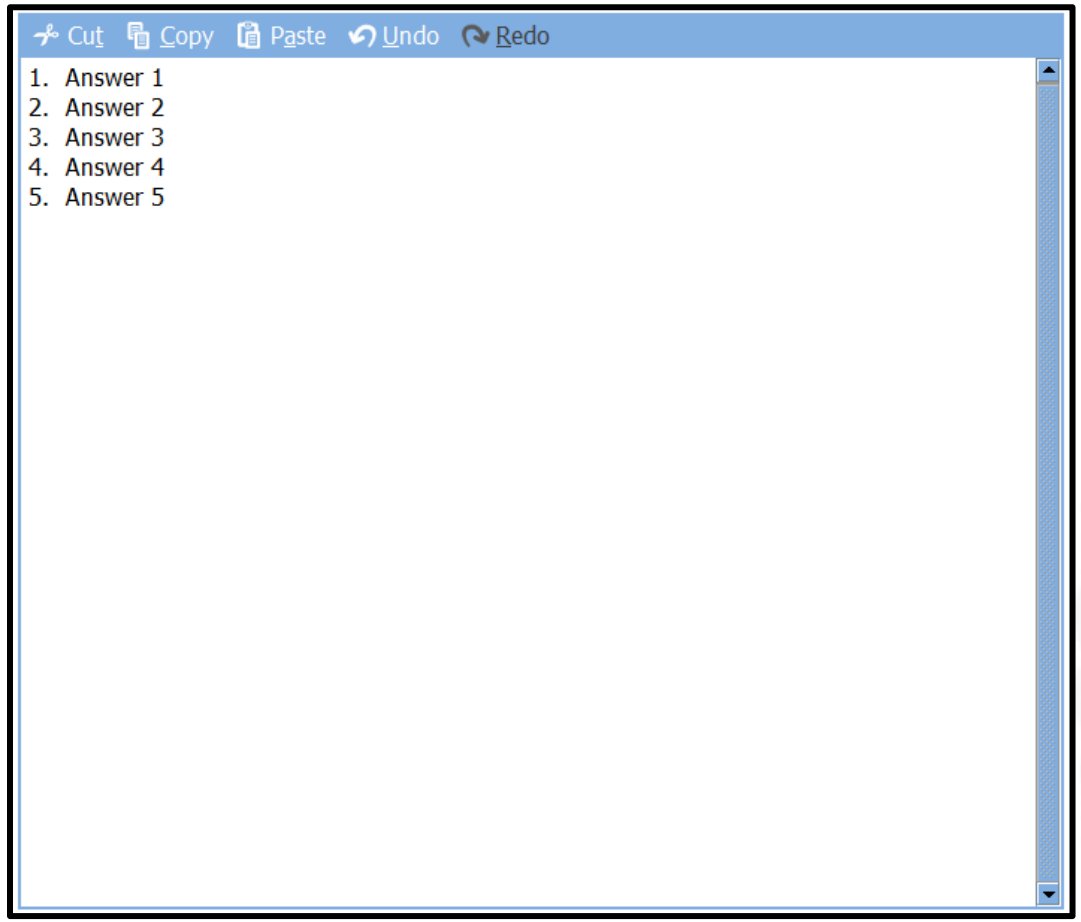
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The response confirmation window prevents you from accidentally skipping any questions in the examination as *you are not permitted to go back to previous questions at any point during your exam*.

