



Frequently Asked Questions

PTA Student Version

If you don't find the answer to your question, please contact us and we will answer your questions. Just use the Contact Us on the Online Advantage home page.

HOW WERE THE QUESTIONS DEVELOPED IN THE STUDENT VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

A diverse group of item writers contributed to the development of the student version of Online Advantage. Great care was taken to ensure there was adequate representation in each of the system (musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiopulmonary, other) and non-system (equipment and devices; therapeutic modalities; safety and professional roles; teaching/learning; research) areas.

Item writers were given explicit instructions including a training manual to ensure that submitted questions were consistent with the style and format of the questions utilized on the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. Once created each examination was subjected to a minimum of three months of beta testing by physical therapist assistant students from academic programs throughout the United States.

IS ONLINE ADVANTAGE DESIGNED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT EXAMINATION?

Our goal is to provide students with the most realistic testing experience possible in order to better prepare students for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. We closely monitor all communication about the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and attempt to immediately integrate relevant changes into our products.

HOW MANY STUDENTS HAVE UTILIZED THE STUDENT VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

To date over 10,000 students have utilized the student version of Online Advantage. This is important since the established mean score in each of the system specific and content outline areas is based on an extremely diverse group of students from academic programs throughout the United States.

CAN ONLINE ADVANTAGE BE USED ON A VARIETY OF DEVICES?

Online Advantage is fully scalable meaning that you can access the sample examinations on your personal computer, tablet or mobile device. Our goal was to create a product compatible with your busy lifestyle.

WHAT METHODS CAN I USE TO PURCHASE THE STUDENT VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

The student version of Online Advantage must be purchased through our web site www.scorebuilders.com using a credit card.

HOW DO I ACCESS ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

An ID and Password is generated upon purchase. If you encounter any difficulty during the purchasing process, simply call our office (207)885-0304 to receive assistance. The ID and Password can be entered on the Online Advantage web site www.ola-sb.com.

IS THERE A RECOMMENDED PASSING SCORE FOR THE EXAMINATION?

There is not an established uniform "passing score" for the examinations since the circumstances in which students elect to take the examination are very different. For example, some students take the examination up to nine months prior to graduation, while others take the examinations after graduation. The most relevant factor to consider when deciding on the relative strength of an examination score is the mean examination score for all candidates. This number, which is constantly updated based on student performance, reflects the relative difficulty of the established examination. Ideally, a score of greater than or equal to the mean represents a strong score. Students' scores typically range from 70-112 or 50-80%.

WHAT PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS USING ONLINE ADVANTAGE PASS THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT EXAMINATION ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT?

Many academic programs anecdotally report a moderate to strong positive relationship between **Online Advantage** scores and NPTE-PTA scores. However, it is important to note that students should avoid determining their readiness for the actual examination based on a single practice examination. Research presented at APTA's Combined Sections Meeting revealed a 0.665 correlation between the **Online Advantage** score and the NPTE-PTA scale score.

IS IT DESIRABLE FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE ONLINE ADVANTAGE EXAMINATION?

Many students will take one Online Advantage examination early in their preparation and another examination much closer to their actual examination date. The rationale is that the first examination serves as a pre-test to establish a baseline and identify areas requiring remediation. The second examination then serves as a post-test to determine the amount of progress and the relative degree of preparedness for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination.

IS THERE A DISCOUNT OFFERED WHEN STUDENTS PURCHASE BOTH EXAMINATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE STUDENT VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

Students can save \$20 when the two examinations are purchased at the same time. The discounted price for the two examinations is \$50.

IF I PURCHASE BOTH EXAMINATIONS WILL I HAVE TO TAKE THE EXAMINATIONS WITHIN THE SAME 60-DAY PERIOD?

The 60-day periods are independent of each other and will not begin until the student initiates each of the respective examinations.

HOW LONG WILL STUDENTS HAVE TO ACCESS THEIR INDIVIDUAL DATA?

Students will have access to their individual data for 60-days once they initiate taking the examination. Students can print their performance analysis summary at any point during that period and review both their first and second attempts throughout the course of the 60-days.

IF THE 60-DAY PERIOD INADVERTENTLY EXPIRES, IS THERE ANY WAY TO GAIN ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO THE EXAMINATION?

Online Advantage allows students to purchase an additional 15-day access period if necessary.

IS THE SUMMARY DATA FROM "ALL CANDIDATES" BASED SOLELY ON THE STUDENTS' FIRST ATTEMPT OR DOES IT ALSO INCLUDE DATA FROM THE SECOND ATTEMPT?

