



The Chinese Herbology Examination Abbreviated Content Outline

(Effective January 1, 2012)

Note to Candidate: This document serves as a guide to assist in examination preparation for candidates who have met NCCAOM eligibility requirements. Below is the abbreviated content outline for the Chinese Herbology examination.

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Domain A: Herbal Safety and Professional Preparations (10% of Examination)

Sub Domain A1: Safe practices of Chinese herbal medicine

A 1 (a): Identify precautions and contraindications

A 1 (b): Side effects of herbal medicines

A 1 (c): Herb-drug interactions

Sub Domain A2: Maintain an herbal dispensary of raw herbs and/or granules

Sub Domain A3: Maintain patent medicine herbal dispensary

Sub Domain A4: Manage inventory of herbal products

Sub Domain A5: Maintain medical records of patients, including medications

Sub Domain A6: Identification of herbal products

Sub Domain A7: Evaluation of quality of herbs and herbal products

Sub Domain A8: Identify products containing endangered species

Sub Domain A9: Maintain herbal dispensary supplies and environment (e.g., tools, scales, etc.)

Sub Domain A10: Monitor stored herbs for contamination



Sub Domain A11: Monitor herbs and herbal products for expiration dates

Sub Domain 12A: Storage of herbs and herbal products

Sub Domain 13A: Maintain records of discarded products

Domain B: Herbs, Herbal Formulas and Prescriptions (75% of Examination)

Sub Domain B1: Prescribe and dispense Chinese herbs for individual patients

B 1 (a): Tastes, properties, direction, and channels entered of individual Chinese herbs

B 1 (b): Functions and indications of individual Chinese herbs

B 1 (c): Functions and indications of combinations of Chinese herbs

B 1 (d): Treatment strategies (Ba Fa) of Chinese herbal medicine

B 1 (e): Dynamics of Chinese herbal formulas

B 1 (f): Functions, indications and ingredients of Chinese herbal formulas (see Appendix of Formulas - Reference of common Chinese herbal formulas at end of file)

Sub Domain B2: Proper administration of herbal prescriptions

B 2 (a): Dosage of herbs and formulas

B 2 (b): Appropriate form of administration

B 2 (c): Preparation of herbs and herbal formulas

Sub Domain B3: Understand expected treatment outcomes and reactions to treatment for individual patients

Sub Domain B4: Differentiate characteristics of Western vs. Chinese medicinal herbs

Domain C: Evaluation And Modification Of Treatment (15% Of Examination)



Sub Domain C1: Evaluation and modification of Chinese herbal treatment

Sub Domain C2: Consult with patient on additional areas of concern

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Sub Domain C3: Communicate with patients and other health care providers about Chinese herbal treatment

Sub Domain C4: Advise patients of potential side-effects, precautions and interactions (e.g., foods, supplements and/or medications)

Sub Domain C5: Use of herbs in dietary therapy and dietary recommendations based on Traditional Chinese Medicine

Sub Domain C6: Use of external herbal applications

Sub Domain C7: Provide patient with copy of the herbal formula prescription



Appendix of Formulas: Reference of Common Chinese Herbal Formulas

- Ba Zhen Tang (Eight-Treasure Decoction)
- Ba Zheng San (Eight-Herb Powder for Rectification)
- Bai He Gu Jin Tang (Lily Bulb Decoction to Preserve the Metal)
- Bai Hu Tang (White Tiger Decoction)
- Bai Tou Weng Tang (Pulsatilla Decoction)
- Ban Xia Bai Zhu Tian Ma Tang (Pinellia, Atractylodis Macrocephalae, and Gastrodia Decoction)
- Ban Xia Hou Po Tang (Pinellia and Magnolia Bark Decoction)
- Ban Xia Xie Xin Tang (Pinellia Decoction to Drain the Epigastrium)
- Bao He Wan (Preserve Harmony Pill)
- Bu Yang Huan Wu Tang (Tonify the Yang to Restore Five (Tenths) Decoction)
- Bu Zhong Yi Qi Tang (Tonify the Middle and Augment the Qi Decoction)
- Cang Er Zi San (Xanthium Powder)
- Chai Ge Jie Ji Tang (Bupleurum and Kudzu Decoction)
- Chai Hu Shu Gan San (Bupleurum Powder to Spread the Liver)
- Chuan Xiong Cha Tiao San (Ligusticum Chuanxiong Powder to be Taken with Green Tea)
- Da Bu Yin Wan (Great Tonify the Yin Pill)
- Da Chai Hu Tang (Major Bupleurum Decoction)
- Da Cheng Qi Tang (Major Order the Qi Decoction)
- Da Jian Zhong Tang (Major Construct the Middle Decoction)
- Dang Gui Bu Xue Tang (Tangkuei Decoction to Tonify the Blood)
- Dang Gui Liu Huang Tang (Tangkuei and Six-Yellow Decoction)
- Dao Chi San (Guide Out the Red Powder)
- Ding Chuan Tang (Arrest Wheezing Decoction)
- Du Huo Ji Sheng Tang (Angelica Pubescens and Sangjisheng Decoction)
- Du Qi Wan (Capital Qi Pill)
- Er Chen Tang (Two-Cured Decoction)
- Er Miao San (Two-Marvel Powder)



