

## TEXAS GENERAL FORENSIC ANALYST EXAM FAQS

1. What type of questions are on the exam?

*The pilot exam is a 140-question multiple-choice exam, while the regular period exam is a 100-question multiple-choice exam. The pilot exam is offered until April 13, 2018. The regular exam will be offered beginning in May 2018 after the data from the pilot exam has been analyzed by psychometrician experts and the final 100 questions for the regular exam have been selected.*

*For both the pilot and the regular exam, there are no fill-in-the-blanks, but only questions that prompt an answer. Students will select one of four answers. There are also no “all of the above” or “a and b” options, just one correct choice from the four choices offered.*

*Read the question prompts carefully. All questions are mandatory unless you exceed the four-hour time limit. The exam will ask you to fill in answers for any questions you skipped if you finish before the four-hour time limit. We anticipate that most examinees will finish within the four-hour time limit.*

2. Do I need to do outside research or use any materials outside of the study materials designated in TopClass?

*No, the questions on the exam come directly from the materials listed in TopClass. Focus on the designated reading material and video presentations. Study each topic thoroughly.*

3. Will everyone take the same questions on the pilot exam?

*Yes, everyone will see the same questions. However, the questions are randomized throughout the test for each user. The answer choices are also randomized per user. Your neighbor will not be looking at the same questions nor the same answer choices in the order you are.*

4. How many questions are there per domain on the pilot exam?

*Evidence Handling – 16 questions; Brady/Michael Morton Act – 20 questions; Statistics – 24 questions; Expert Testimony – 20 questions; Professional Responsibility – 20 questions; Human Factors – 20 questions; Root Cause Analysis – 20 questions.*

5. How many questions are there per domain on the regular exam?

*Evidence Handling – 10 questions; Brady/Michael Morton Act – 15 questions; Statistics – 15 questions; Expert Testimony 15 questions; Professional Responsibility – 15 questions; Human Factors – 15 questions; Root Cause Analysis – 15 questions.*

6. How many points is each question worth?

*1 point per question regardless of domain.*

7. What are the tasks statements in TopClass?

*The task statements were written as general focus points/objectives for the exam question development for each domain.*

8. While taking the exam, are we allowed to go back and review questions?

*Yes, you may go back and forward to review questions up until the time that you "Submit" your exam questions. All questions are mandatory (unless you run out of time). The system will not allow you to submit your test until you have marked an answer for each question. The system will prompt you to answer any particular questions that were left blank.*

9. Are we allowed to study for the exam together?

*Yes, you are welcome to study together. However, examinees are prohibited from sharing any information regarding the exam at any time during or after the exam. Sharing of information may be considered cheating and could result in denial of your license, adverse employment consequences, or both.*

10. How will I be notified whether I passed the exam?

*Applicants will be notified via the email address provided to the Commission.*

11. How long will it take to get my test results?

*As soon as possible but no later than 60 days after the closure of the pilot exam period (April 13, 2018).*

12. If I fail the exam will I be given any feedback regarding how I scored in each of the domains?

*Upon request, Commission staff will provide the number of items missed in each domain.*

13. Is there a mandatory waiting period between exam attempts?

*An applicant may sit for the exam any time his or her laboratory administers the exam. However, after a third failed attempt, the applicant must apply to the Commission for special dispensation to take the exam again. **IMPORTANT:** A failure on the pilot exam does not count against your three attempts. A passing score on the pilot exam fulfills the general forensic exam licensing requirement to obtain a forensic analyst license.*

14. What happens if I fail the exam three times?

*You may apply to the Commission for special dispensation to take the exam a fourth time, stating the reason(s) and/or special circumstances for your failed attempts. You must apply for a provisional forensic analyst license if you do not complete and pass the exam prior to January 1, 2019. After approval of a provisional license, you will have one year from the date the provisional license is issued to pass the exam. You should also check your laboratory's internal policies regarding exam attempts, as some laboratories may set expectations regarding the maximum number of times employees are permitted to attempt the exam.*

15. Is there an additional cost for taking the exam if you fail it?

*There is no additional fee as long as you pass the exam within the three allotted attempts. There will be a fee charged if you need to apply to the Commission for special dispensation to take the exam beyond the three allotted times.*

16. What happens to the exam data once an applicant completes the licensing process?

*Candidate test scores are recorded and subject to open records and/or discovery requests. Information related to exam content is confidential.*

17. Will a passing exam score on the pilot count for me if my discipline later becomes subject to the licensing requirements even though my discipline is not currently subject to the licensing requirements (e.g., bloodstain pattern analysis)?

*Yes, a passing score on the pilot exam will count as credit towards fulfilling the General Forensic Analyst Licensing Exam requirement to obtain a license.*

18. Will a failing pilot exam score count against my three attempts at the exam?

*No, a failing score will not count against you.*

19. When does the pilot exam period end?

*The pilot exam period is offered from March 15, 2018 through midnight on April 13, 2018. Scores must be submitted by 12:00am CDT on April 14, 2018.*