

CST Examination Study Evaluation



THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
AND SURGICAL ASSISTING

The CST examination is created based on the content outline, using questions from the surgical technologist item bank. The outline determines how many questions from each area appear on the examination. For each subject area listed, score your knowledge level based on the rankings below.

LEVEL OF COMPETENCY SCORE

- 1. Very Knowledgeable:** I am very familiar with this content area and believe that my education and experiences have fully prepared me. I know the current practices and am current on the latest developments.
- 2. Knowledgeable:** I am reasonably familiar with this content area and believe my education and experiences have prepared me fairly well.
- 3. Undecided:** I have some familiarity with this content area; however there may be a few subjects where I am not as strong and need further review.
- 4. Not Very Knowledgeable:** I have knowledge deficits in this content area and will need to study this material to gain more familiarity.
- 5. Not Knowledgeable:** This is an area of weakness for me. I will need to focus on this area during my studies and possibly seek help from a mentor.

In order to determine what content areas you will need to review the most, match the subject areas with the scores of 3, 4 or 5. To view the full content outline visit nbstsa.org or check your candidate handbook.

Subject area	Level of Competency score	Number of questions on the exam
Peri-Operative Care: Pre-Operative Preparation		19
Peri-Operative Care: Intra-Operative Procedures		68
Peri-Operative Care: Post-Operative Procedures		10
Ancillary Duties: Administrative & Personnel		7
Ancillary Duties: Equipment Sterilization & Maintenance		16
Basic Science: Anatomy & Physiology		18
Basic Science: Microbiology		6
Basic Science: Surgical Pharmacology		6