- Er Xian Tang (Two-Immortal Decoction)
- Er Zhi Wan (Two-Ultimate Pill)
- Fu Yuan Huo Xue Tang (Revive Health by Invigorating the Blood Decoction)
- Gan Mai Da Zao Tang (Licorice, Wheat, and Jujube Decoction)
- Ge Gen Huang Lian Huang Qin Tang (Kudzu, Coptis, and Scutellaria Decoction)
- Ge Gen Tang (Kudzu Decoction)
- Ge Xia Zhu Yu Tang (Drive Out Blood Stasis Below the Diaphragm Decoction)
- Gui Pi Tang (Restore the Spleen Decoction)
- Gui Zhi Fu Ling Wan (Cinnamon Twig and Poria Pill)
- Gui Zhi Shao Yao Zhi Mu Tang (Cinnamon Twig, Peony, and Anemarrhena Decoction)
- Gui Zhi Tang (Cinnamon Twig Decoction)
- Huang Lian E Jiao Tang (Coptis and Ass-Hide Gelatin Decoction)
- Huang Lian Jie Du Tang (Coptis Decoction to Relieve Toxicity)
- Huo Xiang Zheng Qi San (Agastache Powder to Rectify the Qi)
- Ji Chuan Jian (Benefit the River (Flow) Decoction)
- Juan Bi Tang (Remove Painful Obstruction Decoction from Medical Revelations)
- Jiao Ai Tang (Ass-Hide Gelatin and Mugwort Decoction)
- Jin Gui Shen Qi Wan (Kidney Qi Pill from the Golden Cabinet)
- Jin Suo Gu Jing Wan (Metal Lock Pill to Stabilize the Essence)
- Ju Pi Zhu Ru Tang (Tangerine Peel and Bamboo Shaving Decoction)
- Li Zhong Wan (Regulate the Middle Pill)
- Ling Gui Zhu Gan Tang (Poria, Cinnamon Twig, Atractylodis Macrocephalae and Licorice Decoction)
- Ling Jiao Gou Teng Tang (Antelope Horn and Uncaria Decoction)
- Liu Wei Di Huang Wan (Six-Ingredient Pill with Rehmannia)
- Long Dan Xie Gan Tang (Gentiana Longdancao Decoction to Drain the Liver)
- Ma Huang Tang (Ephedra Decoction)
- Ma Xing Shi Gan Tang (Ephedra, Apricot Kernel, Gypsum and Licorice Decoction)
- Ma Zi Ren Wan (Hemp Seed Pill)



- Mai Men Dong Tang (Ophiopogonis Decoction)
- Mu Li San (Oyster Shell Powder)
- Nuan Gan Jian (Warm the Liver Decoction)
- Ping Wei San (Calm the Stomach Powder)
- Pu Ji Xiao Du Yin (Universal Benefit Decoction to Eliminate Toxin)
- Qi Ju Di Huang Wan (Lycium Fruit, Chrysanthemum and Rehmannia Pill)
- Qiang Huo Sheng Shi Tang (Notopterygium Decoction to Overcome Dampness)
- Qing Wei San (Clear the Stomach Powder)
- Qing Gu San (Cool the Bones Powder)
- Qing Hao Bie Jia Tang (Artemisia Annuua and Soft-Shellled Turtle Shell Decoction)
- Qing Qi Hua Tan Wan (Clear the Qi and Transform Phlegm Pill)
- Qing Ying Tang (Clear the Nutritive Level Decoction)
- Qing Zao Jiu Fei Tang (Eliminate Dryness and Rescue the Lungs Decoction)
- Ren Shen Bai Du San (Ginseng Powder to Overcome Pathogenic Influences)
- San Zi Yang Qin Tang (Three-Seed Decoction to Nourish One's Parents)
- Sang Ju Yin (Mulberry Leaf and Chrysanthemum Decoction)
- Sang Piao Xiao San (Mantis Egg-Case Powder)
- Sang Xing Tang (Mulberry Leaf and Apricot Kernel Decoction)
- Shao Fu Zhu Yu Tang (Drive-Out Blood Stasis in the Lower Abdomen Decoction)
- Shao Yao Gan Cao Tang (Peony and Licorice Decoction)
- Shao Yao Tang (Peony Decoction)
- Shen Ling Bai Zhu San (Ginseng, Poria and Atractylodes Macrocephala Powder)
- Shen Tong Zhu Yu Tang (Drive Out Blood Stasis from a Painful Body Decoction)
- Sheng Hua Tang (Generation and Transformation Decoction)
- Sheng Mai San (Generate the Pulse Powder)
- Shi Quan Da Bu Tang (All Inclusive Great Tonifying Decoction)
- Shi Xiao San (Sudden Smile Powder)
- Shou Tai Wan (Fetus Longevity Pill)
- Si Jun Zi Tang (Four-Gentleman Decoction)
- Si Ni San (Frigid Extremities Powder)



