The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) framework requires that examinations and/or assessments are based on minimum objective criteria/outcomes. The National Examination is predicated on minimum competency and ethical standards within the South African context, legislation and international best practice in the profession.

The National Examination does not assess theoretical knowledge, as this is examined by the universities. The National Examination focuses on issues within the South African context, e.g. multi-cultural issues, HIV/AIDS, ethics, the ability to assess, diagnose and plan the necessary intervention, etc.

The Examinations of the Board are not open book examinations. Each examination is a three hour written paper of 100 marks. The examination papers for psychologists contain only paragraph questions and the examination papers for registered counsellors and psychometrists multiple choice questions, as well as paragraph questions. The examination paper for registered counsellors is a generic examination paper and is not category specific. There are examination papers for:

i. Clinical psychology;
ii. Counselling Psychology;
iii. Educational Psychology;
iv. Industrial Psychology
v. Research Psychology
vi. Registered Counsellors (generic paper)
vii. Psychometrists (independent practice)
viii. Psychometrists (supervised practiced)

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that he/she receives the correct examination paper from the invigilator.

The following persons are required to pass the National Examination of the Board:

i. All newly qualified practitioners i.e. psychologists, registered counsellors and psychometrists;

ii. All persons who have exceeded the time frames for registration, as determined by the Board;

iii. All persons whose names have been off the relevant registers for more than two years and who wish to restore their names to the register;

iv. All foreign qualified persons.

Persons who are required to do 12 months community service will be permitted to either write the examination prior to commencement with community service, whilst busy doing community service or after successful completion of community service, BUT prior to their registration in the category “independent practice”.

1. **DATES AND VENUES**

The examinations are conducted on the first Wednesday of February, June and October of each year in all the major centres, i.e. Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Polokwane,

The closing dates for applications to write the examination are as follows:

31 December for the February examination  
30 April for the June examination  
31 August for the October examination

Candidates for the Board’s examination for psychologists are required to submit a duly completed application form (form 260) together with proof of payment of the examination fee of R726.00

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NO APPLICATION FOR THE EXAMINATION WILL BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PROOF OF PAYMENT OF THE EXAMINATION FEE AND CANDIDATES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO WRITE THE EXAMINATION.**

Intern psychologists may write the examination of the Board-

i. If the dissertation has been handed in for final examination, provided that the University duly completes section b. of the application form (form 260);

ii. during the last 3 months of the internship, provided that the supervising psychologist duly completes section c. of the application form (form 260).

2. **READING MATERIAL FOR THE NATIONAL EXAMINATION**

**A Psychologists and registered counsellors**

i. Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (form 223);

ii. Policy on the classification of tests (forms 207 and 208);

iii. Scope of Practice (form 224);


v. any reading material and/or text books of the candidates' own choice that address the core competencies of the relevant registration category, as well as contextual issues such as HIV/AIDS, multi-culturalism, child abuse, human rights, etc;


viii. DSM IV-TR and ICD-10 Coding system (only relevant to clinical, counselling and educational psychologist)

ix. Form 286 – Revised Policy on Undesirable Business Practices
B. Psychometrists


OR


OR


(5) Any introductory statistics text for psychology or social science students.


(7) Guidelines for the validation of assessment measures. Available from the Psychological Assessment Initiative or the Division for Industrial Psychology of PsySSA. (Tel: 011 – 011 – 486 3322)

(8) The Board's Policy on the classification of psychometric measuring devices, instruments, methods and techniques. (form 208) Obtainable from the Professional Board for Psychology, Health Professions Council of South Africa, P.O. Box 205, Pretoria 0001

(9) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Professional Board for Psychology). (form 223) Obtainable from the Professional Board for Psychology, Health Professions Council of South Africa, P.O. Box 205, Pretoria 0001

(10) List of tests classified as being psychological tests Form 207

(11) Training and examination guidelines for Psychometrists – Form 94

(12) Form 286 – Revised Policy on Undesirable Business Practices

(13) Any reading material or text books of the candidates' own choice that address the core competencies of the relevant registration category

(14) Access to Information Act and the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act.


