Review of NCLEX Modifications Effective Oct. 1, 2020

Jason A. Schwartz

Director, Test Development

NCSBN

Review of October 1 changes

- Return of pretest items

- Increased number of items on exam

- Return of NGN Special Research Section to RN exam

- Introduction of NGN Special Research Section to PN exam

- Removal of NCLEX tutorial

- Increased time available to candidates

Return of Pretest Items

When?	NCLEX-RN	NCLEX-PN
Pre-COVID	15 pretest items	25 pretest items
March 25-Sept 30	0 pretest items	0 pretest items
October 1	15 pretest items	15 pretest items

Why? – NCSBN relies on pretest items to maintain the item bank.

Increased number of items

When?	NCLEX-RN	NCLEX-PN
Pre-COVID	75 – 265 items	85 – 205 items
March 25-Sept 30	60 – 130 items	60 – 130 items
October 1	75 – 145 items	75 – 145 items

Why? – The return of pretest items adds 15 items to each exam.

NGN Special Research Section

When?	NCLEX-RN	NCLEX-PN
Pre-COVID	Optional	None
March 25-Sept 30	None	None
October 1	Optional	Optional

Why? – The SRS supports data analysis important to the NGN.

Removal of tutorial

When?	NCLEX-RN	NCLEX-PN
Pre-COVID	Online and on exam	Online and on exam
March 25-Sept 30	Online and on exam	Online and on exam
October 1	Online only	Online only

Why? – The removal of the tutorial reduces test taking time.

Increased testing time

When?	NCLEX-RN	NCLEX-PN
Pre-COVID	6 hours	5 hours
March 25-Sept 30	4 hours	4 hours
October 1	5 hours	5 hours

Why? – Time has been added to support return of Pretest and SRS items

What else?

- Continued use of computer adaptive testing (CAT)

- Exam difficulty remains the same

- October 1 modifications are expected to remain in place until NGN launch

- NCSBN will continue to keep you informed through our website, our FAQs, and educator webinars