



CAPR
Canadian Alliance
of Physiotherapy
Regulators

ACORP
Alliance canadienne des
organismes de réglementation
de la physiothérapie

Essential Guide

Chapter 2: Exam Expectations: What Is Included in the PCE?

After reading this chapter, you will know:

- how the competence of physiotherapists is defined and measured; and
- what physiotherapy knowledge, skills and abilities are measured by the PCE.

What is on the Exam?

The CAPR uses a variety of resources and methods to define and measure competence in physiotherapy practice. The outcome is two documents that guide the exam: the Analysis of Physiotherapy Practice and the Exam Blueprint.

Below is a brief description of these two documents.

The Analysis of Physiotherapy Practice

The Analysis of Physiotherapy Practice is a document that outlines in detail the competencies—knowledge, skills and abilities—required for the safe and effective practice of physiotherapy in Canada. This document also specifies what proportion of the PCE covers each of the competencies, and organizes them under two sections: Areas of Practice and Functions.

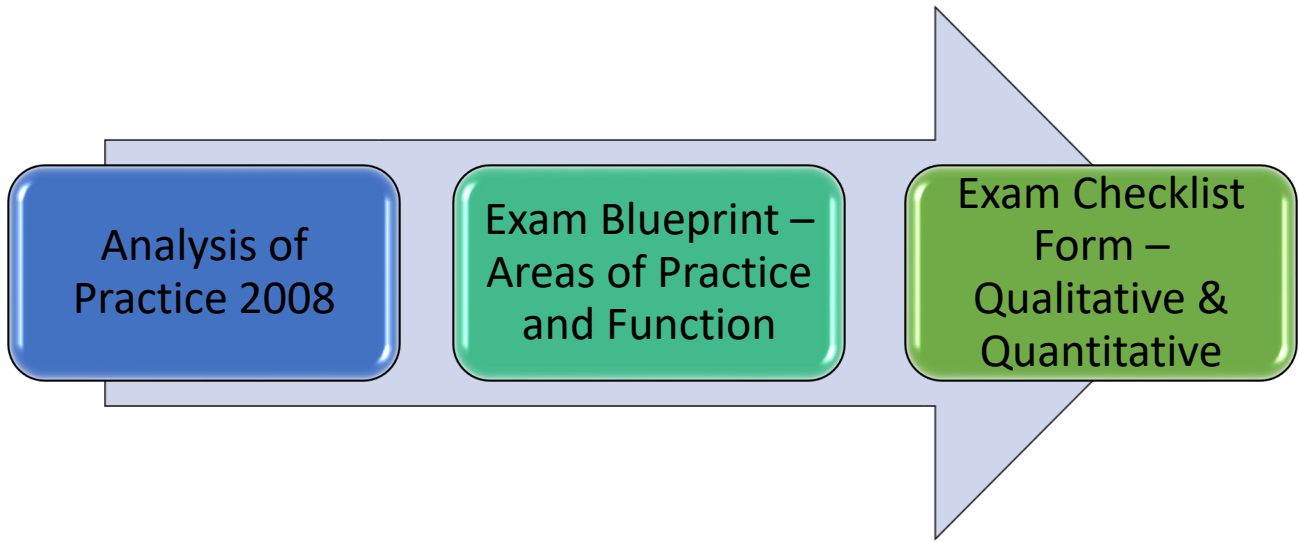
The 1996 *Analysis of Practice of Canadian Physiotherapists* was a survey prepared for the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (ACT, 1996, 1995). The previous version was developed in 1988, along with the original exam blueprint.

The *Report on the 2000 Analysis of Physiotherapy Practice in Canada* was a repeat of the 1996 survey to determine if there had been any significant changes to physiotherapy practice in Canada.

The *Analysis of Practice 2008* began with a complete review of the activities performed by physiotherapists and the conditions treated by physiotherapists. The CAPR developed a new survey and sent it to a sample of Canadian physiotherapists. These physiotherapists rated activity statements on two scales: a frequency scale and a consequence scale. They also rated knowledge and skill statements using an acquisition scale and a harm scale. Subject matter experts reviewed the results of the survey and revised the list of activities included in the exam. We started using the revised blueprint in 2009.

