

# **Coronal Polishing (CP)**

## **Exam Outline and References**

The CP exam is a component of the Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA<sup>®</sup>) certification program and tests knowledge-based competence.

There are no eligibility requirements to take the CP exam.

The purpose of the CP exam is to ensure that individuals meet the minimum national standard for knowledge-based competence in coronal polishing critical to the health and safety of patients and oral healthcare workers.

**CPFDA component exams Coronal Polishing (CP)** Sealants (SE) Topical Fluoride (TF)

## **CP Exam**

## **Exam Weighting by Domain**

- I. Evaluation (15%)
- II. Instruments and Materials (20%)
- III. Procedures (39%)
- IV. Administration (26%)

## Exam Administration

Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	75
Time for Exam (minutes)	60

The exam is administered in-person and through remote online proctoring. The candidate may choose the method they prefer. Remote proctoring allows candidates to take exams using their own computer while being remotely monitored by webcam and microphone.

#### How DANB exams are administered

DANB uses computer adaptive testing (CAT). Exams are scored based on the difficulty of the questions answered correctly. This method can more accurately pinpoint a candidate's ability level. Each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain. The average candidate will answer around 50% of the questions correctly.

## **CP Exam Outline**

## I. Evaluation (15%)

- A. Health and dental histories
- B. Anatomy and pathologies of the oral cavity, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Arches, quadrants and sextants
  - 2. Primary, mixed and permanent dentitions
  - 3. Universal tooth numbering system
- C. Characteristics of plaque, calculus and materia alba
- D. Tooth stains
- E. Restorations
- F. Differences between coronal polishing and oral prophylaxis

## II. Equipment and Supplies (20%)

- A. Select instruments and materials
- B. Characteristics of abrasives and polishing agents
- C. Select personal protective equipment (PPE)

### III. Procedures (39%)

- A. Position equipment, operator and patient
- B. Operate low-speed handpieces
- C. Identify fulcrum position
- D. Describe polishing stroke pattern and sequence
- E. Apply infection prevention and control procedures
- F. Maintain equipment

## IV. Administration (26%)

- A. Legal record maintenance and legal responsibilities, including but not limited to:
  - 1. clinical/treatment notes.
  - 2. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- B. Patient education, including but not limited to:
  - 1. purpose of coronal polishing.
  - 2. oral disease prevention and progression.
  - 3. pre- and post-operative instructions.
- C. Safety data sheets (SDS) for coronal polishing materials

## **CP Exam Suggested References**

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials to develop this exam. This list does not include all available study materials; these are the resources that exam committees have determined provide the most up-to-date information needed to meet a determined level of competence on this exam. Any one reference will likely not include all the study material required to pass the exam. **Please note that previous editions of the resources below may be used for study purposes if the previous version was published within the past 5 years.** 

This list is intended to help prepare for this exam. It is not an endorsement of the publications. You should prepare for the exam using as many different study materials as possible.

## **Suggested Exam Preparation References**

- 1. Bird, Doni L. and Debbie S. Robinson. *Essentials of Dental Assisting*. 7th ed., 2023.
- 2. Bird, Doni L. and Debbie S. Robinson. *Modern Dental Assisting*. 14th ed., 2024.
- 3. Eakle, Stephan W. and Kimberly G. Bastin. *Dental Materials: Clinical Applications for Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists*. 4th ed., 2021.
- 4. Singhal, Vaishali, Susan Kantz, Melissa Damatta, Donna Phinney, and Judy Halstead. *Dental Assisting: A Comprehensive Approach*. 6th ed., 2023.

### Additional/Optional Study Resources

- 1. Miller, C. Infection Control and Management of Hazardous Materials for the Dental Team. 7th ed., 2023.
- 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). cdc.gov.
  - *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings* 2003 (MMWR, Vol. 52, RR 17). cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm
  - Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Health and Human Services; October 2016
- 3. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). osha.gov.
  - Bloodborne Pathogens (1910.1030). osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030
  - Hazard Communication (1910.1200).
    osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200
- 4. The DALE Foundation. dalefoundation.org.
  - DANB CP Practice Test

## Acronyms

The following table lists acronyms that you may find on this exam. When you take the exam, this list of acronyms will be available to you.

What it stands for
degree symbol
degrees Celsius
degrees Fahrenheit
micrometer
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Dental Association
Association for Dental Safety Formerly the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP)
automated external defibrillator
bloodborne pathogens
biologic indicator
two times a day
coulombs per kilogram
computer-aided design / computer-aided manufacturing
cone beam computed tomography
charge-coupled device
Certified Dental Assistant
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cementoenamel junction
colony forming unit / milliliter
complementary metal oxide semiconductor
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
cardiopulmonary resuscitation
computed tomography
dentinoenamel junction
disto-occlusal
dental unit waterline
Environmental Protection Agency
Food and Drug Administration
full mouth series
gray
hemagglutinin type 1 and neuraminidase type 1
hepatitis A virus
hepatitis B immune globulin
hepatitis B surface antigen
hepatitis B virus
Hazard Communication Standard
hepatitis C virus
hepatitis D virus
high-efficiency particulate air
hepatitis E virus

