



The Acupuncture with Point Location Abbreviated Content Outline

The following content outline is effective on **January 1, 2012**. Below is the Abbreviated Content Outline for the Acupuncture with Point Location examination.

Please Note: in regards to Clean Needle Technique (CNT), the Biomedicine module focuses on universal precautions and emergency situations in comparison to the Acupuncture with Point Location module which focuses on actual needling and its emergencies (e.g., needle angle and depth).

Please Note: Domain D1b is not tested on the Acupuncture with Point Location examination but on the Biomedicine examination. This content area is covered within the Biomedicine content outline – Domain A2e2

Domain A: Develop a Comprehensive Treatment Plan Using Acupuncture Points Based Upon Patient’s Identified Syndrome and Pattern Discrimination (40% of total exam of which 20% are point location images)

Sub Domain A1: Develop treatment plan

- A 1 (a): Six Stages theory (e.g., Taiyang, Yangming, Shaoyang, Taiyin, Shaoyin, Jueyin)**
- A 1 (b): Four Levels (Wei, Qi, Ying, Xue)**
- A 1 (c): Five Phase/Element points**
- A 1 (d): Antique points (Jing Well, Ying Spring, Shu Stream, Jing River, He Sea)**
- A 1 (e): Root and Branch**
- A 1 (f): Zang Fu**
- A 1 (g): Yin and Yang**
- A 1 (h): Qi, Blood, Body Fluids and Essence**
- A 1 (i): Meridians and collaterals including divergent meridians (Jing Luo)**
- A 1 (j): Extraordinary meridian**

Sub Domain A2: Point selection

- A 2 (a): Distal/local, adjacent points**
- A 2 (b): Based on TCM muscular channel theory**
- A 2 (c): Points along corresponding channels to affected cutaneous regions**



A 2 (d): Front-Mu (Alarm) points, Back-Shu (Associated) points, and their combination(s)

A 2 (e): Lower He-Sea (Uniting) points

A 2 (f): Four-Needle technique points

A 2 (g): Eight Influential points

A 2 (h): Four Sea points

A 2 (i): Based upon causative factor

A 2 (j): Five Shu (Transporting) points according to TCM

A 2 (k): 5 Luo-Connecting points, Yuan-Source (Primary) points, and their combinations

A 2 (l): Xi-Cleft points

A 2 (m): Entry and Exit points according to 12 Channel theory

A 2 (n): Window of the Sky

A 2 (o): Extra points

A 2 (p): Auricular points

A 2 (q): Scalp points

A 2 (r): Coalescent points

A 2 (s): Crossing points

A 2 (t): Fourteen meridians

A 2 (u): Confluent points

A 2 (v): Command points

Sub Domain A3: Treatment strategy using acupuncture, cupping and moxibustion

Sub Domain A4: Needle selection (e.g., filiform, three-edges, plum-blossom, press and intradermal needles)

Sub Domain A5: Identification of correct point location

Sub Domain A6: Point location (images only)



Domain B: Treatment Techniques and Mode of Administration (20% of total exam)

Sub Domain B1: Patient position

Sub Domain B2: Needle insertion

- B 2 (a): Angle**
- B 2 (b): Depth**
- B 2 (c): Needle insertion technique**

Sub Domain B3: Achieve arrival of Qi by:

- B 3 (a): Lifting and thrusting**
- B 3 (b): Twirling or rotating**
- B 3 (c): Plucking**
- B 3 (d): Scraping**
- B 3 (e): Shaking**
- B 3 (f): Trembling**

Sub Domain B4: Reinforcing and reducing techniques by:

- B 4 (a): Lifting and thrusting**
- B 4 (b): Twirling or rotating**
- B 4 (c): Rapid and slow insertion and withdrawal of needle**
- B 4 (d): Keeping acupuncture hole open**
- B 4 (e): Means of respiration**
- B 4 (f): Setting the Mountain on Fire**
- B 4 (g): Penetrating Heaven coolness**

Sub Domain B5: Precautions based upon anatomy

Sub Domain B6: Removal of needles

Domain C: Use of Modalities or Agents (25% of total exam)

Sub Domain C1: Cupping



Sub Domain C2: Guasha

Sub Domain C3: Bleeding

Sub Domain C4: Intradermal needles

Sub Domain C5: Ear balls, seeds, pellets, ear tack

Sub Domain C6: Electro acupuncture

Sub Domain C7: Electricity

C 7 (a): Micro current

C 7 (b): Auricular micro system points

C 7 (c): TENS

Sub Domain C8: Moxibustion

C 8 (a): Direct moxibustion (e.g., thread moxibustion)

C 8 (b): Indirect moxibustion (stick or pole moxa)

C 8 (c): Moxa on medium (e.g., garlic, ginger)

C 8 (d): Moxa on needle handle

C 8 (e): Moxa box/can

C 8 (f): Navel moxa

C 8 (g): Stick-on moxa

C 8 (h): Smokeless moxa

Sub Domain C9: Physical agents

C 9 (a): Heat

C 9 (b): TDP/infrared heat lamp

C 9 (c): Cold



Sub Domain C10: Precautions related to treatment modalities (e.g., intradermal needles, moxibustion, electricity, guasha, bleeding, cupping, 7 Star Hammer)

Sub Domain C11: State regulation(s) and law(s) for use of different modalities for acupuncture

Domain D: Assess Treatment Outcomes and Modify Treatment (15% of total exam)

Sub Domain D1: Treatment evaluation

D 1 (a): Assess effectiveness of treatment by re-examining patient

Please note that the following domain is covered in the Biomedicine Content Outline under Domain A2(e)2.

D 1 (b): ~~Assess clinical lab work and physical examination~~

D 1 (c): Appropriately continue, discontinue, modify treatment, or refer to another healthcare provider

D 1 (d): Point selection modification

D 1 (e): Treatment strategy modification

D 1 (f): Modality and manipulation modification

Sub Domain D2: Ensure clean needle technique

Sub Domain D3: Management of acupuncture related emergencies (fainting, shock, bleeding, broken needles, stuck needles, diabetic issues, burns, etc.)



Acupuncture with Point Location Bibliography

The Content Outline is the primary resource for studying for this examination. The purpose of this Bibliography is only to provide the candidate with suggested resources to utilize in preparation for the examination. Candidates should feel free to consider other resources that cover the material in the Content Outline.

There is no simple text recommended by NCCAOM. All NCCAOM modules and examinations reflect practice in the United States as determined by the most recent job analysis. NCCAOM's item writers and examination development committee members frequently use the following texts as resources; however, the sources used are not limited to the books listed here. The NCCAOM does not endorse any third-party study/preparation guide(s).

Primary Sources

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