

## Explanation of Candidate Score Report: December 2005 Part I (Basic Science)

The FRONT of the candidate score report (the side containing the candidate's address) shows the candidate's SCALED scores for the entire Part and for each section. A 'P' or 'F' is placed next to the overall Part score to indicate a Pass or Fail. The National Board scales scores to achieve consistency from one administration to another. More information about scaled scores can be found at <http://www.optometry.org/articles/Scaled%20Scores.pdf>.

The minimum passing scaled score for all National Board Part exams (Parts I, II, and III) is 300. On the December 2005 Basic Science exam, candidates needed to answer at least 256 questions correctly to achieve a passing score. Any candidate who answered exactly 256 questions correctly received a scaled score of 300. Any candidate who answered more than 256 questions correctly received a scaled score higher than 300, and any candidate who answered fewer than 256 questions correctly received a scaled score lower than 300. Raw scores (the actual number of items answered correctly) for the Basic Science exam were converted to scaled scores using the following two formulas:

For raw scores  $\geq 256$ : Scaled score =  $300 + (3.726708 * (\text{Raw Score} - 256))$

For raw scores  $< 256$ : Scaled score =  $100 + (\text{Raw Score} * 0.780392)$

Of the 435 items administered on the December 2005 Basic Science exam, 18 items were found to be flawed by the Basic Science Examination Council and were therefore deleted from scoring. The final scores were thus based on 417 items.

The BACK of the candidate's score report contains the candidate's diagnostic report. This report lists the candidate's actual RAW scores broken out by subsection. Area-1 through Area-4 correspond to the four sections that comprise the Basic Science exam (i.e., Area-1 refers to Human Biology; Area-2 refers to Ocular/Visual Biology; Area-3 refers to Theoretical, Ophthalmic, and Physiological Optics; and Area-4 refers to Psychology).

The Content Outline Headings (COH) refer to the subcontent headings within each section. Letter A of Area-1, for example, refers to the *Gross Anatomy* subsection of Human Biology. Letter B of Area-1 refers to the *Histology* subsection of Human Biology. Letter A of Area-2 refers to the *Anatomy of the Eye, Ocular Adnexa, and Visual Pathway* subsection of Ocular/Visual Biology. The Content Outline for Basic Science can be found at <http://www.optometry.org/part1.cfm>.