

National ECC Training Memo

National Center

7272 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75231-4596
Tel 214 373 6300
www.americanheart.org

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From: Jo Haag, RN, MSN
Director, ECC Training Programs

Subject: BLS INSTRUCTOR COURSE EXAMINATION

Purpose: To provide the tool for evaluation of cognitive knowledge following the BLS Instructor Course or the Heartsaver Instructor Course

Background: Instructor training is a critical part of ensuring consistent, high-quality course presentation. It contributes to better student learning and retention following training, which helps achieve the goal of improved patient outcome. One measure of an instructor candidate's understanding of the principles of education and course administration is a written examination.

Information: The BLS Instructor Course examination is to be used in both the BLS Instructor and Heartsaver Instructor Courses. This exam has been constructed to test cognitive objectives defined in the *Basic Life Support Instructor's Manual*. An "Instructor Exam Objectives Index" is provided with the exam answer sheet.

The exam consists of 2 parts:

Part I: BLS Instructor Examination (50 multiple-choice questions)

- A score of 84% or greater is required for successful course completion (8 or fewer questions missed).
- Completion is required by all instructor candidates at both the BLS and Heartsaver levels.
- The annotated answer sheet provides correct answers, the objectives that are addressed, references to answers and their locations in the text, and the reading level for each question.

Part II: BLS Instructor Short-Answer Examination

- Six short-answer questions (supplied)
 - This exam is a required part of the exam but it is not graded or included in the determination of successful course completion.
 - Questions are intended to stimulate discussion and ensure the inclusion of critical program information.
 - An annotated answer sheet is provided for these additional questions.
- Additional regional and / or training center administrative questions (not supplied)
 - Each training center is encouraged to include up to 9 questions of their choice.
 - An answer sheet must be created for these additional questions.

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Use of the Objectives Index and Annotated Answer Sheets:

- Along with their copy of the *Basic Life Support Instructor's Manual*, the objectives index should be provided to instructor candidates prior to attending the course. By emphasizing objectives for each section of Part I of the instructor's manual, course preparation will be facilitated.
- After grading all the exams, the corrected answer sheets should be returned to the students along with copies of the annotated answer sheets. Copies of all referenced materials must be available to the students. The TC Faculty / instructor trainer should answer questions and facilitate discussion about the test questions.
- All graded answer sheets, annotated answer sheets, and exams must be collected before students leave the class.

Remediation:

There is only one version of the BLS Instructor Examination. If a score of 84% is not achieved on the written examination, the instructor candidate should compare his or her answers with those on the annotated answer sheets and participate in any discussion that is held about the examination. The candidate will need to return on another day to retake the exam. Failure to achieve 84% on the second attempt requires retaking the instructor course.

Resources Referenced in the Instructor Examination:

ECC Program Administration Manual
CPR for Family and Friends
Heartsaver CPR
Heartsaver AED
BLS for Healthcare Providers
Basic Life Support Instructor's Manual