

OITE

Residency Program Guide

2024

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Message from the Chair of the Examinations and Assessment Committee



November 2024

Dear Residents and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Education Assessments and Examinations Committee, I would like to thank you for participating in this year's examination.

Being the first such examination among all the medical specialties, this year marks the 61st administration of the Orthopaedic In-training Examination[®]. 2024 also marks the 5th consecutive year that the Education Assessments and Examinations Committee is working with the ABOS to link the OITE and ABOS, Part 1 written Examination. The AAOS continues to collaborate with the ABOS to improve the education of residents and the AAOS Fellowship.

Every year, the OITE[®] is created by a group of orthopaedic surgeons who are deeply committed to education through a rigorous peer-review process, and offers you an invaluable opportunity to gauge your preparedness for progressing beyond residency. While many topics in orthopaedic surgery lack conclusive evidence, our practices are based on sound medical principles and expert consensus. Sometimes, several reasonable answers to a test item may appear, but each question has been vetted through this peer-review process to select the one best preferred response.

With this and each subsequent administration, we strive to make the OITE[®] better. Thank you for being part of this year's examination, and I hope that you find this to be an enriching educational experience.

Sincerely,



Yelena Bogdan, MD, FACS, FAAOS
Chair, Education Assessments and Examinations Committee

Examination Overview and Purpose

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) develops the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination (OITE)[®] to assess resident knowledge in six primary content domains as defined by the OITE blueprint. The OITE is a comprehensive examination designed to help you assess your knowledge in established principles and conventional procedures and treatment in orthopaedic surgery. **Orthopaedic residency programs use the OITE performance outcomes at the individual and programmatic levels to support orthopaedic resident education through study, research, discussion, review, and assessment.**

Residents demonstrate their knowledge in key subject areas and are provided score summaries of their performance as well as comparative information regarding performance among their peers. The OITE is a formative examination designed to assist educators and educational programs with quantitative measures that will drive quality improvements in education.

Disclosure to Residents - Test Data Usage

By using AAOS site resources, including in-training or practice materials, self-assessment exam collections, tests, or study tools, you are consenting to the collection, use, and disclosure of your test data as described in the AAOS Privacy Policy and Terms of Use, which are available on the AAOS website, and which may be updated from time to time. AAOS will not use or share your information with anyone except as described in its Privacy Policy, and the use of information collected shall be limited to the purposes stated under the Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.

OITE Format

The OITE is a 275 item, multiple-choice, computer-based examination. The test items are developed as single best answer among 4 response options. All items are scored correct or incorrect. There is no partial credit scoring. Items may include clinical scenarios, images and video clips. Each item is independent of other items. In other words, test items are not linked or are dependent on other items in order to be answered. The OITE is not offered in a paper-based or oral format.

Prior to the delivery of the examination, examinees must review and accept the AAOS confidentiality/non-disclosure statement (*see Examinee Information*) as well as participate in the pre-exam tutorial. The tutorial provides instruction on the layout, response options, and timing of the OITE. In addition, the tutorial displays how to enlarge images and play (replay) video clips.

Administration

The OITE is administered in a defined testing window determined by the AAOS. Registered residents who are unable to complete the examination within this window will be able to access the examination upon its general release the following January, but their results will not be included in the norm scoring nor will they receive an individual score report.

Testing Model

The 2024 OITE is available for administration as an on-line examination using state of the art remote proctoring or as an on-line examination administered in-person to a collective group of residents testing individually. Each residency program's director will determine which of the two administration models is most appropriate for their residents, and each resident in the program is required to adhere to the single chosen administration model.

Testing Location/Environment

To ensure that the OITE is administered under comparable conditions, the AAOS is taking steps to address the standardization of the testing environments. Each residency program opting for in-person testing will be responsible for providing a secure and appropriate location, free from distraction and spacious enough to host the OITE administration. Compliance with all system hardware and software requirements shall be the responsibility of the program. *(See Appendix A for details)* Examinees will be notified by the program coordinator regarding the date, time, and location of the administration. **Note: Though testing in a group environment, all residents are required to execute the examination on an individual basis.**

Examination Timing and Breaks

Each resident/examinee may use up to 7 (seven) hours of testing time to complete the OITE. The examination is assembled in two sections. Residents will have up to 3.5 hours of testing time to complete each section. During testing, examinees may flag items to review and are permitted to change answers. When finished with Section 1, examinees will be required to verify completion and submit their answers. The same process will follow for Section 2 of the examination, with an opportunity to flag items to review, change answers, and verify completion of the examination.

