



How to think

John Ikeda, OD





RULES

- 1. Attendance**
Optional
- 2. Put away
cellphones +
computers**

Ideas

Why is our pass rate low?

1

How to prepare

2

NBEO examples

3

Examples

4

Summary

5



I googled “NBEO pass rate”

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 optometriceducation.org/news/national-board-of-examiners-in-optometry-yearly-performance-report/

futureeyedoc.org ASCO Learning Center OptomCAS Optometry Admission Test Optometry Programs Admissions Directory ASCOConnect Meetings & Events Sponsor



National Board of Examiners in Optometry Yearly Performance Report

🕒 December 22, 2022

For Faculty & Administrators +

For Practitioners +

Future Students +

Current Students +

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging +

Data & Reports +

Awards & Grants +

News & Resources ×

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 Institutional Yearly Performance Report

Schools	Number of Candidates	Part I ABS First Timer Pass Rate	Part II PAM First Timer Pass Rate	Part III CSE First Timer Pass Rate	Ultimate Pass Rate
Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University ⁵	51	86.27%	98.04%	94.12%	98.04%
Chicago College of Optometry ⁵	44	68.18%	72.73%	93.18%	95.45%
Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry & Vision Science	62	88.71%	95.16%	96.77%	98.39%
IAUPR-School of Optometry ¹	32	37.50%	40.63%	40.63%	68.75%
Illinois College of Optometry	132	81.06%	95.45%	90.15%	96.97%
Indiana University School of Optometry	69	65.22%	92.75%	78.26%	85.51%
Michigan College of Optometry ⁴	36	83.33%	97.22%	77.78%	91.67%
New England College of Optometry	112	74.11%	90.18%	72.32%	89.29%
Northeastern State University, Oklahoma College of Optometry ³	27	77.78%	96.30%	74.07%	96.30%
Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry ¹	97	72.16%	85.57%	80.41%	90.72%
Pacific University College of Optometry	87	74.71%	86.21%	85.06%	85.06%

Schools	Candidates	Timer Pass Rate	Timer Pass Rate	Timer Pass Rate	Pass Rate
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Pacific University College of Optometry	87	74.71%	86.21%	85.06%	85.06%
Salus University, Pennsylvania College of Optometry	149	73.83%	81.88%	81.21%	83.89%
School of Optometry, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	51	50.98%	60.78%	68.63%	66.67%
Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B Ketchum University	103	76.70%	86.41%	86.41%	90.29%
Southern College of Optometry ²	120	85.00%	91.67%	79.17%	97.50%
State University of New York College of Optometry	95	87.37%	93.68%	81.05%	93.68%
The Ohio State University College of Optometry	69	92.75%	97.10%	89.86%	95.65%
University of Missouri St. Louis, College of Optometry ⁴	37	86.49%	94.59%	72.97%	94.59%
University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry	39	71.79%	97.44%	74.36%	92.31%
University of Houston College of Optometry	94	73.40%	87.23%	89.36%	89.36%
University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry	70	41.43%	60.00%	44.29%	60.00%
University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry	50	56.00%	82.00%	76.00%	78.00%
Western University of Health Sciences	75	44.00%	70.67%	73.33%	66.67%
National	1701	73.19%	86.01%	79.89%	87.77%

NBEO FIRST-TIME PASS RATES

Exam	Year	Timeframe	Administration	Number of first-time takers	First-time pass rate (%)
Part 1- ABS	2020	9/1/2019- 8/31/2020	*July-20, Nov-20, Jan -21	84	65.48%
Part 2 – PAM		9/1/2019- 8/31/2020	Dec-19, *Jul-20	81	82.72%
Part 3 – CSE		8/1/2019 – 7/31/2020		74	79.73%
Part 1- ABS	2021	9/1/2020 – 8/31/2021	Mar-21, Aug-21	64	48.44%
Part 2 – PAM		9/1/2020 -8/31/2021	Dec-20, Apr-21	68	80.88%
Part 3 – CSE		8/1/2020 – 7/31/2020		80	72.50%
Part 1 – ABS	2022	9/1/2021 – 8/31/2022	Mar-22, Aug-22	53	22.6%
Part 2 – PAM		9/1/2021 – 8/31/2022	Dec-21, April-22	80	67.50%
Part 3 – CSE		8/1/2021 – 7/31/2022		80	71.25%