- Si Ni Tang (Frigid Extremities Decoction)
- Si Shen Wan (Four-Miracle Pill)
- Si Wu Tang (Four-Substance Decoction)
- Su Zi Jiang Qi Tang (Perilla Fruit Decoction for Directing Qi Downward)
- Suan Zao Ren Tang (Sour Jujube Decoction)
- Tai Shan Pan Shi San (Powder that Gives the Stability of Mount Tai)
- Tian Ma Gou Teng Yin (Gastrodia and Uncaria Decoction)
- Tian Tai Wu Yao San (Top-quality Lindera Powder)
- Tian Wang Bu Xin Dan (Emperor of Heaven's Special Pill to Tonify the Heart)
- Tiao Wei Cheng Qi Tang (Regulate the Stomach and Order the Qi Decoction)
- Tong Xie Yao Fang (Important Formula for Painful Diarrhea)
- Wan Dai Tang (End Discharge Decoction)
- Wen Dan Tang (Warm the Gallbladder Decoction)
- Wen Jing Tang (Warm the Menses Decoction)
- Wu Ling San (Five-Ingredient Powder with Poria)
- Wu Pi San (Five-Peel Powder)
- Wu Wei Xiao Du Yin (Five-Ingredient Decoction to Eliminate Toxin)
- Wu Zhu Yu Tang (Evodia Decoction)
- Xi Jiao Di Huang Tang (Rhinoceros Horn and Rehmannia Decoction)
- Xiao Chai Hu Tang (Minor Bupleurum Decoction)
- Xiao Cheng Qi Tang (Minor Order the Qi Decoction)
- Xiao Feng San (Eliminate Wind Powder from True Lineage)
- Xiao Jian Zhong Tang (Minor Construct the Middle Decoction)
- Xiao Qing Long Tang (Minor Blue-Green Dragon Decoction)
- Xiao Yao San (Rambling Powder)
- Xie Bai San (Drain the White Powder)
- Xie Xin Tang (Drain the Epigastrium Decoction)
- Xing Su San (Apricot Kernel and Perilla Leaf Powder)
- Xue Fu Zhu Yu Tang (Drive Out Stasis in the Mansion of Blood Decoction)
- Yi Guan Jian (Linking Decoction)
- Yin Chen Hao Tang (Artemisia Yinchenhao Decoction)



- Yin Qiao San (Honeysuckle and Forsythia Powder)
- You Gui Wan (Restore the Right (Kidney) Pill)
- You Gui Yin (Restore the Right (Kidney) Decoction)
- Yu Nu Jian (Jade Woman Decoction)
- Yu Ping Feng San (Jade Windscreen Powder)
- Yue Ju Wan (Escape Restraint Pill)
- Zhen Gan Xi Feng Tang (Sedate the Liver and Extinguish Wind Decoction)
- Zhen Wu Tang (True Warrior Decoction)
- Zhi Bai Di Huang Wan (Anemarrhena Phellodendron and Rehmannia Pill)
- Zhi Gan Cao Tang (Honey-Fried Licorice Decoction)
- Zhi Sou San (Stop Coughing Powder)
- Zhu Ling Tang (Polyporus Decoction)
- Zhu Ye Shi Gao Tang (Lophatherus and Gypsum Decoction)
- Zuo Gui Wan (Restore the Left (Kidney) Pill)
- Zuo Gui Yin (Restore the Left (Kidney) Decoction)
- Zuo Jin Wan (Left Metal Pill)



Chinese Herbology Examination 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 single 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.

Primary Sources:

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