

# What Do NAB Exam Scores Mean?

Upon completion of a NAB exam, all candidates will receive a preliminary “PASS” or “FAIL” while at the testing site. This preliminary report does not provide the detailed information candidates will see once the full score report has been released by your state board/agency. This detailed report can be crucial in identifying areas where candidates performed strongly as well as opportunities for improvement.

Below you will find example score reports for both the NAB CORE exam and the LOS exam (LOS score report is representative of all three LOS exams). These score reports are what all exam candidates will be able to review once their state jurisdiction has released their score(s) from the PSI testing center.

The NAB CORE, as well as all three LOS (*NHA*, *RCAL*, *HCBS*) exams, have a passing scaled score of 113. The information within this document not only shares how best to interpret your candidate scores, but also will assist in preparing for the exam(s) in the most efficient way possible.

**TOTAL RAW SCORE** – A total raw score is the actual number of questions a candidate answered correctly on their exam. For the CORE exam, candidates will be graded on 100 questions, with an additional 25 unscored pretest items, totaling 125 questions on the exam. All NAB LOS exams have 75 total questions, 60 of which will be scored and 15 unscored pretest items. **It is important to remember that this score does not determine if an exam candidate passes or fails the exam. While state licensing boards/agencies have the final authority to determine all passing scores on the national exams, currently all use the scaled score of 113.**

**TOTAL SCALED SCORE** – A scaled exam score is simply a conversion of the exam raw score onto a standardized scale. Use of a standardized scale allows for a comparison of scores across multiple forms of the same exam. Thus, scaled scores indicate the same level of performance regardless of which form a candidate receives. For all NAB exams, the scaled passing score is 113 on a scale ranging from 50 – 150.

NAB develops new exam forms for each program annually. It is inevitable that the difficulty level of questions across forms vary. This means that the overall difficulty of exam forms will also vary. Even slight differences in difficulty across exam forms renders the direct comparison of scores inaccurate. For example, a lower raw score on a more difficult form may represent the same ability level as a higher score on an easier form. Scaled scoring allows for the comparison of scores across all exam forms regardless of difficulty level.

**RAW CUT SCORE** – This determines the minimum number of questions a candidate would need to answer correctly to pass a specified form of a NAB exam. **It is important to remember that the raw cut score can vary depending on the exam form a candidate received.**

## Acronym Key

- ✓ **NAB** – The National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards
- ✓ **NHA** – Nursing Home Administrator
- ✓ **RCAL** – Resident Care/Assisted Living
- ✓ **HCBS** – Home and Community Based Services
- ✓ **CORE** – The National General Core of Knowledge Exam
- ✓ **LOS** – Line of Service Exam

**SCALED CUT SCORE** – This is the minimum passing scaled score a candidate can receive on the NAB exam. All NAB exams currently have a scaled cut score of 113.

**BREAKOUT OF SCORES BY DOMAIN** – NAB exams test candidate knowledge about important content areas. These content areas are known as Domains of Practice. After taking an exam, candidates will receive both a raw and a percentage score for each NAB Domain of Practice. The charts below show how the various Domains of Practice are covered by the NAB exams. Candidates can use this information to understand their performance in each of the content areas.

**NAB CORE EXAM SCORING BY DOMAIN (CHART 1A)**

Domain	Percentage Covered on Exam	Approximate # of Questions
<b>1 – Care, Services, and Supports</b>	39%	39
<b>2 – Operations</b>	37%	37
<b>3 – Environment and Quality</b>	13%	13
<b>4 – Leadership and Strategy</b>	11%	11

**NAB LOS EXAM SCORING BY DOMAIN CHART 1B)**

Domain	NHA		RCAL		HCBS	
	% on Exam	Aprx # of Questions	% on Exam	Aprx # of Questions	% on Exam	Aprx # of Questions
<b>1 – Care, Services, and Supports</b>	45%	27	75%	45	47%	28
<b>2 – Operations</b>	28%	17	12%	7	28%	17
<b>3 – Environment and Quality</b>	27%	16	13%	8	25%	15

**SCENARIO**

Please read the scenario below and review the example candidate score reports labeled Candidate A and B.

***Candidate A and Candidate B had a **TOTAL RAW SCORE** of 72 on the NHA CORE exam. However, Candidate A passed and Candidate B failed. How could this happen?***

Now review the answer below to determine if your interpretation of the scenario was correct.

**ANSWER**

Candidates A and B took different forms of the examination. Candidate A took form 1 and obtained a raw score of 72. Candidate A's scaled score was 113.

Candidate B took form 2 of the examination which was slightly easier than form 1. As such, Candidate B needed to obtain a higher raw score to pass. Candidate B obtained a raw score of 72 which, after accounting for differences in form difficulty, converts to a scaled score of 110 (3 points below the standardized passing score of 113).



## Candidate A Scenario Report

Candidate ID	123456
First Name	Candidate A
Last Name	Scenario
Exam Type	CORE - only
Test Date	2022-09-02
Test Center	PSI
Original Jurisdiction	HSE-NAB
Result	PASS
Total Raw Score	72
Total Scaled Score	113
Raw Cut Score	72
Scaled Cut Score	113
Raw Score Domain 1	27
Percent Score Domain 1	69
Raw Score Domain 2	25
Percent Score Domain 2	68
Raw Score Domain 3	13
Percent Score Domain 3	100
Raw Score Domain 4	7
Percent Score Domain 4	64
Raw Score Domain 5	
Percent Score Domain 5	



## Candidate B Scenario Report

Candidate ID	987654
First Name	Candidate B
Last Name	Scenario
Exam Type	CORE - only
Test Date	2022-09-05
Test Center	PSI
Original Jurisdiction	HSE-NAB
Result	FAIL
Total Raw Score	72
Total Scaled Score	110
Raw Cut Score	72
Scaled Cut Score	113
Raw Score Domain 1	24
Percent Score Domain 1	62
Raw Score Domain 2	28
Percent Score Domain 2	76
Raw Score Domain 3	12
Percent Score Domain 3	92
Raw Score Domain 4	8
Percent Score Domain 4	73
Raw Score Domain 5	
Percent Score Domain 5	