3. RESPONDING TO THE EXAMINATION

As indicated earlier the exam is designed to assess the application of knowledge rather than the ability to regurgitate theories or material learned. It is for this reason then when a question asks for a discussion; candidates are expected to respond in paragraph format providing a discussion in respect of the question. Merely listing information does not respond to the question.
Furthermore, candidates are expected to demonstrate competency to apply knowledge through the ability to discriminate between the most relevant and appropriate solution(s) from the general and or irrelevant.

Note: in answering the examination question make sure that you do not include irrelevant information. For example, suppose you were given a situation that there was rain for the last two hours. Then you are asked the question “why are the roads wet?”

Answer a: “because of the rain”
Answer b: “when the sun is out and there is no rain the roads are dry”.

Answer b tells us about the conditions that may prevail for the roads to be dry. It is good information that may be relevant for a different question. Answer as it is the most appropriate response to the question.

Sample examination papers and responses, as well as the examination are available on Council’s website (www.hpcsa.co.za/professional boards/psychology/examinations).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION

Registered Counsellors and Psychometrists are required to submit a duly completed application form (Form 225) and they will be permitted to write the examination once all the academic and practical requirements of the degree have been successfully completed.

Kindly note that the last examination for psychometrists with an academic honours degree was conducted in October 2005, persons are now required to have an accredited B Psych degree or a qualification that has been accredited by the Professional Board for Psychology as equivalent to the B Psych degree for registration as psychometrists.

5. EXAMINATION FEES

Psychologists: R726, 00
Psychometrists: R363, 00
Registered counsellors: R363, 00

Proof of payment of the examination fees, (e.g. a deposit slip) must be submitted together with the application form for the examination.

In its endeavour to ensure safety for its clients and employees, The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), implemented 'no cash on premises' policy with effect from 1 August 2006.

BANK DETAILS:

HPCSA
ABSA, Arcadia, Pretoria,
Account number 0610-000-169,
Branch code : 33-49-45

Your name and registration/reference number must be clearly indicated on the deposit slip.
PLEASE NOTE:

NO APPLICATION FOR THE EXAMINATION WILL BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PROOF OF PAYMENT OF THE EXAMINATION FEE AND CANDIDATES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SIT FOR THE EXAMINATION.

Candidates who will not be in a position to write the examination have to advise the Board at least 48 hours prior to the examination date, failing which the candidates will be liable for payment of the examination fee.

6. PASS MARK AND LANGUAGE

The pass mark for the examinations is 70% and all candidates are required to pass each section of the paper with the sub-minimum of 70%, in order to pass the examination.

The examinations will be conducted in English only and candidates should note that grammar will not be taken into consideration when marking the papers, as the focus of the examinations is on conceptual issues and not on grammar.

7. RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION

The results of the examinations will be available ± 4 weeks after the date of the examination and will be communicated to candidates in writing.

8. GRIEVANCES AND/OR REQUESTS FOR REMARK OF EXAMINATION PAPERS

Candidates may apply for a remark of their examination papers once only. The written application has to be submitted to the Board within two week of date of receipt of the examination results.

The fees payable for a remark is 50% of the examination fee.

Candidates who have any grievances regarding the examination are at liberty to submit their grievances in writing to the Board for consideration by the Examination Committee of the Board. Grievances have to be submitted to the Board within one week after date of the examination.

9. EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

The Board in September 2006 RESOLVED that -

i. candidates involved in irregularities during the examination will be suspended from re-examination and for registration in any psychology registration category for a period of 3 years;

ii. the results obtained in the examination be nullified and that no results will be made available to these candidates.

iii. candidates will be afforded an opportunity to make submissions within 21 days of the date of the letter why the Board should not implement its decision.
10. RE-EXAMINATIONS:

Candidates who are unsuccessful in the examination may repeat the examination as many times as they wish within a two year time frame. The candidates are required to advise the Board in writing on or before the closing date of the specific examination of their intention to re-write the examination.