

## **Content Blueprint for the Orthopaedic Surgery CAQ Examination**

The Orthopaedic Surgery CAQ content blueprint provides information on how exam questions are allocated to the different task categories and medical content categories that have been deemed important for PAs working within the specialty area.

The examples provided for each task and medical content category are indicative of the types of information that will be included on the examination. It is not possible to include all topics on a single examination, and it may be possible that some questions on a single examination cover content that is not listed in the examples.

### **Medical Content Categories**

1. Benign and Malignant Bone Tumors	5%
2. Fractures/Dislocations	25%
3. Infectious Diseases and Connective Tissue Disorders	5%
4. Joint Disorders	20%
5. Pediatric	4%
6. Preoperative, Postoperative, and Complication Management	7%
7. Soft-Tissue Injuries and Disorders	25%
8. Spine	7%
9. Professional, Legal, and Ethical Issues	2%

### **Task Categories**

A - History Taking and Performing Physical Examination	20%
B - Ordering and Interpreting Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies	20%
C - Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	25%
D1 - Patient Education and Preventive Measures	5%
D2 - Treatment/Intervention	25%
E - Applying Scientific Concepts	3%
L - Professional, Legal, and Ethical Issues	2%

### **Medical Content Categories**

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| <p><b>1. BENIGN AND MALIGNANT BONE TUMORS (5%)</b></p> <p>A. Benign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aneurysmal bone cyst</li> <li>○ Enchondroma</li> <li>○ Giant cell tumor</li> <li>○ Nonossifying fibroma</li> <li>○ Osteochondroma</li> <li>○ Osteoid osteoma</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Solitary (unicameral) bone cyst</li> </ul> <p>B. Malignant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chondrosarcoma</li> <li>○ Ewing sarcoma</li> <li>○ Fibrosarcoma</li> <li>○ Osteosarcoma</li> </ul> <p>C. Metastatic disease</p> |
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- Metastasis from other primary site
    - Metastasis from primary bone tumors
  - D. Multiple myeloma
- 2. FRACTURES/DISLOCATIONS (25%)**
- A. Lower extremity
    - Dislocations
      - Foot/ankle/toe
      - Knee
      - Patella
    - Fractures
      - Amputation injury
      - Femur
      - Foot
      - Lauge-Hansen/AO classification/Weber classification
      - Maisonneuve
      - Patella
      - Pilon
      - Tibia and fibula
      - Tibial plateau
      - Tibial shaft
  - B. Management/healing
    - Complications of healing
      - Malunion
      - Nonunion
    - Management techniques
      - Closed reduction
      - Immobilization
      - Operative fixation
      - Rehabilitation
    - Open vs. closed injury
  - C. Pathologic fractures
    - Osteoporotic fracture
    - Stress fracture
    - Tumor fracture
  - D. Pediatric
    - Dislocations
      - Nursemaid's elbow
    - Fractures
      - ASIS avulsion
      - Both-bone forearm fracture
      - Condyle fracture
      - Distal radius fracture
      - Fractures related to child abuse
      - Fractures related to growth arrest
      - Salter-Harris classification of fractures
      - Supracondylar humerus fracture
      - Tillaux fracture
      - Toddler fracture
      - Torus fracture
      - Triplane fracture
  - E. Pelvis and hip
    - Fractures
  - Acetabulum
    - Femoral neck
    - Intertrochanteric
    - Pubic ramus
  - Hip dislocation
  - Pelvic fracture
- F. Spine
- Dislocation/subluxation
  - Fractures
    - Burst
    - Compression
    - Occult
    - Stable vs. unstable
- G. Upper extremity
- Dislocations
    - Acromioclavicular/sternoclavicular
    - Elbow
    - Glenohumeral
    - Hand/wrist/finger
  - Fractures
    - Amputation injury
    - Clavicle
    - Distal radius
    - Elbow
    - Galeazzi
    - Hand/wrist/finger
    - Humerus
    - Monteggia

### 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISORDERS (5%)

- A. Diabetic infections
  - Diabetic foot ulcer
  - Diabetic skin infection
  - Foot amputation
  - Pressure injury
- B. Metabolic bone/connective tissue disorders
  - Hyperparathyroidism
  - Osteogenesis imperfecta
  - Osteoporosis
  - Paget disease
  - Rickets
- C. Osteomyelitis
  - Acute
  - Chronic
- D. Rheumatologic disorders
  - Lupus
  - Rheumatoid arthritis
- E. Septic arthritis
- F. Soft-tissue infections
  - Abscess
  - Bite injuries
    - Cat/dog
    - Human
  - Cellulitis
  - Clostridial myonecrosis

