

## **BOTH CANDIDATE & EDUCATOR**

1. **What is the special research section for?**

The special research section is intended to collect data on new item types that could expand or enhance the measurement of entry-level nursing competence including clinical judgment.

2. **What does the Special Research Section look like?**

Once a candidate finishes their exam, an introductory screen will indicate the beginning of the Special Research Section. This section will also continue to be numbered in accordance with the completed exam – for example, if a candidate's exam ended with question 153, the first question on the Special Research Section will be numbered 154. Despite the consecutive numbering, these new questions will have no impact on NCLEX scoring or results.

3. **What kind of information will be collected in the special research section?**

The special research section will collect data for developing scoring rules, provide evidence of item characteristics and determine how much time candidates spend on each item.

4. **What kind of candidates will be selected for the special research section?**

Only NCLEX-RN candidates may be selected to participate in the special research section. A number of factors determine whether or not a candidate will be given the special research section (e.g., the time remaining in their NCLEX appointment).

5. **How will the items be scored (e.g., partial credit, full credit, etc.)?**

The special research section items will not be scored. One of the purposes of the special research section is to gather the data needed to determine scoring methods for the new item types.

6. **Will more information about the special research section come out soon?**

Yes. Language informing candidates about the special research section is included in the regular correspondence to NCLEX candidates, on the NCSBN and Pearson VUE websites and provided via the NCSBN social media sites.

## **CANDIDATE**

1. **If I receive the special research section, does that mean I passed my NCLEX?**  
No. It is important that candidates understand that whether or not they receive the special research section has no relationship to how they performed on their NCLEX.
2. **Will my performance on the special research section effect my NCLEX result?**  
No. Data derived from the research section will not be used to determine the candidate's result on the NCLEX.
3. **How long will the special research section take?**  
The special research section should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.
4. **Is there any benefit if I participate in the special research section?**  
Candidates participating in the special research section will be making a valuable contribution to the future development of NCSBN examinations and to the enhancement of the nursing profession.
5. **Is there any penalty if I refuse to participate in the special research section?**  
No. The special research section is optional and will not count towards candidate NCLEX results.
6. **I will require an accommodation, will I still be required to take the special research section?**  
No. The special research section is optional for all NCLEX-RN candidates.
7. **Can I exit the special research section any time or do I have to finish it once it is started?**  
A candidate who is selected to participate in the special research section will be able to exit at any time.
8. **If I use entire 6 hours to complete the NCLEX-RN, will I still receive the special research section?**  
Only those candidates with enough additional time remaining on their appointment will be directed to the special research section.
9. **Is there a place that I can make comments regarding the new item types?**  
Please contact [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org) or 1.866.293.9600 for comments regarding the special research section.

## **EDUCATOR**

- 1. What are the new item types that students can expect to see?**

NCSBN is researching several item types, including: extended multiple response items, extended drag and drop items, CLOZE items, enhanced hot-spot items, dynamic exhibit items, and constructed response items.
- 2. How long will this research be conducted?**

The first phase of the special research section is slated to occur between July and September 2017. Further special research sections may be included in future testing quarters depending on research needs
- 3. Why did NCSBN decide to conduct research on new item types?**

NCSBN is exploring new item types that could expand or enhance the measurement of entry-level nursing competence including clinical judgment.
- 4. Why are NCLEX-PN candidates not participating in the special research section?**

In order for NCSBN to be fiscally responsible in research, initial data collected for this project is only being conducted with NCLEX-RN candidates at this time. There are established plans for including NCLEX-PN candidates in future research related to the clinical judgment model.
- 5. How should students prepare for the special research section?**

As the new items included in the special research section are for research purposes only, no additional preparation is necessary. The special research section is testing the new item types' functionality, not the candidates' ability.
- 6. Will the new item types be more difficult for students who are not technologically savvy?**

NCSBN has conducted usability studies for the new item types and there are no other factors, like technological ability, that influence a candidate's exam performance on these items other than the candidate's nursing competency.
- 7. Will we receive reports on the special research section?**

The data from the special research section is part of an ongoing research project. Updates about findings will be provided at various points throughout the project to keep nursing stakeholders informed.
- 8. Can educators see the special research section?**

The special research section is testing the new item types' functionality, not the candidates' ability. All questions on the NCLEX-RN and the special research section are confidential, and are not available to anyone outside of the testing environment.
- 9. What resources/who created the new type of questions?**

Expert nurses and psychometricians at NCSBN and Pearson VUE created the new item types based on the steps of the clinical judgement model. The content was validated with approved nursing references and by NCSBN subject matter expert reviewers.

## **EDUCATOR (continued)**

10. **What research has been conducted to validate the new item types?**

Focus group studies, usability studies, and cognitive labs studies are either well underway or planned for future portions of this research project. The data from the special research section will be another step to collect important empirical evidence to validate new item types.

11. **How are the clinical scenarios validated/referenced?**

The content was validated with approved nursing references and by NCSBN subject matter expert reviewers.

12. **How can nursing schools incorporate the clinical judgement model into their curriculum?**

The communication plan for this research project will include early communication between NCSBN and the nursing education community to ensure effective integration of the clinical judgement model into nursing education programs.

13. **When will the new item types go into effect on the exam?**

The new item types are still in the research and development phase and the data gathered from the special research section will inform which item types are able to go through to further research steps.

14. **Is the NCLEX going to change?**

The new item types are still in the research and development phase, the results of which will inform whether the items are appropriate for the measurement of entry-level nursing competence. More research data is required before it can be determined whether or not the NCLEX will change.

15. **Will the cost of the exam change?**

The new item types are still in the research and development phase, the results of which will inform whether the items are appropriate for the measurement of entry-level nursing competence. More research data is required before it can be determined whether or not the NCLEX, and the associated fee, will change.