

**PART II PAM CONTENT BREAKDOWN**

The Part II PAM examination consists of 350 items administered as patient cases. The distribution of items by content area is indicated in the tables below.

Disease / Trauma (60% - 70% of items)	Item Count
Lids / Lashes / Lacrimal System / Ocular Adnexa / Orbit	11 – 22
Conjunctiva / Cornea / Refractive Surgery	33 – 44
Lens / Cataract / IOL / Pre- and Post-Operative Care	17 – 28
Episclera / Sclera / Uvea	11 – 22
Vitreous / Retina	33 – 44
Optic Nerve / Neuro-Ophthalmic Pathways	28 – 38
Glaucoma	16 – 27
Emergencies	11 – 22
Systemic Health	11 – 22

Refractive / Sensory / Oculomotor (30% - 40% of items)	Item Count
Ametropia	11 – 22
Ophthalmic Optics	6 – 17
Contact Lenses	17 – 28
Low Vision	6 – 17
Accommodative / Vergence / Oculomotor Anomalies	20 – 25
Amblyopia / Strabismus	6 – 17
Perceptual Function / Color Vision	6 – 17
Visual and Human Development	0 – 6**

\*\* Items pertaining to visual and human development may appear in cases in other categories.

The table below describes the types of items that will appear on the Part II PAM examination.

Type of Test Items	Content
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Most appropriate diagnosis
<b>Related Diagnosis</b>	Indicate data supporting or correlating with diagnosis; correlation of possible additional data; or indicate additional data or next test needed
<b>Treatment / Management</b>	Most appropriate treatment / management
<b>Related to Treatment / Management</b>	Treatment mechanism; additional data needed to treat effectively; additional data or next test needed; patient education; follow-up; or prognosis
<b>Clinical Correlation of Basic Science Principles</b>	Pathophysiology/etiology, anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, immunology/ microbiology/pathology, optics, pharmacology
<b>Legal Issues / Ethics</b>	Licensure and governmental regulation of optometry, standards of professional ethics, doctor-patient relationship, professional liability
<b>Public Health</b>	Epidemiology, biostatistics and measurement, environmental vision, health care policy and administration

## DESCRIPTION OF PART II PAM ITEMS

**PATIENT CASES** begin with a scenario in which the patient history and clinical data are presented. These data usually include at least one image. The scenarios are followed by 3-6 related multiple-choice items per case, each with 3-10 answer options.

The scenario is found on the left side of the Pearson VUE computer screen. The case images appear at the bottom of the left side of the screen, beneath the scenario. The 3-6 items are presented one at a time, on the right side of the screen. Candidates can view the scenario/images on the left side of the screen while they work with a case item on the right side.

Patient case images typically provide a considerable amount of essential patient information. Photos may supply normal or abnormal case details; candidates are expected to correctly interpret the visually presented findings. Images may include, but are not limited to, color photographs and such testing results as VFs, FAs, OCTs, ultrasonography, radiologic imaging, etc.

Case items may be multiple-choice, with a single correct answer, or they may be multiple-response, with up to 4 correct answers. It is necessary to select all of the correct answers, and only the correct answers, in a multiple-response question to receive credit.

The question portion (stem) of each multiple-response item indicates to the candidate how many of the options should be selected. For example, when an item stem asks, "Which 3 of the following ...," the stem concludes with the phrase (Select 3) to make it unmistakable to examinees that this is a multiple response item that requires 3 correct responses.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In multiple cases on the exam, "BVA" data are included in the patient scenarios. The abbreviation "BVA" refers to "best visual acuity" or "best-corrected visual acuity" measurement, which may be accomplished by refraction, pinhole testing, etc. Thus, all BVA entries refer to the best achievable visual acuity by the patient depicted in the scenario. If the BVA is reduced (e.g., worse than 20/20), no pinhole entry will be included in the BVA clinical data since it is implied via the BVA terminology that this has already been done.

Candidates should assume that VA at near was tested at 16 inches unless otherwise noted.

"Review of systems" entries are current symptoms reported by the patient. The patient's current medical conditions and diagnoses are recorded as "Patient medical history" entries.

All patients with diabetes mellitus will have an HgbA1c value as part of the medical history. Interpretation of HgbA1c values is considered an entry level skill; therefore, additional interpretation and/or normal ranges will not be given.

Some patient cases on the Part II PAM exam may include normal clinical photos and/or visuals. It is anticipated that candidates will review and appropriately interpret the visuals included in the patient cases.

When visual field images are displayed side-by-side, with the right visual field on the right and the left visual field on the left, the image numbers will appear to be out of sequence (see Sample Case 4 as an example). This occurs because images are numbered sequentially as referenced in the case scenario, and the OD is always referenced before the OS in the clinical findings section. In some instances, it is

necessary to display the visual fields vertically; in these instances, the right visual field will be on top followed by the left visual field below.

Candidates should assume that all items in the case refer specifically to the patient depicted in the scenario. If the item is not referencing the depicted patient, it will be stated clearly in the item stem. For example: "Which of the following is the most likely cause of this condition in the general population?" or "In most patients complaining of these symptoms ..."