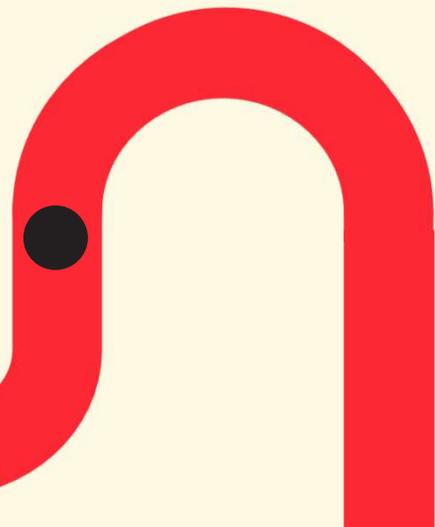
<https://www.westernu.edu/optometry/about-the-college/student-outcomes/>



1

You have the power

- **Our school is probably average: no better, no worse**
- **You have the opportunity to make what you want of this education**
- **Don't expect you to be prepared for the test just because you studied and passed classes at school**
- **After you graduate, there are some students that will continue to learn and some who do not**
- **Go to meetings (AOA, AAO, OEPPF), read outside of class, buy textbooks**



**1**

Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- 1. Summarize**
- 2. Know important diagnoses (common or life threatening)**
- 3. Read multiple sources (not relying on lectures or KMK)**
- 4. Use google**

• Don't

- 1. Memorize**
- 2. Read KMK several times**
- 3. Uses Optoprep**
- 4. Highlighting and making flashcard**
- 5. Memorize mnemonics**



1

Studying a lot ≠ passing

DATE	PARTS		
	I	II	III
Mar	100F		
Aug	100F		
Dec		100F	
Mar	100F		
Apr		100F	
Jun			325P
Dec		102F	
Mar	117F		
Apr		100F	
Aug	108F		
Dec		263F	
Aug	277F		
Dec		153F	
Nov	368P		
Apr		462P	

A decorative graphic on a light yellow background. It features a red L-shaped line in the top right, a green line that starts from the left, curves down, and then continues horizontally across the bottom, passing under a blue arch. An orange circle is on the left side. Two small black dots are on the green line: one at the top curve and one at the end of the bottom horizontal segment.

**Goal: Pass
NBEO Part 1,2,3**



2

How to prepare

- **Goal: To be the best doctor**
- **Remember details that help you care for your patients**
- **Don't try to remember everything**
- **“Tell the story”**



12

- **What is astigmatism?**



2

How to prepare: “Tell the story”

Example:

- **Diabetes – poor perfusion**
- **Uveitis – autoimmune**
- **Neurotrophic Keratitis – damage of cornea nerves by herpes**
- **Ocular Ischemic Syndrome – midperipheral hemes**