HIPAAHealth Insurance Portability and Accountability ActHIVhuman papillomavirusHIVhuman papillomavirush.s.at bedimeHSVherpes simplex virus - 1 (oral herpes)HSV-1herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)HSV-2herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)HVEhigh-volume evacuationIDidentificationIFUinstructions for useIRMintermediate restorative materialIVintermediate restorative materialIVintermediate restorative materialIVintermediate restorative materialIVintermediate constructionKVpkilovoltage peakLEDlight-mitting diodemAmilliarperagemLmillitermmmillitererMMRmeasles, numps and rubellaMODmaximum permissible doseMRImagnetic resonance imagingMRSAmethicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> mSvmillisivertmSVniticus oxideNiGSHNational Institute for Occupational Safety and HealthNiGSHoxygenOFDobject-film distanceOHPMother potentially infectious materialsOSHAOccupational Safety and Health AdministrationOTCover-the-counterPAposteroanteriorPHpolential of hydrogenPINpoletial of hydrogenPINpoletial of hydrogenPINpoletial of hydrogen <t< th=""><th>Acronym/Abbreviation</th><th>What it stands for</th></t<>	Acronym/Abbreviation	What it stands for
HPV      human papilomavirus        h.s.      at bedtime        HSV      herpes simplex virus        HSV-1      herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)        HSV-2      herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)        HVE      high-volume evacuation        ID      identification        IFU      instructions for use        IRM      intermediate restorative material        IV      instructions for use        RM      intermediate restorative material        IV      instructions for use        RM      intravenous        KVp      kilovoltage peak        LED      light-emitting diode        mA      millimeter        MMR      measles, mumps and rubella        MOD      mesial, occlusal, distal        MPD      maximum permissible dose        MRI      magnetic resonance imaging        MRSA      methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus        mSV      millisevert        mVGor <sup>2</sup> millisevert        N/O      nitrus oxide        NIT      nickel-ttanium        O2      oxygen<	HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
h.s.at bedtimeHSVherpes simplex virusHSV-1herpes simplex virus - 1 (oral herpes)HSV-2herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)HVEhigh-volume evacuationIDidentificationIFUinstructions for useIRMintermediate restorative materialIVintravenousKVpkilovoltage peakLEDlight-emitting diodemAmilliamperagemLmillimetermmmillimeterMRRmeasles, mumps and rubellaMODmesial, occlusal, distalMPDmaximum permissible doseMRImagnetic resonance imagingMRSAmethicilin-resistant <i>Staphylococus aureus</i> mSVmilliwet for Occupational Safety and HealthNITInickel-titanium0 <sub>2</sub> oxygen0FDobject-film distance0HCPoral healthcare personnel0FDobject-film distance0FDobject-film distance0FDobject-film distance0FDobject-film distance0FDobject-film distance0FHAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPFpersonal protective equipmentPSPphosphor storage platePVSpolyv	HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HSVherpes simplex virusHSV-1herpes simplex virus - 1 (ral herpes)HSV-2herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)HVEhigh-volume evacuationIDidentificationIFUinstructions for useIRMintermediate restorative materialIVintravenousKVpkilovoltage peakLEDlight-emitting diodemAmilliamperagemLmillimeterMMRmesales, numps and rubellaMODmesial, occlusal, distalMPDmaximum permissible doseMRImagnetic resonance imagingMRSAmethicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureusmSvmillisevertmW/cm²millivate per square centimeterNoOnitrous oxideNIOSHNational institute for Occupational Safety and HealthNITInickel-titaniumOpoxygenOFDobject-film distanceOFDobject-film distanceOFDopsteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPFEpersonal protective equipmentPPEpersonal protective equipmentPPFposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPAposteroanteriorPFEpersonal protective equipment <t< td=""><td>HPV</td><td>human papillomavirus</td></t<>	HPV	human papillomavirus
HSV-1      herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)        HSV-2      herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)        HVE      high-volume evacuation        ID      identification        IFU      instructions for use        IRM      intermediate restorative material        IV      intravenous        KVp      kilovoltage peak        LED      light-emitting diode        mA      millimerage        mL      milliter        mMR      measles, mumps and rubella        MOD      messial, occlusal, distal        MDD      maximum permissible dose        MR1      magnetic resonance imaging        MR2      melsiellin-tresistant Staphylococcus aureus        mSV      millisevert        mW/um²      millisevert        mW/um²      millisevert        mW/um²      millisevert        N2O      nitrous oxide        NIOSH      National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health        NT1      nickel-titanium        O2      oxygen        OFD      object-film distance        OHCP      oral hea	h.s.	at bedtime
HSV-2herpes simplex virus - 1 (genital herpes)HVEhigh-volume evacuationIDidentificationIFUinstructions for useIRMintermediate restorative materialIVintravenousKVpkilovoltage peakLEDlight-emitting diodemAmilliamperagemLmillimeterMRRmeasles, mumps and rubellaMODmesial, occlusal, distalMPDmaximum permissible doseMRRmeagles, mumps and rubellaMODmesial, occlusal, distalMPDmaximum permissible doseMRSAmethicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> mSvmillievertmVora <sup>2</sup> milliwatts per square centimeterN/Onitous oxideNITinickel-titaniumO2oxggenOFDobject-film distanceOHCPoral healthcare personnelOFLPover-the-counterPAposterional Safety and Health AdministrationOTCover-the-counterPAposterional Safety and Health AdministrationOTCover-the-counterPAposterional safety and Health AdministrationOFLposterional safety and Health AdministrationOTCposterional safety and Health AdministrationOTCover-the-counterPAposterional protective equipmentPHposterional protective equipmentPFEpersonal protective equipmentPSPpolypinyl siloxane <trr>qi.d.</trr>	HSV	herpes simplex virus
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MRSA    methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus      mSv    millisievert      mW/cm²    millisievert      N2O    nitrous oxide      NIOSH    National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health      NiTi    nickel-titanium      O2    oxygen      OFD    object-film distance      OHCP    oral healthcare personnel      OPIM    other potentially infectious materials      OSHA    Occupational Safety and Health Administration      OTC    over-the-counter      PA    posteroanterior      pH    potential of hydrogen      PID    position indicating device      PPE    personal protective equipment      ppm    parts per million      PSP    phosphor storage plate      PVS    polyvinyl siloxane      qi.d.    four times a day      radiation absorbed dose    rem      rem    roentgen equivalent man      RPD    removable partial denture	MPD	maximum permissible dose
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ppmparts per millionPSPphosphor storage platePVSpolyvinyl siloxaneq.i.d.four times a dayradsradiation absorbed doseremroentgen equivalent manRPDremovable partial denture	PID	position indicating device
PSP    phosphor storage plate      PVS    polyvinyl siloxane      q.i.d.    four times a day      rads    radiation absorbed dose      rem    roentgen equivalent man      RPD    removable partial denture	PPE	personal protective equipment
PVS  polyvinyl siloxane    q.i.d.  four times a day    rads  radiation absorbed dose    rem  roentgen equivalent man    RPD  removable partial denture	ppm	parts per million
q.i.d.  four times a day    rads  radiation absorbed dose    rem  roentgen equivalent man    RPD  removable partial denture	PSP	phosphor storage plate
rads  radiation absorbed dose    rem  roentgen equivalent man    RPD  removable partial denture	PVS	polyvinyl siloxane
rem  roentgen equivalent man    RPD  removable partial denture	q.i.d.	four times a day
RPD  removable partial denture	rads	radiation absorbed dose
	rem	roentgen equivalent man
rpm revolutions per minute	RPD	removable partial denture
	rpm	revolutions per minute