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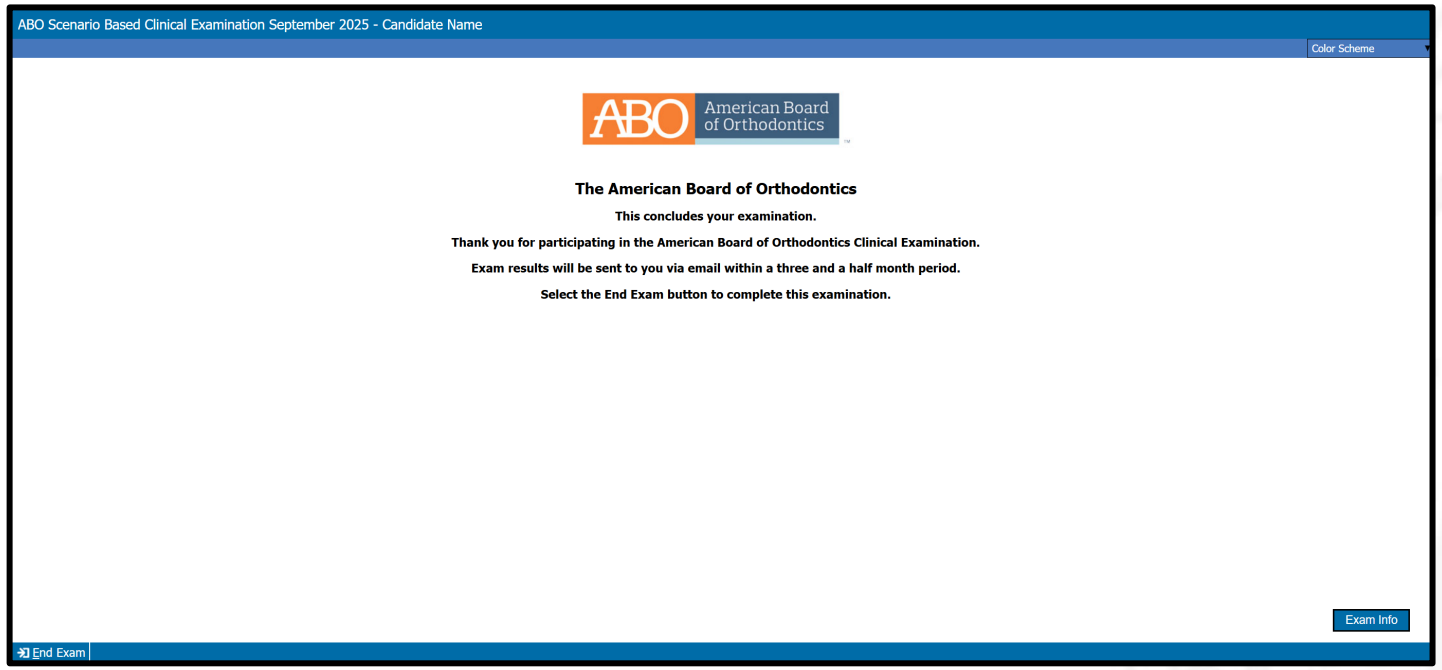
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- Provide your answers in numbered list format (on separate lines). You must enter a new number for each item in your list.
- Use the cut, copy, paste, undo, & redo functions for text accordingly.

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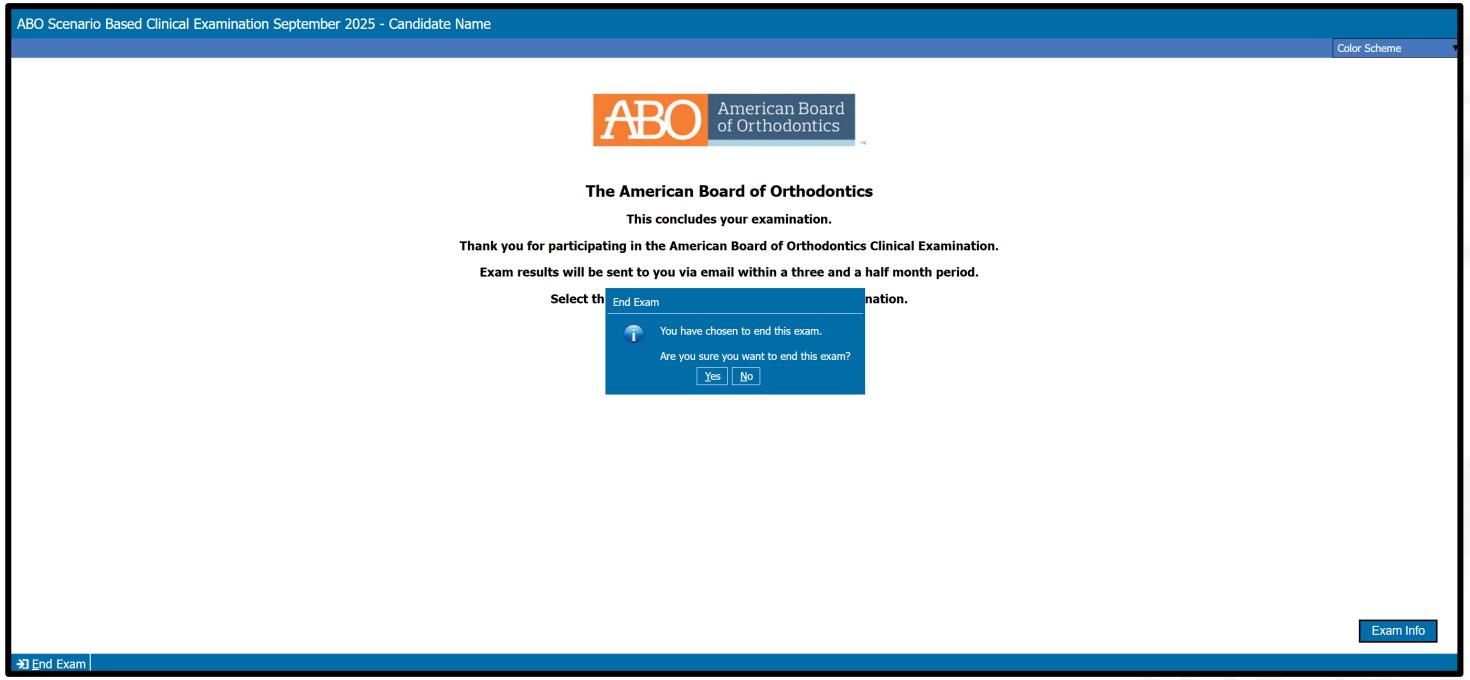
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When you have completed the exam you will click on the End Exam button at the bottom left of the screen. If your time expires before you can click the *End Exam* button your exam will end and auto submit into the Pearson system.