2

Example: Low Yield

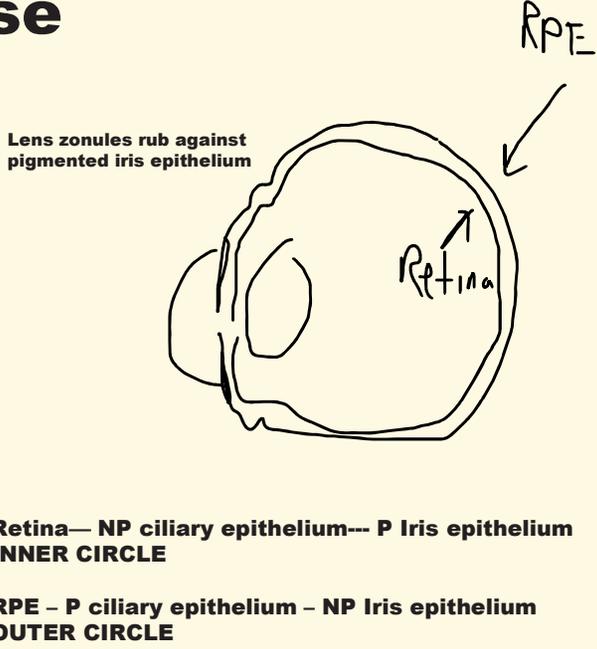
Embryonic Tissue*		Eye Tissue
Ectoderm	Neuroectoderm (stains with S-100)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retina → nonpigmented epithelium of ciliary body → pigmented iris epithelium• Retinal pigmented epithelium → pigmented epithelium of ciliary body → dilator & sphincter muscles of iris• Optic nerve• Vitreous (partial)
	Neural Crest Cells (stains with S-100)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corneal stroma & endothelium• Sclera (partial)• Trabecular meshwork• Ciliary muscles• Melanocytes• Schwann cells (think schwannoma/neurilemoma)• Meningeal sheaths of the optic nerve (think meningioma)• Vitreous (primary)• Pretty much everything else
	Surface Ectoderm ("LEVL surface")	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lens• Epithelium (cornea, conjunctiva, caruncle, skin)• Vitreous (partial)• Lacrimal gland / Lacrimal drainage system
Mesoderm ("MESO")	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muscles (fibers of EOMs)• Endothelium of all eye/orbital blood vessels• Sclera (temporal portion) / Schlemm canal• Other (vitreous)	

<https://www.opthalmologyreview.org/articles/embryologic-development-of-the-eye>

Example : Low yield

- **Facts about development of surface ectoderm, neural ectoderm, neurocrest cells**
- **BUT you might see how it makes sense**

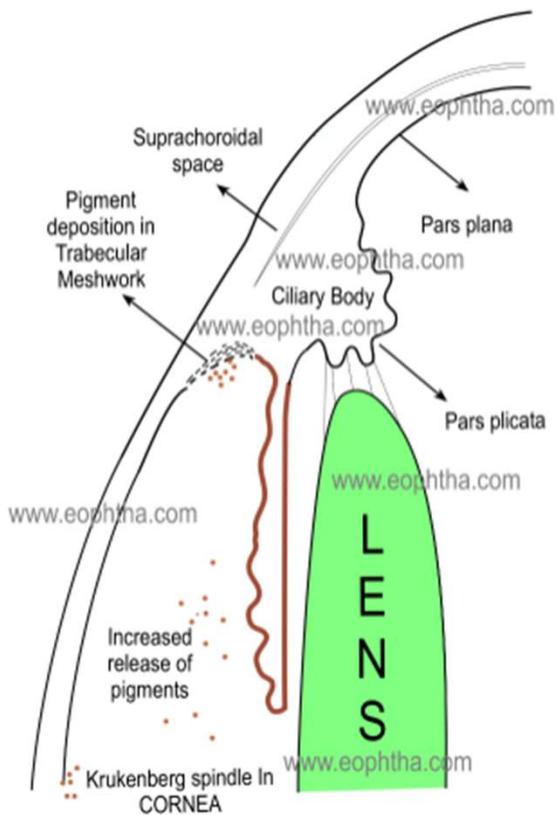
 EMBRYOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE EYE - MNEMONIC <small>WWW.OPENMED.CO.IN</small>				
EMBRYONIC TISSUE	SURFACE ECTODERM	NEURO ECTODERM	MESODERM	NEURAL CREST
MNEMONIC	LEVEL	ROMES	MESO	(All other structures)
DERIVATIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lens • Eyelid's Skin • Vitreous • Epithelium of cornea • Lacrimal gland <small>WWW.OPENMED.CO.IN</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retina • Optic Stalk/Nerve • Muscles of Iris • Epithelium of Iris & Ciliary body • Secondary & Tertiary vitreous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscles (Extra ocular) • Endothelium of Blood Vessels • Sclera (Temporal) • Occular Primary Vitreous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornea (stroma and endothelium) • Sclera • Trabecular meshwork • Vitreous • Melanocytes • Ciliary muscles • Ciliary ganglion





