



AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY  
GENERAL SURGERY: CONTENT OUTLINE FOR THE  
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

TOPIC	WEIGHT*
<i>Patient Care</i>	<b>80%</b>
<b>A. Abdomen</b>	<b>12%</b>
a. General	
b. Hernia	
c. Biliary	
d. Liver	
e. Pancreas	
f. Spleen	
<b>B. Alimentary Tract</b>	<b>15%</b>
a. Esophagus	
b. Stomach	
c. Small Intestine	
d. Large Intestine	
e. Anorectal	
<b>C. Endoscopy</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>D. Breast</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>E. Endocrine</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>F. Skin and Soft Tissue</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>G. Surgical Critical Care</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>H. Trauma</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>I. Vascular</b>	<b>7%</b>
a. Arterial Disease	
b. Venous	
c. Access	
<b>J. Transplantation</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>K. Thoracic Surgery</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>L. Pediatric Surgery</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>M. Head and Neck</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>N. Surgical Specialties</b>	<b>4%</b>
a. Plastic Surgery	
b. Genitourinary	
c. Gynecology	
d. Nervous System	

<b><i>Surgical/Medical Knowledge</i></b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>A. Applied Science</b>	<b>13%</b>
a. Fluids, Electrolytes and Acid-Base Balance	
b. Immunology	
c. Infection and Antimicrobial Therapy	
d. Nutrition and Metabolism	
e. Oncology and Tumor Biology	
f. Pharmacology	
g. Transfusion and Disorders of Coagulation	
h. Wound Healing	
<b>B. Preoperative Evaluation and Perioperative Care</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>C. Miscellaneous Topics</b>	<b>5%</b>
a. Anesthesia	
b. Biostatistics and Evaluation of Evidence	
c. Geriatric Surgery and End-of-Life Care	
d. Minimally Invasive Surgery - Principles	
e. Ethics	
f. Outcomes	
g. Radiology	

\*Approximate percentage of questions included in the Qualifying Examination each year. Actual percentages may vary slightly from year to year.

The topic categories listed above are aligned with those of the [\*SCORE<sup>®</sup> Curriculum Outline for General Surgery\*](#). Please refer to the outline for further details on what is covered in each category.