- Felon
    - Flexor suppurative tenosynovitis
    - Necrotizing fasciitis
  - G. Tick-borne disease
  - H. Syphilitic arthritis
- 4. JOINT DISORDERS (20%)**
- A. Articular cartilage injuries
    - Osteochondritis dissecans
    - Traumatic arthritis
  - B. Degenerative joint disease
    - Ankle
    - Elbow
    - Hand
    - Hip/pelvis
    - Knee
    - Shoulder
      - Acromioclavicular joint
      - Glenohumeral
      - Rotator cuff arthropathy
    - Spine
    - Wrist
  - C. Inflammatory arthropathies
    - Gout
    - Pseudogout
    - Polymyalgia rheumatica
    - Psoriatic arthritis
    - Synovial chondromatosis
  - D. Joint arthroplasty indications and complications
    - Hip
    - Knee
    - Shoulder
  - E. Revision arthroplasty
    - Aseptic loosening
    - Infection
    - Joint instability
    - Periprosthetic fracture
    - Prosthetic joint wear
  - F. Avascular necrosis
- 5. PEDIATRIC (4%)**
- A. Clubfoot
  - B. Developmental dysplasia of the hip
  - C. Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease
  - D. Apophysitis
  - E. Slipped capital femoral epiphysis
  - F. Rotational and angular deformities
  - G. Transient synovitis
  - H. Septic arthritis
- 6. PREOPERATIVE, POSTOPERATIVE, AND COMPLICATION MANAGEMENT (7%)**
- A. Acute respiratory distress/fat embolism syndrome
  - B. Coagulation disorders
  - C. Complex regional pain syndrome
- D. Deep venous thrombosis prophylaxis
  - E. Myositis ossificans/heterotopic ossification
  - F. Neurovascular injury
  - G. Pressure injuries
  - H. Deep venous thrombosis/pulmonary embolism
  - I. Transfusion reaction
  - J. Wound management
  - K. Malignant hyperthermia
  - L. Postoperative pain management
    - Long-acting regional anesthesia
    - Non-pharmacologic
    - Pharmacologic
  - M. Postoperative fever
  - N. Rhabdomyolysis
  - O. Shock
- 7. SOFT-TISSUE INJURIES AND DISORDERS (25%)**
- A. Benign cysts
    - Ganglion
    - Inclusion
    - Popliteal (Baker)
  - B. Bursitis
  - C. Elbow, wrist, and hand disorders
    - De Quervain tenosynovitis
    - Degloving injury
    - Distal biceps tendon rupture
    - Dupuytren contracture
    - Epicondylitis
    - Gamekeeper thumb
    - High-pressure injection injury
    - Mallet finger
    - Olecranon bursitis
    - Scapholunate dissociation
    - Subungual hematoma/nail bed injury
    - Tendinitis/tendon injury
    - Trigger finger
    - Ulnar collateral ligament/Tommy John injury
  - D. Foot/ankle disorders
    - Achilles tendon rupture/tendinitis
    - Ankle sprain
    - Hallux valgus
    - Hammer toe
    - Interdigital neuroma
    - Pes planus
    - Plantar fasciitis
    - Syndesmosis injury
    - Tarsal coalition
    - Tendonitis/tendon injury
    - Turf toe
  - E. Hip and pelvic disorders
    - Femoroacetabular impingement
    - Hamstring injury
    - Labrum tear
    - Piriformis syndrome

- Trochanteric bursitis
- F. Knee disorders**
  - Iliotibial band syndrome
  - Ligament injury
    - Anterior and posterior cruciate
    - Medial and lateral collateral
  - Meniscus tear
  - Patellar tendon rupture/tendinitis
  - Patellofemoral instability
  - Patellofemoral syndrome
  - Quadriceps tendon rupture/tendinitis
  - Pes anserine bursitis
  - Prepatellar bursitis
- G. Neurologic disorders**
  - Brachial plexus injury
    - Erb palsy
    - Neurapraxia
  - Peripheral neuropathies
    - Carpal tunnel
    - Cubital tunnel
    - Diabetic neuropathy
    - Peroneal neuropathy
    - Radial tunnel
    - Tarsal tunnel
  - Compartment syndrome
    - Acute
    - Exertional
- H. Shoulder disorders**
  - Adhesive capsulitis
  - Calcific tendinitis
  - Glenohumeral instability
  - Labrum tear
  - Proximal biceps injury
  - Rotator cuff tears/tendonitis
  - Subacromial bursitis
- 8. SPINE (7%)**
  - A. Diskogenic pain
  - B. Musculoskeletal strain
  - C. Scoliosis
    - Adult
    - Pediatric
  - D. Spinal stenosis
  - E. Spondylolisthesis
  - F. Spondylosis
  - G. Radiculopathy/myelopathy
    - Cervical
    - Lumbar
    - Sciatica
  - H. Spinal cord syndromes
  - I. Cauda equina syndrome
  - J. Ankylosing spondylitis
- 9. PROFESSIONAL, LEGAL, AND ETHICAL ISSUES (2%)**