2

How to prepare



www.eophtha.com



2

Remember only the basics

**Two facts I want you remember:
6 year old should see 20/20 Snellen
1 year old should see 20/60 Snellen**

Scientific Research Publishing

Gestacional Age (months)	Minimal LogMAR	Minimal Snellen	Mean LogMAR	Mean Snellen
0	1.18	20/300	0.93	20/170
1	1.10	20/250	0.88	20/150
2	0.93	20/170	0.7	20/100
3	0.88	20/150	0.6	20/80
4	0.81	20/130	0.54	20/70
5	0.78	20/120	0.48	20/60
6 - 8	0.65	20/90	0.3	20/40
9 - 11	0.60	20/80	0.3	20/40
12 - 17	0.48	20/60	0.18	20/30
18 - 23	0.35	20/45	0.1	20/25
24 - 29	0.24	20/35	0.1	20/25
30	0.18	20/30	0	20/20

Table 1
Expected visual milestones through early childhood

Age	Visual Milestone
Birth to 2 mo	Blinks to light
2-3 mo	Fix and follows
3 mo to 3 y	Central steady maintained
4-5 y	20/40 Pictures
5-6 y	20/30 Letters
6-7 y+	20/20 Snellen

Table 1 Expected visual milestones through early childhood



2

Example: What is useful?

Table 1. Expected visual acuity according to the age

Age (mo)	OKN	PL	VEP
0	20/400	20/400	20/400
2	20/200	20/200	20/60
4	20/200	20/200	20/60
6	20/100	20/150	20/40
12	20/60	20/50	20/20

OKN, optokinetic nystagmus test; PL, preferential looking test; VEP, visual evoked potential test.

Table 1. Expected visual acuity according to the age

Published in 2017

Pediatric visual acuity examinations and vision care

H. Paik



Clinically: We are mainly going to use PL (or Snellen only)
I've never used VEP or OKN
in clinic. But know that 1 year reaches 20/20 in VEP

Useful fact:

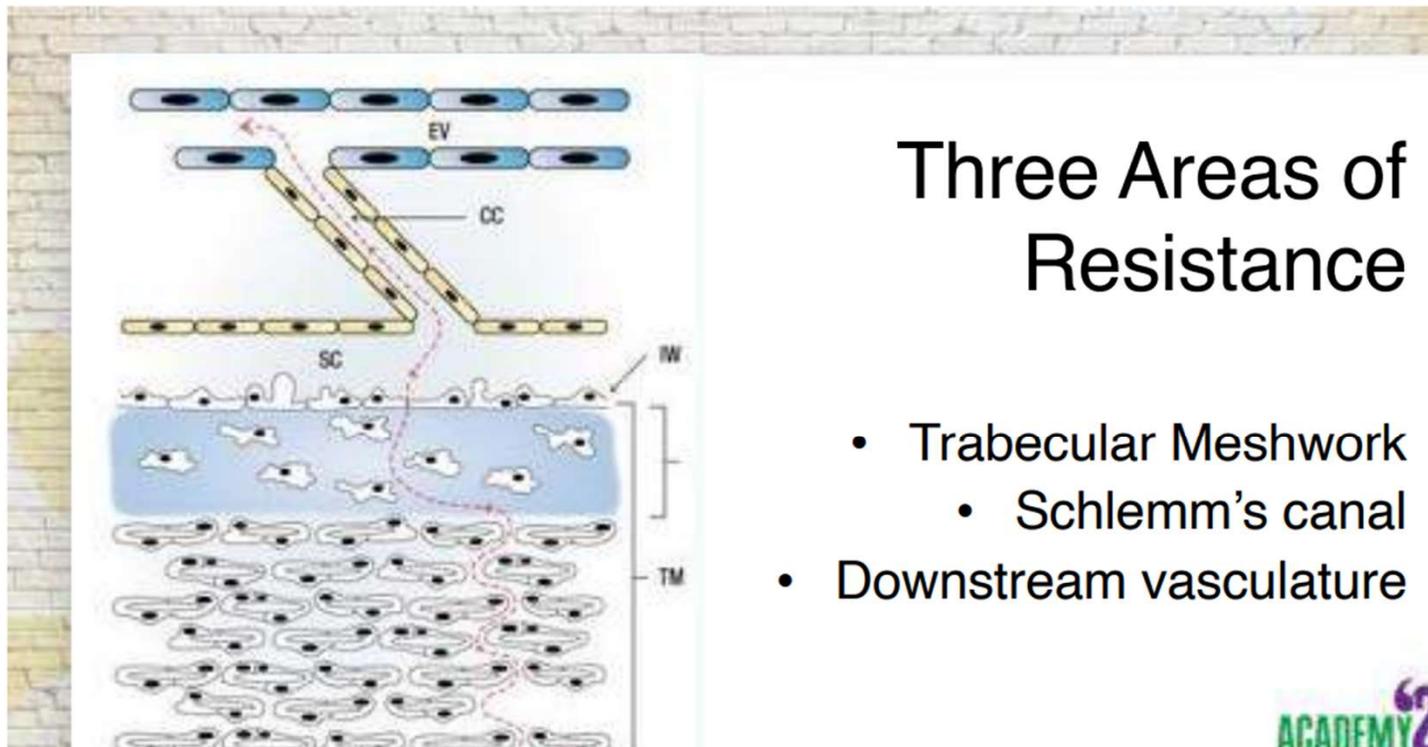
OKN Drum -optokinetic reflex
Check for congenital strabismus by asymmetric temp to nasal vs nasal to temp confirms no binocularity)