Acronym/Abbreviation	What it stands for
SDS	safety data sheet
SLOB	same lingual, opposite buccal
SLR	single-lens reflex
Sv	sievert
ТВ	tuberculosis
Tdap	tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis
t.i.d.	three times a day
TLD	thermoluminescent dosimeter
TMD	temporomandibular disorder
TMJ	temporomandibular joint
UV	ultraviolet
XCP	extension cone paralleling
ZOE	zinc oxide-eugenol

## **Exam Development and Maintenance**

#### How exams are developed

DANB exams are developed using this exam outline, which is annually reviewed by subject matter experts. The outline is developed using a content validation study, which includes a job analysis survey where practicing DANB certificants and certificate holders are asked how often tasks are performed and how critical competent performance of the tasks is to the health and safety of the public and oral healthcare personnel. This study is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the outline is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB's Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam outlines.

#### How the passing standard is determined

The exam passing standard is evaluated and a Standard Setting Study is conducted the year following a Content Validation Study. DANB uses a modified Angoff standard setting method and convenes a panel of subject matter experts to evaluate and make judgements about the difficulty of the exam items and the criticality of the content of the exam items. Modified Angoff standard setting methods are commonly used to set the passing standards for certification exams. DANB's Board of Directors approves all changes to DANB exam passing standards.

#### How exams are scored

In a criterion-referenced examination, performance on the exam is not compared to the performance of others taking the exam. A candidate must obtain a score equal to, or higher than, the passing score to pass the test. Exam results are reported as a "scaled score" which is neither a "number correct" nor a "percent correct" score. Scaled scores range from 100 to 900. A scaled score of 400 must be obtained to pass the exam.

#### Receiving your exam results

You will be notified by email within 1-3 business days after your exam that your exam results are available in your online DANB account.

## **State Regulations**

Each state's dental board implements regulations and establishes rules for delegating legally allowable duties to dental assistants. Passing one or more of the DANB component exams or earning DANB certification only conveys authority to perform these duties in those states that recognize these exams or this certification as meeting state dental assisting requirements. This information is available at danb.org.