

BOARDSMANSHIP

As is always the case, the board examiner wants to know how much *you* know and will make every reasonable attempt to get that information from you during the course of the exam. For obvious reasons, each candidate should make every possible attempt to convey a positive impression upon each of the board examiners. In so doing, the candidate maximizes every opportunity for objective evaluation and minimizes the chance that subjective analysis will come into play. As a rule, people will form a first impression by how you present yourself. This is reflected, in part, by the clothes you are wearing, by your personal demeanor, eye contact or lack thereof, verbal and nonverbal expressions, and the depth of knowledge you possess in the given subject matter. Needless to say, dress for success. Recommended attire for the treatment planning portion of the exam is, at a minimum, dress shirt and dress slacks for men and equivalent attire for women. For the oral section of the board exam, it is recommended that men wear a jacket and tie and the equivalent for women.

Here are some suggestions for taking the written and oral section of the board exam:

- Look and act professional. Upon entrance to each discipline-specific room for the oral exam, respectfully shake the hand of your board examiner, display a warm, personal demeanor and sit erect in the chair. In so doing, the candidate establishes a professional appearance and attitude in preparation for the exam.
- Make appropriate eye contact with the examiner, and avoid sarcastic comments or arrogant facial expressions.
- Know your subject matter as if you were the expert in the field, and be able to convey that information in a clear and concise manner. The candidate who possesses a firm grasp of such knowledge generally displays a high level of confidence, poise and professionalism during the examination process.
- Listen carefully to the questions presented and make sure you understand exactly what is being asked. If uncertain, ask the examiner to clarify the question. Never interrupt the examiner and always wait until the examiner finishes the question before you start to answer.
- It is recommended that the candidate be direct and to the point. Answer the question and then stop. Do not offer more information than is necessary as that will only detract from the time you have to answer all of the questions possible.
- If you do not know the answer to a particular question, ask to pass on that question and request to go back to it if time permits.
- At the end of each discipline specific testing period, rise and shake your examiner's hand. It is completely appropriate to say something pleasant, maintain good eye contact, and smile as you leave. As others have stated, "the key is to exit on a positive note."
- Do NOT ask for an evaluation of your performance.

Remember, it's all about answering as many questions correctly to maximize your cumulative points. Study hard, practice often with a friend, present to the examiner with a positive attitude, and you should do well.

Best wishes for a successful outcome!