2

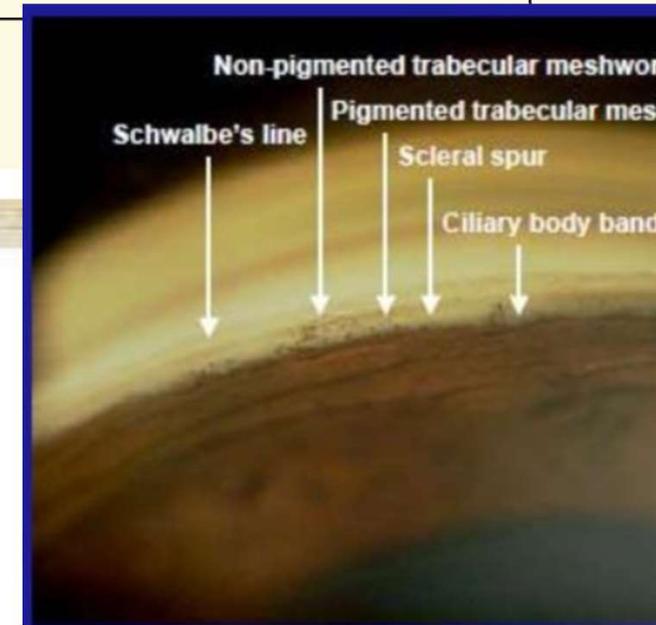
I hate mnemonics

• I Can't See That Stupid Line



Three Areas of Resistance

- Trabecular Meshwork
 - Schlemm's canal
- Downstream vasculature





2

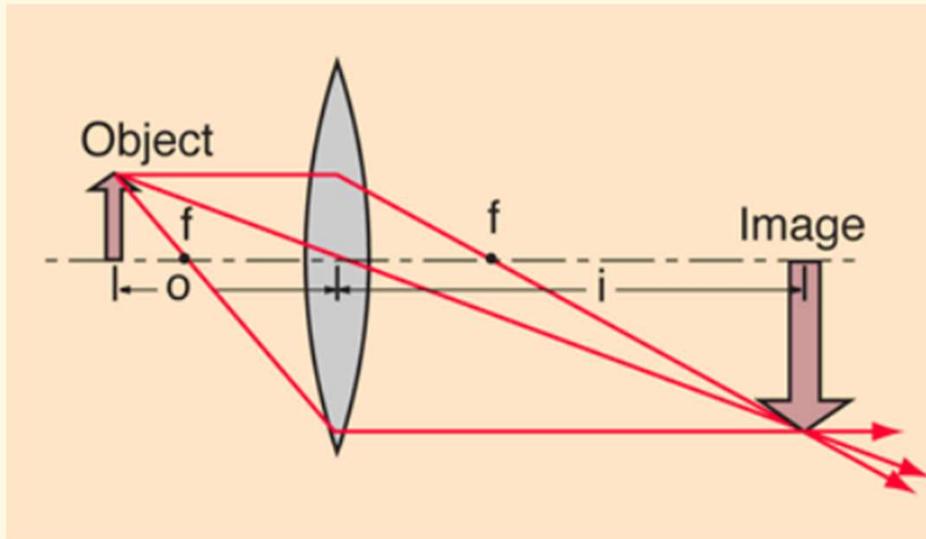
I hate mnemonics

- **Name 5 causes of proliferative retinopathy?**
 - *Diabetes, ROP, Vein Occlusion, OIS, Sickle Cell*
- **Think how you don't need to memorize this. What do all the conditions have in common?**
- **All conditions all have poor perfusion**



2

Example: Very high yield



<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/geoopt/raydiag.html#c2>



2

Example: You must know this!

- **All objects have divergence**