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When you click on the End Exam button you will be asked to confirm that you want to finish your exam. Click the "Yes" button to complete your examination.

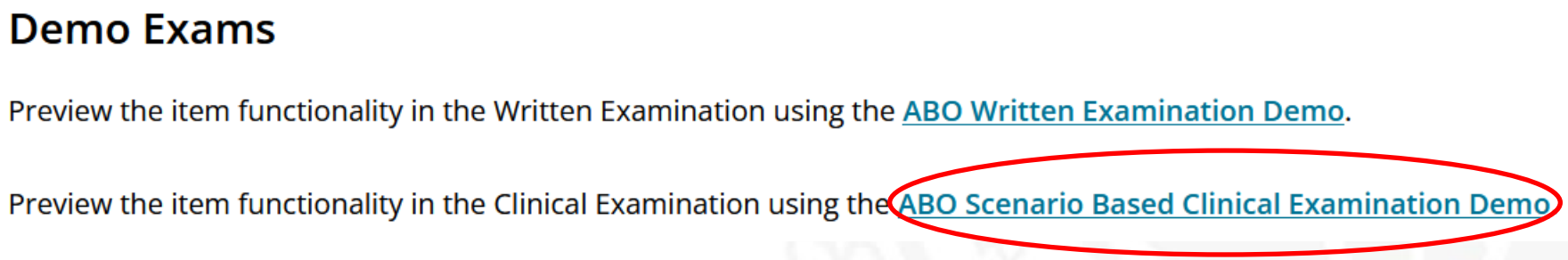
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Demo Exam

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Scenario-Based Clinical Exam Demo

- The ABO now has a demo exam for the Scenario-based Clinical Examination on the Pearson website (here). In this demo, you can see what the exam will look like at Pearson testing centers and you can preview the item functionality in the exam. **You do not need to log in or create an account to view the demo exam**. From the Pearson ABO landing page you will just scroll down to "Demo Exams."



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Post-Exam Information

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Post-Exam Information

- Update contact information in ABO account, if necessary.
- Exam results will be sent to you via email within a three and a half month period.
  - Diplomate certificates and pins for passing examinees will be mailed within two months of exam results being sent. Examinees are responsible for ensuring that their email address and primary mailing address are up-to-date in their ABO profile. The ABO will NOT be held responsible for packages sent to an outdated mailing address.
  - If you have been using a school email address and have now completed your program, **update to a personal email**.
  - **Update the primary mailing address in your ABO profile if necessary**.
- A post-exam survey will be emailed to you after the examination.
  - We appreciate your honest feedback.

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Examination Process Review

The ABO will consider a request to review a Clinical Examination appeal:

- If received within 72 hours from the time the examinee completes the examination
- On the basis of an alleged irregularity in the administration process of the examination
  - Alleged process irregularities are considered only when serious enough to affect the examinee's performance on an examination
  - Requests to review an examination based on content will not be considered

Examination Process Review requests must be in writing, directed to the ABO's Chief Executive Officer and sent by email (Info@americanboardortho.com) or by facsimile (314-432-8170).

The full Examination Process Review Policy and Procedures may be viewed here on the ABO website.

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