Performance data for "all candidates" is based solely on data obtained from the students' first attempt. If students retake the same examination it is important to recognize that their ability to recall specific items from the examination will artificially inflate their actual score. As a result, the data from the second attempt is not utilized when determining summary data for "all candidates."

DO STUDENTS NEED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION IN A SINGLE SITTING?

Students are encouraged to take the examination in a single sitting since this most closely resembles the format utilized on the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. It is possible, however, to exit the examination if necessary. When exiting Online Advantage all question data will be automatically preserved.

CAN ONLINE ADVANTAGE ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED LEARNING DISABILITIES?

The time available for students to complete the 140 question examination is slightly over three hours. Students eligible for extended time (time and a half or double time) can easily be accommodated by calling our office (207) 885-0304. **Online Advantage** is compatible with several systems that magnify computer type for students that are visually impaired.

I CANNOT FIND MY SCHOOL LISTED IN THE ONLINE ADVANTAGE LIST OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS?

If you are unable to find the name of your academic program on our menu, please contact our office (207)885-0304.

CAN STUDENTS PRINT OUT THE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS?

Online Advantage is designed to be an interactive web-based study tool and therefore does not permit students to print out the examination. The program allows students to print their performance analysis summary and have full online access to the examination questions and explanations an unlimited number of times within the 60-day period.

DOES ONLINE ADVANTAGE OFFER EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS?

Each question in Online Advantage includes an explanation of the correct answer and an explanation for each incorrect answer including a cited resource with page number.

CAN STUDENTS TAKE AN EXAMINATION MORE THAN ONCE?

Online Advantage permits students to take each examination a maximum of two times. Students should recognize that the second attempt is typically a poor measure of mastery since students have already been exposed to the questions. It is critical, however, for students to utilize the performance analysis section of Online Advantage multiple times in order to review correct and incorrect questions and to determine individual strengths and weaknesses.

CAN STUDENTS PURCHASE THE ACADEMIC VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

Students are not permitted to purchase the academic version of Online Advantage. This restriction substantially reduces the potential of students being exposed to examination items in advance and increases the meaningfulness of obtained examination scores.



MY ACADEMIC PROGRAM WILL BE USING THE ACADEMIC VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE AS A COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAMINATION. WOULD IT BE USEFUL TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAMINATION BY TAKING ONE OR MORE OF THE EXAMINATIONS FROM THE STUDENT VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

Taking an examination from the student version of Online Advantage is an excellent method to prepare for the academic version. The rationale is that the first examination serves as a pre-test to establish a baseline and identify areas requiring remediation. The second examination (i.e., academic version) then serves as a post-test to determine the amount of progress and the relative degree of preparedness for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. Students electing to adopt this strategy should make sure they leave ample time between the two examinations in order to engage in designated remediation activities.

ARE THE QUESTIONS UTILIZED IN THE ACADEMIC VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE THE SAME AS THE QUESTIONS UTILIZED IN THE STUDENT VERSION?

The academic and student versions of Online Advantage are completely distinctive products that utilize independent examination questions. The academic version consists of two examinations and is designed solely for the use of academic programs electing to offer a comprehensive examination to their graduating students. The student version of Online Advantage consists of two examinations and is designed to assist students with their preparation for a comprehensive examination or the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination.

ARE THE QUESTIONS UTILIZED IN YOUR REVIEW BOOKS OR REVIEW COURSES THE SAME AS THE QUESTIONS UTILIZED IN THE STUDENT VERSION OF ONLINE ADVANTAGE?

Each of our products utilize independent examination questions.

DO THE QUESTIONS UTILIZED IN ONLINE ADVANTAGE CHANGE EACH YEAR?

An item analysis is performed annually on each of the examinations. As part of the process selected items are removed and new questions are added. Items are also removed and added to make sure the questions remain consistent with changes in the examination content outline. On average 10-30 questions will be replaced annually in each of the examinations.

DO THE EXAMINATIONS CONSIST OF 140 OR 180 QUESTIONS?

The NPTE-PTA consists of 180 questions, offered in four sections of 45 questions. 140 of the examination questions are scored items, while 40 of the questions are pre-test items used for possible inclusion as scored items in a future examination. Since a student's maximum attainable score on the actual examination is 140, all Online Advantage examinations consist of 140 questions offered in four sections of 35 questions.



IS ONLINE ADVANTAGE DESIGNED TO SERVE AS A WEB-BASED REVIEW COURSE?

Online Advantage is a web-based comprehensive testing program and is not designed to serve as a review course. Our two-day On-Campus Review Course and our online review course ACE - A Competitive Edge allow students to explore all elements of preparing for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. Scorebuilders offers over 300 review courses annually at many of the finest physical therapist and physical therapist assistant programs in the United States. Additional information on our review courses is available on our web site.