National League for Nursing Testing Services

PAX Test Blueprint

Section I

The first section in the PAX (Pre-Admission Exam) is the ***Verbal*** section. This section consists of 60 items split between two subsections: *Reading Comprehension* and *Word Knowledge*.

Reading Comprehension:

The reading comprehension subsection is composed of several passages, each 300 to 450 words in length, of a scientific or general nature suitable for measuring the applicant's ability to understand written material.

Items are selected according to the following criteria:

- Median difficulty 0.60
- Distribution of items over 5 passages (see figure 1)

Figure 1

Reading Comprehension Items by Grade Level

Passage	Grade Level	Items
1	8^{th} - 9^{th}	6
2	9^{th} - 10^{th}	6
3	10^{th} - 11^{th}	6
4	11^{th} - 12^{th}	6
5	13^{th} - 14^{th}	6
Total Items		**30**

Word Knowledge:

The world knowledge subsection measures the applicant's ability to identify the meaning of a word as it is used in a sentence.

Items are selected according to the following criteria:

- Median difficulty 0.60
- Distribution of items according to grade level (see figure 2)

Figure 2

Word Knowledge Items by Grade Level

Grade Level	Items
8^{th}	4
9^{th}	6
10^{th}	6
11^{th}	5
12^{th}	4
13^{th}	3
14^{th}	2
Total Items	**30**

National League for Nursing Testing Services

Section II

The ***Mathematics*** section consists of 40 items. This Section is designed to test an applicant's ability to solve basic arithmetic problems, including those containing integers, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio conversions, measurement conversions, algebra, geometry, and mathematical concepts.

This section includes both *computation* and *word problems*, which give students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to not only perform basic mathematical operations, but also apply them to work-related problems.

The distribution of items according to the Mathematics section is presented in figure 3.

Figure 3

Item Distribution for Mathematics Section:

Content Area	Computation	Problem Solving	Total Items
Integers	1	2	3
Decimals	3	2	5
Fractions	2	3	5
Percentages	3	3	6
Ration Conversion	2	2	4
Measurement Conversion	2	3	5
Algebra	2	3	5
Geometry	1	2	3
Mathematical Concepts	2	2	4
Total Items	**18**	**22**	**40**

National League for Nursing Testing Services

Section III

The final section is the ***Science*** section and it contains a total of 60 items. This section is designed to measure the applicant's knowledge of general principles in biology, human anatomy, human physiology, physics, chemistry, and health.

In addition to basic science principles applicants must be able to show an ability to use cognitive skills. The skills used for this section are derived from Bloom's Taxonomy.

Item Distribution for General Science Topics:

Science Topics	Items
Biology	20
Human Anatomy	7
Human Physiology	7
Physics	5
Chemistry	13
Health	8
Total Items	**60**

Figure 4

Cognitive skills are incorporated into the science questions. This maintains the 60 item section count.

Item Distribution for Cognitive Skills:

Cognitive Skill	Items
Identify Facts & Terms	18
Recognize Process & Principle	12
Apply Principle to Situation	12
Apply Basic Research & Measurement	9
Interprets Chart, Graph & Diagram	9
Total Items	**60**

Figure 5

Test Administration Time:

The total test administration time is slightly more than 2 hours. That means that each section will be broken down into the following time allotments:

- 45 minutes Verbal
- 35 minutes Math
- 45 minutes Science

Assessment Reports

Assessment reports will reflect a total test score and raw scores for the number of items answered correctly for each of the topic areas. Additionally, median percent correct scores will be provided for both the PN and the RN norm groups.

*You may reach us at **800-732-8656** or **618-453-3036**. You are also welcome to email us at customerhelp@nln.org*

Customer Service is our priority. Please feel free to contact the Director Testing Services lfurby@nln.org should you have questions or concerns with a customer service or product-related matter.

NLN National League for Nursing Testing Services