

APPENDIX N

Content Analysis of the AFTE Written Examinations

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The percentage of items in each of the content categories (listed in the tables below) should be regarded as only estimates. Many of the written test items are linked to multiple KSAs, thereby enabling them to be included in more than one of the content categories (and thus, making it difficult to establish the exact percentage of items in each category). Additionally, the numbers in the tables below reflect the percentages of items in each of the content areas for the examinations administered during the 1999 AFTE Training Seminar. Future item edits to the AFTE written examinations could result in slight variations in these percentages.

AFTE Firearm Written Examination

Content Area	Proposed %	% in Form A	% in Form B
Collection and Preservation of Firearms Evidence	13	9	9
Examination of Firearms Evidence	60	69	69
Examination of Gunshot Residue Evidence	6	7	7
Examination of Toolmark Evidence	4	1	1
Documentation of Physical Evidence and Analytical Results	4	2	2
Safe Work Practices	7	6	6
Professional Development	4	4	4
Maintaining Professional Ethical Standards of Conduct	2	2	2

AFTE Gunshot Residue Written Examination

Content Area	Proposed %	% in Form A	% in Form B
Collection and Preservation of Firearms Evidence	16	9	10
Examination of Firearms Evidence	10	14	14
Examination of Gunshot Residue Evidence	39	46	47
Examination of Toolmark Evidence	0	0	0
Documentation of Physical Evidence and Analytical Results	5	6	6
Safe Work Practices	9	4	5
Professional Development	6	4	5
Maintaining Professional Ethical Standards of Conduct	3	4	3

AFTE Toolmark Written Examination

Content Area	Proposed %	% in Form A	% in Form B
Collection and Preservation of Firearms Evidence	21	22	21
Examination of Firearms Evidence	14	13	16
Examination of Gunshot Residue Evidence	0	0	0
Examination of Toolmark Evidence	39	46	39
Documentation of Physical Evidence and Analytical Results	6	5	8
Safe Work Practices	8	4	5
Professional Development	9	6	7
Maintaining Professional Ethical Standards of Conduct	3	4	4