- **The further away the object is away from the lens....
You get what? (no divergence or parallel light rays)**
- **All real objects are inverted**

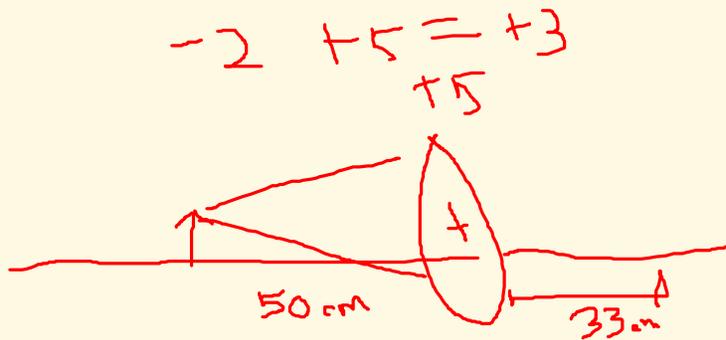


2

Example: Very high yield

- Optics
- $L + F = L'$

You don't have to memorize





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You must know this!

- **The rest is basic algebra**
- **For instance is it asks what is height of the object**
You would just set up a ratio $1/50 = x / 33$ $x = 0.66$

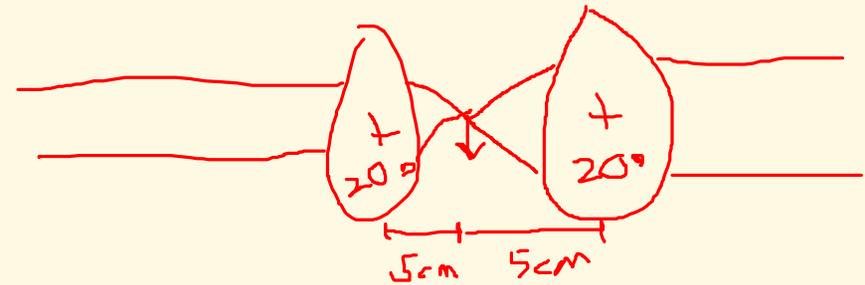
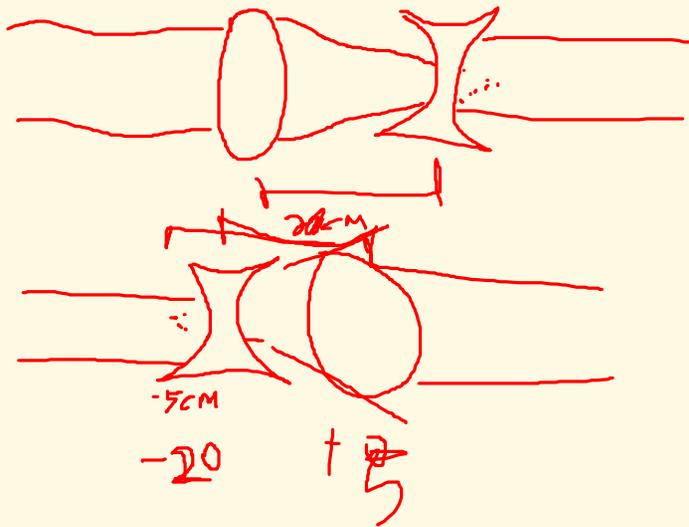
If the object is 1 ft tall, the image would be 0.66 ft tall



2

Example: You must know this!

