



NBC Written Examination Pilot Test Frequently Asked Questions

The National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology (NBC) is working to ensure that its written examination item banks are relevant and well maintained. As such, NBC is working on validating questions in the item banks. We have written and reviewed questions from various subject matter experts in the field. The next step in the process entails pilot testing, also known as data gathering.

This process allows the NBC and our testing company partner to identify specific data that is necessary for determining test validity (are we testing what we say we are testing) and reliability (how accurate is the test).

Below you will find the answers to several frequently asked questions regarding pilot tests. Please feel free to contact the NBC at (800) 684-5310 or at certification@nbccert.org with any additional questions you may have.

Q. What are the requirements to sit for the pilot test?

A. The candidates must meet the same requirements as they would to sit for the RG/CDT examinations. The candidate does not have to be a CDT or NADL member. The candidate has to have a working knowledge of the English language as the tests will only be offered in English.

Pilot tests will be delivered via computer-based testing and thus candidates will be required to bring a laptop computer or a tablet in order to be able to complete the pilot tests.

Q. What is the date of the pilot test?

A. The pilot tests will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020 at LMT Chicago Lab Day between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:30 pm. Pilot tests will be offered at 9:00 am, 11:00 am or 1:00 pm on Friday, February 21, 2020. Participants are required to sign up for a specific time slot as we are limited to only 32 participants at each session.

Pilot tests will be delivered via computer-based testing and thus candidates will be required to bring a laptop computer or a tablet in order to be able to complete the pilot tests.

Q. Is there a charge to take the test?

A. No, there is no charge to participate in the pilot tests.

Q. How much time am I given to take the test? How many questions are on the pilot test?

A. The pilot test will contain between 90 and 100 questions covering general knowledge, crown and bridge, ceramics and implants and candidates will be given up to 1 and ½ hours to complete the pilot test.

Q. How do I sign up to participate in the pilot tests and how will I know if my application has been accepted?

A. Candidates who wish to participate in the pilot tests will be asked to fill out a brief application to sit for the pilot test. Once your application has been accepted, the NBC will send you an email confirmation.

Approximately two weeks prior to the pilot test date, candidates will be sent a letter via email, which will be used for exam admittance. Candidates will also be required to bring a driver's license or other acceptable form of photo identification and a laptop computer or tablet to the pilot test site.

Q. Will I receive a grade from the pilot test?

A. No, the purpose of the pilot test is to validate the questions and provide data to construct a test that measures a candidate's knowledge.

Q. How do I prepare for the pilot test?

A. No preparation is required on the part of the candidate as the purpose of the pilot testing is making the examinations more reliable and valid. Pilot tests will be delivered via computer-based testing and thus candidates will be required to bring a laptop computer or a tablet in order to be able to complete the pilot tests.

Q. What happens if I sign up for the examination and cannot attend?

A. Candidates will be asked to notify the NBC prior to the examination if they are unable to attend. As these examinations are for statistical purposes only, there is not an opportunity to reschedule for the pilot examination.

Q. Will I receive compensation or reimbursement for expenses?

A. Unfortunately, the NBC is not in a position to provide compensation or reimbursement. However, current CDTs/RGs will receive 1.5 hour of Documented Scientific credit for each pilot test completed. Additionally, for candidates interested in becoming a CDT or RG, these pilot tests will provide an opportunity to practice for your upcoming written examinations.

Q. Will my scores count towards earning my certification?

A. No, the purpose of the pilot test is to validate the questions and provide data to construct a test that measures a candidate's knowledge. Once the questions are validated, the test forms are carefully constructed by a psychometrician. However, CDTs and RGs will earn 1.5 hour of Documented Scientific credit for each pilot test they complete.