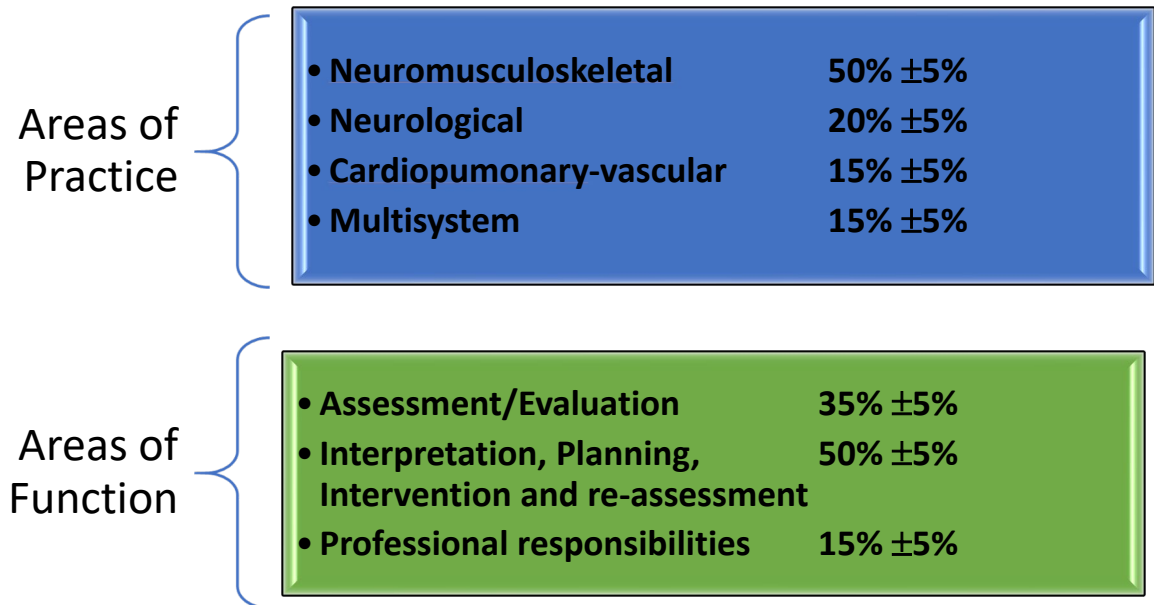
The CAPR has completed *The Analysis of Practice 2017* and will publish a new exam blueprint in fall 2017.

How is the PCE developed?



The Exam Blueprint

The Exam Blueprint is drawn from the *Analysis of Practice 2008*, which outlines the essential elements to be covered by the PCE and specifies what proportion of an examination will cover each of them. The Exam Blueprint, in turn, guides the development of the written items and clinical stations for the PCE.



The process ensures that the exam does, in fact, evaluate the knowledge, skills and abilities Canadian physiotherapists need to practise physiotherapy competently.

We review and revise the Exam Blueprint following each Analysis of Practice. Changes to the Exam Blueprint for 2009 included adjustments to the proportions of the areas covered on the exam, expansion of the areas of practice and realignment of conditions, and realignment of physiotherapy functions. There were also some changes to the activities included in the blueprint and to the activities that are considered to be “advanced acquisition.” Please refer to the [Exam Blueprint](#).

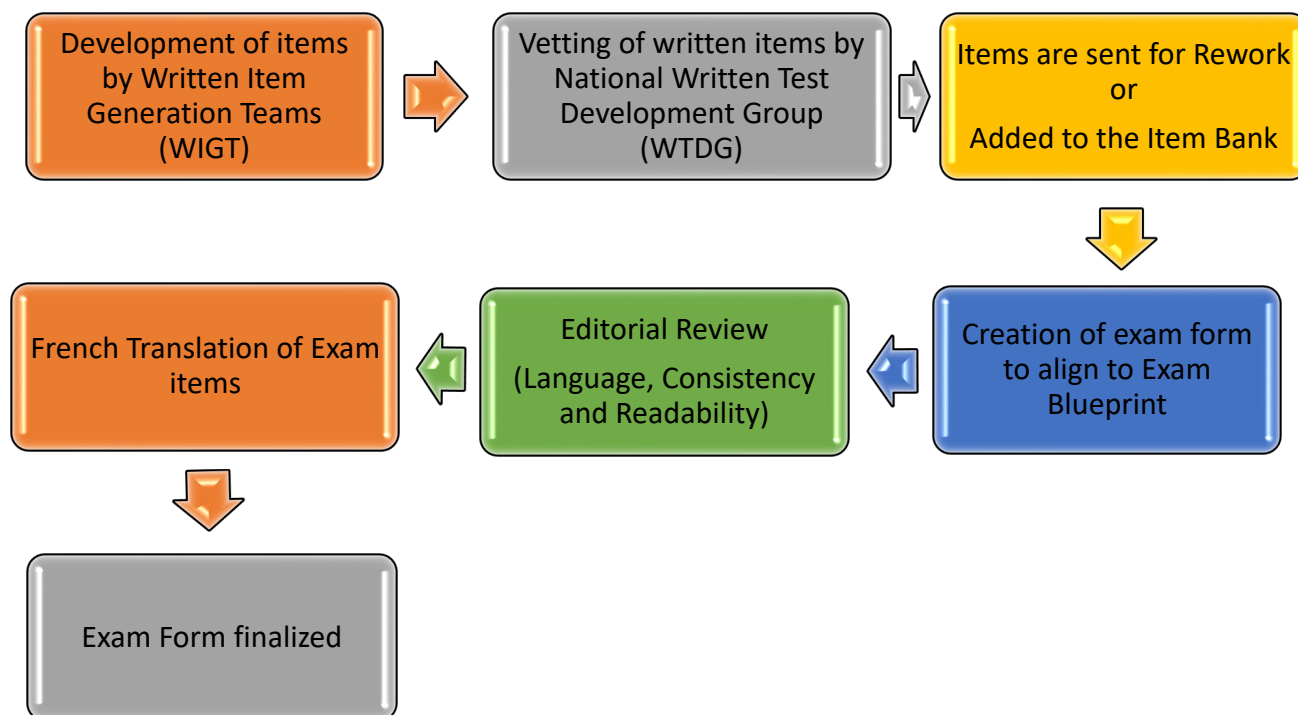
Minimally-Competent Candidate

A minimally-competent candidate has enough of the requisite knowledge and skills to do the job, although their knowledge and/or technical skills may be limited.

