

RBT Study Guide

All six RBT Task List 3.0 domains — 2026 edition

This guide summarizes what the RBT certification exam covers, domain by domain: an overview of each domain, its approximate share of the 85 scored questions, and the key concepts you should be able to define and apply. Use it alongside practice tests and flashcards at rbtprepacademy.com.

Domain	Task list	Exam weight
Measurement	A	12 questions
Assessment	B	8 questions
Skill Acquisition	C	24 questions
Behavior Reduction	D	12 questions
Documentation & Reporting	E	10 questions
Professional Conduct & Ethics	F	9 questions

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A. Measurement

Approximately 12 questions on the exam

Measurement covers how behavior is defined, counted, and recorded. You are expected to know when to use continuous versus discontinuous measurement, how to record data accurately during session, and how to graph and describe what the data show.

Key concepts

- Continuous measurement: frequency, rate, duration, latency, inter-response time
- Discontinuous measurement: partial interval, whole interval, momentary time sampling
- Permanent product recording and when it is appropriate
- Operational definitions that are observable, measurable, and objective
- Interobserver agreement (IOA) and why it matters
- Reading and describing line graphs, trend, level, and variability

B. Assessment

Approximately 8 questions on the exam

Assessment covers your role in gathering information the BCBA uses to design programming. RBTs assist with preference assessments and functional assessment procedures, but do not design or interpret them independently.

Key concepts

- Free operant, single stimulus, paired stimulus, MSW and MSWO preference assessments
- Assisting with functional behavior assessment (FBA) procedures
- Descriptive assessment: ABC data collection
- Indirect assessment: interviews and rating scales
- The four functions of behavior: attention, escape, tangible, automatic
- Reporting assessment data accurately and without interpretation

C. Skill Acquisition

Approximately 24 questions on the exam

The largest domain on the exam. It covers implementing the teaching procedures written into a skill acquisition plan — discrete trial training, naturalistic teaching, chaining, shaping, prompting, and generalization and maintenance.

Key concepts

- Components of a discrete trial: SD, prompt, response, consequence, inter-trial interval
- Prompt types and prompt hierarchies; most-to-least and least-to-most fading
- Errorless learning and reducing prompt dependence
- Naturalistic teaching and incidental teaching arrangements
- Task analysis and forward, backward, and total task chaining
- Shaping through successive approximations
- Discrimination training and stimulus control transfer
- Generalization, maintenance, and programming common stimuli
- Token economies and conditioned reinforcement

D. Behavior Reduction

Approximately 12 questions on the exam

Behavior reduction covers implementing the behavior intervention plan as written: antecedent strategies, differential reinforcement, extinction, and crisis procedures — always under BCBA supervision.

Key concepts

- Identifying the essential components of a behavior intervention plan
- Antecedent interventions: noncontingent reinforcement, high-p sequences, choice
- Differential reinforcement: DRA, DRI, DRO, DRL
- Extinction and extinction bursts, spontaneous recovery, response variability
- Function-based intervention: matching the procedure to the function
- Crisis and emergency procedures and reporting requirements
- Punishment procedures and the restrictions on their use

E. Documentation & Reporting

Approximately 10 questions on the exam

Documentation covers session notes, objective reporting, incident reporting, and the legal and practical requirements around client records and communication with the supervisor and stakeholders.

Key concepts

- Writing objective, observable session notes free of interpretation
- Reporting variables that may affect the client to the supervisor
- Mandated reporting obligations
- Generating required session notes for service verification
- Complying with applicable legal, regulatory, and workplace data requirements
- Maintaining client confidentiality and secure data storage

F. Professional Conduct & Ethics

Approximately 9 questions on the exam

This domain covers your professional boundaries: the supervisory relationship, scope of practice, dual relationships, confidentiality, dignity, and responding to feedback. Expect scenario questions rather than definitions.

Key concepts

- Describing the RBT role and its limits within the service delivery system
- Responding appropriately to feedback and maintaining performance
- Communicating with stakeholders within the RBT scope
- Maintaining professional boundaries and avoiding dual relationships
- Maintaining client dignity in all interactions
- Confidentiality, HIPAA-adjacent practices, and social media conduct
- Reporting ethical concerns through the correct channel