Note: Once a section is submitted, examinees will no longer be permitted to access the test items to answer, review or change responses.

Between each test section, the examinee will have the option to take a 30-minute break. This break may be taken in full, in part, or bypassed altogether. A 30-minute timer will begin immediately following completion/submission of Section 1. The examinee may choose to continue to test Section 2 at any time during the break period but should be aware that test Section 2 and its 3.5 hour timer will begin immediately following the expiration of the 30-minute break period.

Examination Integrity and Security

OITE results may be withheld from the examinee and residency program if there is a determination that violations of expected conduct, confidentiality, and/or test security occurred. Any irregularities associated with the administration that were under the control of the examinee will be considered as evidence in considerations to withhold results or invalidate scores. Individuals found to be in violation of expected conduct during the examination may be subject to exclusion from participating in future OITE administrations.

Examinee Conduct/Confidentiality

All individuals taking the OITE are required to comply with the highest standards of test security. Examinees may be subject to score invalidation or a hold on examination score/results if upon review, they are in violation of the expected conduct described herein.

When the examination session begins, residents will be required to read and agree to the following:

I hereby represent that:

- *No one else will take the OITE in my name or on my behalf, nor will I take the OITE in the name of or on behalf of any other person;*
- *I will not receive or provide assistance during the exam, nor will I access or attempt to access prohibited aids or materials. Examples of prohibited aids or materials include, but are not limited to electronic devices, smart watches, mobile/smart phones, headphones/listening devices, calculators, books, journals, notes, any artificial intelligence-based resource; and*
- *I will neither reproduce nor receive, in whole or in part, any OITE questions or answers; nor will I introduce any OITE questions or answers to any artificial intelligence platform.*

I acknowledge and agree that if AAOS suspects conduct inconsistent with these representations, I may be reported to my residency program director by AAOS. Further, AAOS may disclose my personally identifiable information (PII) for the purposes of institutional and/or legal investigation and action.

Examinee Identification

Examinees will be required to provide valid identification with government or institution-issued photo ID. Identification shall be validated by the residency director, coordinator, or proctors immediately prior to admitting the examinee to the OITE administration session.

Testing Accommodations

AAOS will consider the requests of qualified persons with disabilities for reasonable testing accommodations. History of testing accommodations in an educational setting must be verified by the residency program in writing and submitted to the AAOS no less than 30 days prior to the test administration. In the event of an acute or temporary situation requiring accommodation, a letter of support from a qualified healthcare provider must be provided to the AAOS no less than 30 days from the scheduled examination. Submit requests and support information to exams@aaos.org

GDPR Personal Data Protection

AAOS works with specialized vendors in the development and administration of our online exam platforms. To successfully complete the exam registration process, AAOS will share the minimum amount of necessary personal data about each registrant: name and AAOS ID number.

This limited personal data does not allow our vendor to identify the registrant outside of the scope of the exam. Because only AAOS holds personal data which could be used to individually identify registrants, their personal data remains private and confidential.

For more information on AAOS privacy practices, see the AAOS Privacy Policy at www.aaos.org/privacy or contact the AAOS Privacy Officer at privacy@aaos.org.

Technical Issues

The most common issue encountered in a web-based examination is the loss of internet connectivity. Whether it is resulting from a disruption with the ISP or a glitch in wireless capabilities, the results are frustrating. The OITE is designed to “recover” from the occasional connectivity interruption. Should there be a temporary loss of connectivity, examination responses up to that point are stored and retained. When connectivity resumes, the resident will be returned to the last item answered and should click NEXT to move on to the next item. In the event of an extended internet outage (>60 minutes), the proctor must contact the AAOS at exams@aaos.org and report the incident. The AAOS will assist with the scheduling of a session to complete the examination.

Technical Support and Contact Information

Below is the contact information for AAOS staff and ITS Technical Support.

- **Technical Support Internet Testing Services**

- **24/7**
- Telephone: 1-800-514-8494
- International Telephone Support: +1-443-573-8399
- Email: aaosupport@testsys.com

- **AAOS**

For all questions on policy and logistics, please contact AAOS staff.

- Email: exams@aaos.org (preferred)
- Phone: 847-384-4085

Emergency Exam-Day Technical Support

If there is a known technical issue on exam day, Technical Support will post updates at least every 15 minutes to the blog at aaosupport.programworkshop.com. Please visit aaosupport.programworkshop.com prior to testing day and click the 'Subscribe To Updates' link to subscribe via text and/or email to receive proactive notifications on exam day.