An Exam Committee (comprised of professionals in the field) is trained to write questions for the test. They then scrutinize each question to ensure suitability and answer accuracy. PSI staff review the items for structure, grammar, fairness, bias, etc.



Approved items are assembled into a test form per the Test Specifications. The Exam Committee takes the test, selecting an answer for each question while making comments along the way. Responses and comments are then reviewed by PSI staff and presented for further discussion with the Committee.





Write and Review Items

Maintain the

Test

Tests are securely administered at test centers or online.



Conduct a Job Analysis Test
Development
Process



**Deliver the** 

Test

Establish the Passing Score Following the release of a new content outline and new exams, industry professionals determine the minimum score a practitioner needs to be considered competent in their role. This is typically conducted after a first wave of test takers have completed the test but have not yet received their official scores.

Moving forward, the exam forms can be equated to the initial form to allow for ongoing instant scoring.

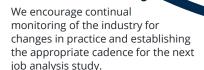
A Job Analysis Study is a critical step for establishing the tasks expected in a role and the minimum level of knowledge, skill, and abilities needed for success.

**Develop Test Specifications** 

Data is typically collected via survey to practitioners, but methods can vary. The resulting data informs what is vital to include in the test.

Using the job analysis report as a guide, we create a content outline.

This becomes the blueprint for what content categories are covered in the test, with each topic being linked directly back to the job analysis outcomes.



It is best practice to establish ongoing item development and review cycles to ensure tests are current and valid.



Scoring and Reporting

Score reports for test takers can include pass/fail status along with feedback on how they performed within each content category. A full suite of exam statistics is generated to analyze item and test form performance.



**Exam Review (ER) Meeting** – After PSI develops the test form, the form will be sent out for an online review to each exam committee member. Committee members will be asked to respond to the items and provide comments. Approximately 4-weeks will be given for this pre-meeting homework. At the in-person exam review meeting, PSI will address any item with key disagreement (e.g., 50% of the committee got the item wrong) and/or comments on the items (e.g., "this item is no longer accurate").

**Final Review (FR) Meeting** – If there were a significant amount of items replaced at the ER meeting, PSI will send out the form for online review a second time. This purpose of this final review is to ensure that no replacement items are enemies (i.e., two or more items that do not belong on the same exam) with other items on the exam. This is also a final check of the form to catch anything that may have been missed during the first online review and at the ER meeting. This meeting with the exam committee or exam co-chairs is virtual and 2-3 hours is often sufficient. If minimal items were replaced at the ER meeting, this final review is not necessary.

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**Preliminary Item Analysis (PIA) Meeting** – After the administration of a form, item and test statistics are generated. Items are flagged that display statistics outside of established thresholds (e.g., item is very difficult). All items will be reviewed but there is a focus on new items that have not been used before. A 2-hour virtual meeting with the exam committee or exam co-chairs is often sufficient to review the items and make decisions regarding scoring (e.g., giving credit to all candidates for an item).

**Post-Test Equating (EQ) Meeting** – After final scoring is conducted based on any key changes from the PIA meeting, PSI will conduct a post-test equating analysis of the test form to find the equivalent cut score comparing it to the previous form (i.e., base form). Once the cut score is calculated, a memo highlighting the results will be sent to the Board. The Board will review the memo and approve the cut score at a short virtual meeting (30 minutes or less). Alternatively, Board approval can be sent via email.

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