

Examination Development

BAR Advisory Group Meeting

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OPES provides:

Professional consulting services in examination validation and development

Recommendations based on legal requirements, professional guidelines, and technical standards

OPEs' Mandate:

Business & Professions Code (BPC) §139

“The Legislature finds and declares that occupational analyses and examination validation studies are fundamental components of licensure programs.”

Implementing BPC § 139

*DCA Policy OPES 22-01 Licensure
Examination Validation*

*DCA Policy OPES 20-01 Participation in
Examination Development Workshops*

*DCA DPM OPES 22-01 Examination
Security*

*Standards for Educational and Psychological
Testing (2014)*

Requirements for Licensure Examinations

- Must provide a reliable method for identifying practitioners who are able to practice safely and competently.
- Must focus on **entry-level** tasks and knowledge important for **public protection**.
- Relies on subject matter experts (SMEs) from the industry in all phases of examination development to ensure that the examination reflects current practice.

Examination Development Cycle



Occupational Analysis (OA) Process



- Research the profession and conduct SME interviews



- Develop task and knowledge statements with SMEs



- Develop and administer OA survey
- Analyze survey data and demographics



- Review survey results with SMEs



- Develop examination content outline with SMEs
- Should be conducted every 5 years

Examination Development

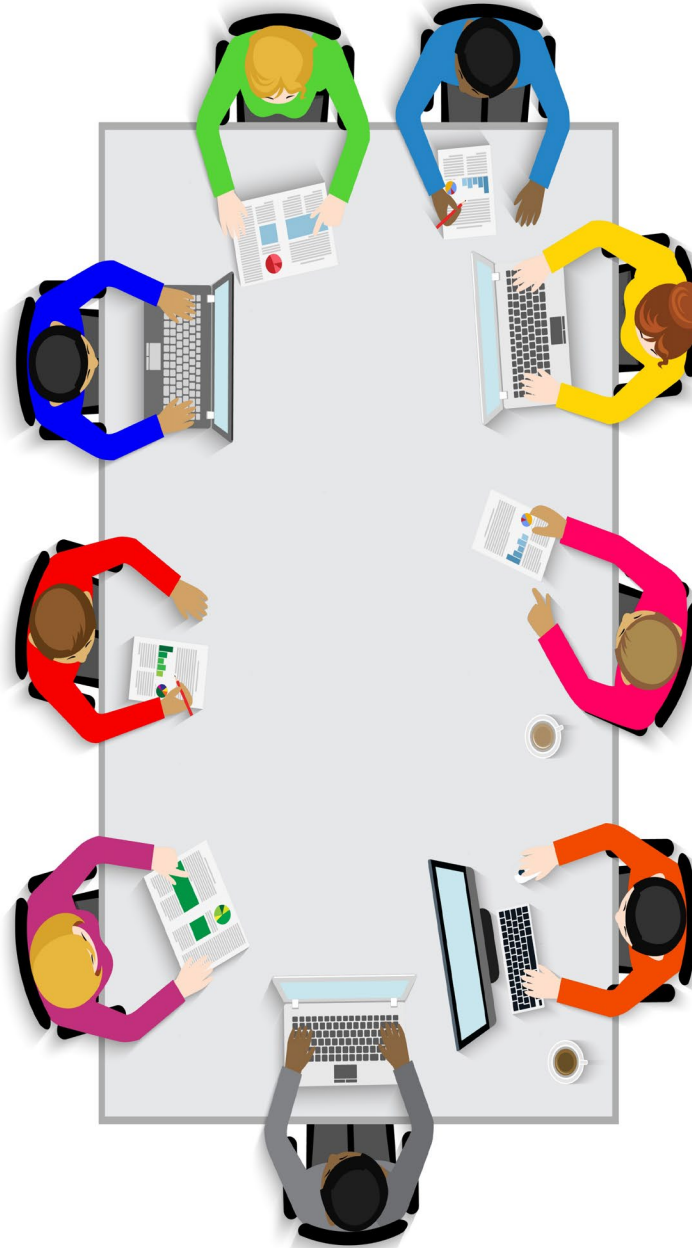
- Ensure that candidates who receive a license:
 - have the minimum level of competence regarding legal and ethical obligations
 - are able to apply legal and ethical principles in a manner that does not cause harm to the public

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BAR

Bureau of Automotive Repair

Bureau recruits a
sufficient number
of representative
SMEs



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION SERVICES

OPES facilitates
process and
ensures
psychometric
standards are met



Examination Development

- SME recruitment
- Item Writing and Item Review
- Criterion-Referenced Passing Score and Item Response Theory (IRT)
- Statistical Review

Item Response Theory

Examines item difficulty, discrimination, and performance

Identifies items that may not be performing as expected

OPES uses IRT alongside traditional exam statistics and SME review

Statistical Review

1

Review item-level
statistics

2

Review items with
SMEs

3

Determine findings

Questions