- Telescopes





2

Retinoscopy



2

Example: Very low yield

- **Review two sources of White Dot Syndrome**
- **Summarize White Dot Syndrome after looking at the resources**
- **([OptometryAcademy.com/whitedotsyndrome](https://www.optometryacademy.com/whitedotsyndrome))**



3

NBEO practice questions

1. https://www.nbeo.org/pdf/matrix/pdf/part_abs_samples.pdf
2. https://www.nbeo.org/part_pam_sample.cfm
3. https://www.nbeo.org/pdf/contents/ACMO_Sample_Patients.pdf
4. https://www.nbeo.org/pdf/CPDO_Sample_Patient_Cases.pdf
5. https://www.nbeo.org/pdf/CPDO_Sample_Solo_Items.pdf
6. https://www.nbeo.org/pdf/CPDO_Sample_Minicases.pdf



4

Examples:

- **What is a normal phoria at distance and near?**
- **What is a cover test?**
- **What is the most common cause of a RAPD?**
- **What spectacle Rx do you need to think about vertex distance?**

**Think: How can I
retain information long
term?**





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Use your time wisely

Study Multiple Resources

Use resources outside of classes

Optics

The main topic to passing boards

Tell the Story

Explain conditions in simple language

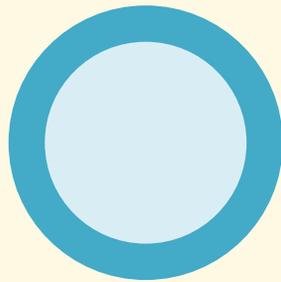
NBEO practice questions

But not excessive questions



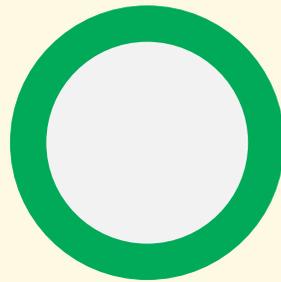
32

My recommendations



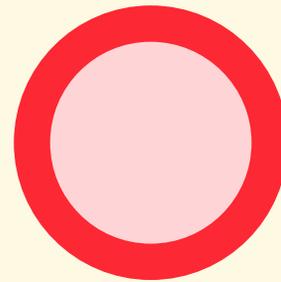
Attend Class

Getting an A isn't everything



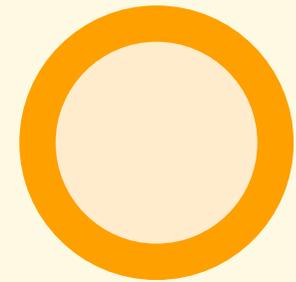
Study KMK

Read it as a book (once)