A borderline candidate is one who is deemed to be minimally-competent.

Who are involved in developing the PCE?

WRITTEN COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

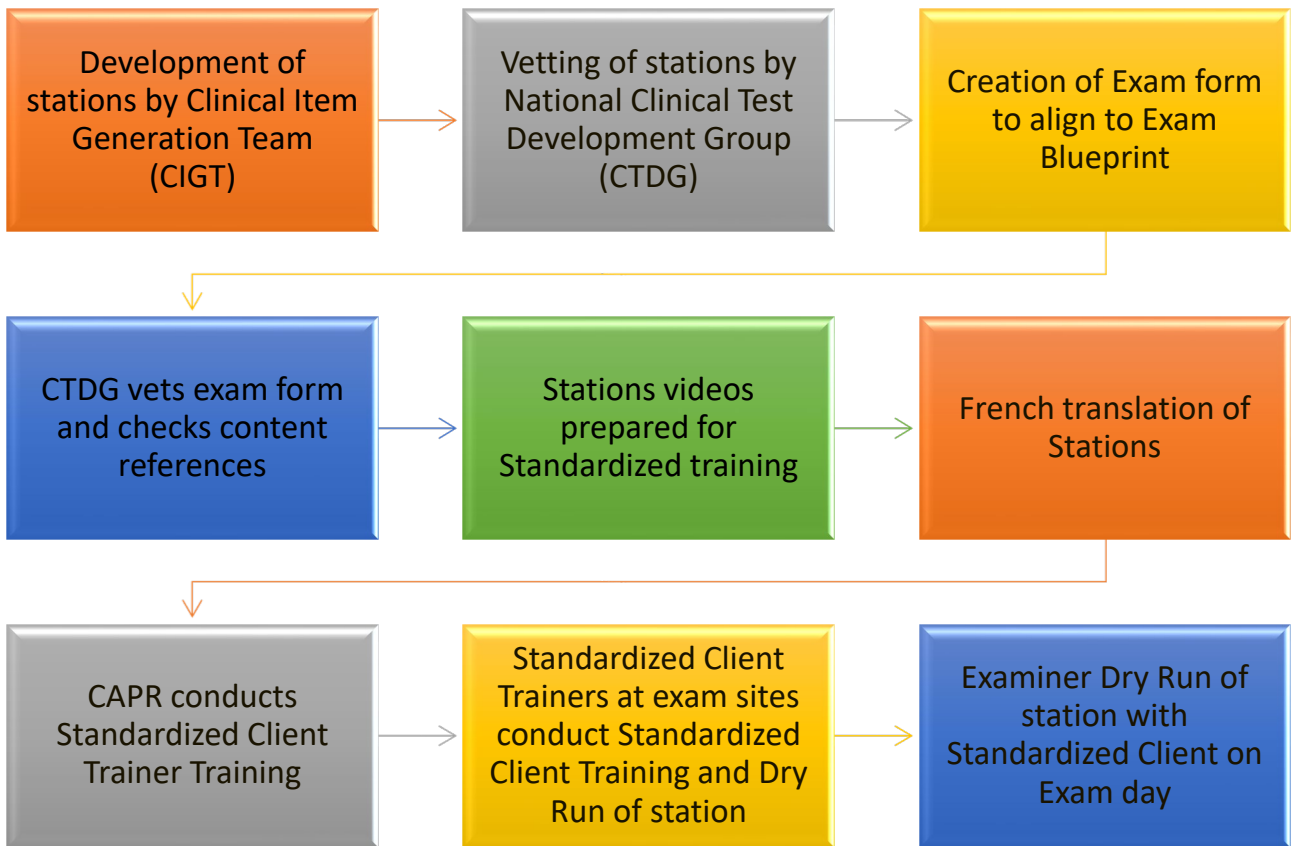


Legend:

WIGT – Written Item Generation Team

WTDG – Written Test Development Group

CLINICAL COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT



Legend

CIGT – Clinical Item Generation Team

CTDG – Clinical Test Development Group

Standardization of Exam Processes

A standardized exam is an exam that is designed, developed, administered, and scored in a predetermined consistent or “standard” manner. Examples of standardization include:

- Standardization of Exam Processes (Candidate Registration, Examiner Registration, Communication with Candidates [Booking Confirmation Emails] and Examiners etc.)
- Standardized Client Training
- Examiner Training
- Instructions to candidates
- Timing of stations
- Test sheets
- Candidate Notebooks
- Written Station marking at a centralized location
- Answer sheets / responses to questions
- Scoring