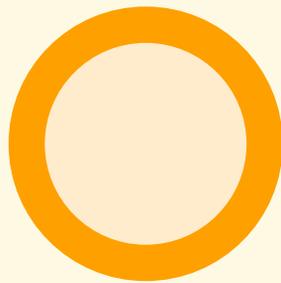
Google

Look for other resources



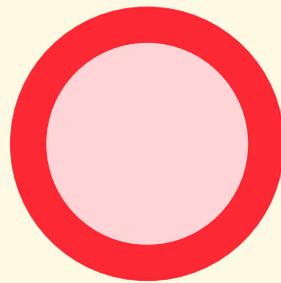
Attend Meetings

AOA, AAO, OEPP



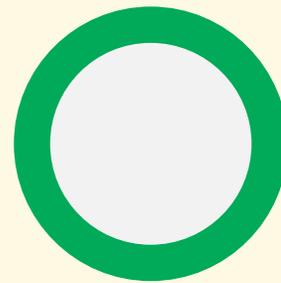
Read Textbooks

Ocular Anatomy



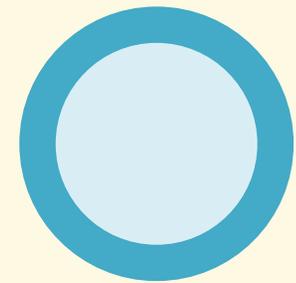
Review of Optometry

Magazine is a good summary



Think Big Picture

Connect the Dots



Ask for Help

Ask faculty if you need help



11

Timeline





3

How to think

What is a cover test?

- A cover test doesn't just measure phoria or eye alignment exactly.
- You can think of it as you explain to a parent and showing them what you are testing.
- First, a cover test require fixation.
- On unilateral cover test, I ask a patient to look at my target and both eyes should be looking at the target, and then I check to see if each eye is actually looking at it or needs to take refixation because it wasn't actually looking at it.
- A cover test isn't just a number, but a process and a state of ocular alignment.
- Cover test is an unnatural test, since it is a dissociated phoria, unlike a associated phoria like a Mallett Test or Vectographic slide.

What is pupil testing?

- You are testing **afferent (sensory)** as opposed to efferent (motor) issue. One of the most common is glaucoma. It is a **relative** condition meaning if the glaucoma (even if severe) was affected equally in both eyes you wouldn't have any relative APD.



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How we get there

What is allergies?

- **Itchiness**

What is bacterial conjunctivitis?

- **Mucopurulent**

What is diabetic retinopathy?

- **Lack of perfusion**



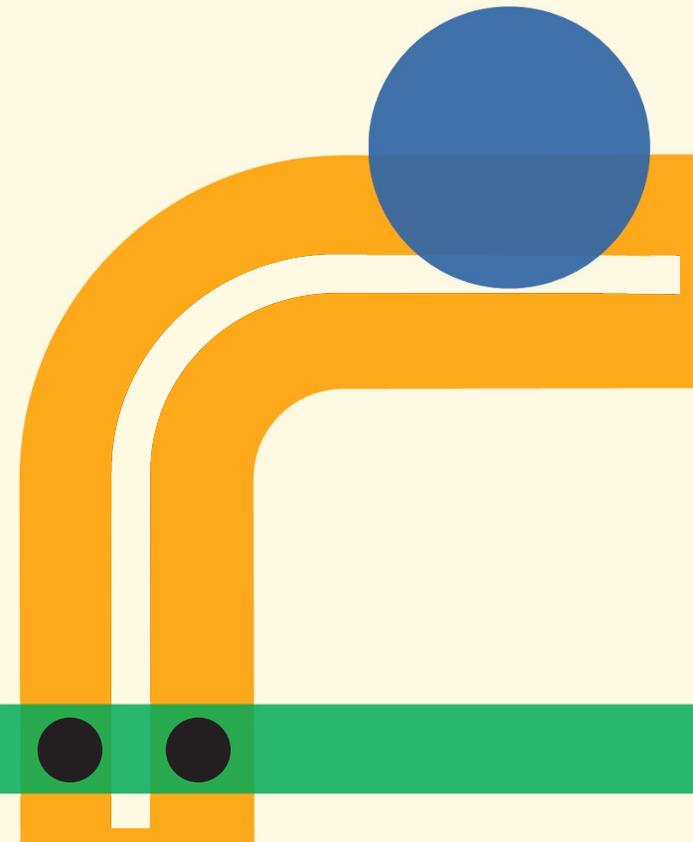
5

Summary

NBEO Part 1 is taken March of 3rd year optometry school. 2.5 years of information.

If you estimate class is 6 hours a day x 40 weeks a year = 3000 hours of education

You can't memorize everything. You have think: How will I retain this information tomorrow and 10+ years from today





**Thank
you**

John Ikeda, OD

IkedaOptometry@gmail.com