

RBT Study Sheet

Based on the RBT Test Content Outline, 3rd Edition (effective January 1, 2026). Print it or save it for quick review.

Exam at a glance

Format	85 multiple-choice questions (75 scored + 10 unscored pilot), 4 options each, 90 minutes
Cost	\$110 total: \$65 BACB application fee + \$45 Pearson VUE exam fee
Retakes	Up to 8 attempts in 12 months, 7-day wait between attempts; Pearson VUE charges \$45 per attempt
Passing score	Not published by the BACB. "80%" is only an estimate.
Renewal (2026+)	One last competency assessment, then a 2-year cycle with 12 PDUs; \$50 fee

Domain weights (scored questions)

Domain	Questions	Weight
A. Data Collection and Graphing	13	17%
B. Behavior Assessment	8	11%
C. Behavior Acquisition	19	25%
D. Behavior Reduction	14	19%
E. Documentation and Reporting	10	13%
F. Ethics	11	15%

A. Data Collection and Graphing

Frequency	Count of how many times a behavior occurs
Rate	Frequency divided by time (12 responses in 4 minutes = 3 per minute)
Duration	How long a behavior lasts
Latency	Time from a cue to the start of the response
Inter-response time	Time between the end of one response and the start of the next
Partial interval	Interval scored if behavior occurs at any point; tends to overestimate
Whole interval	Interval scored only if behavior lasts the whole interval; tends to underestimate
Momentary time sampling	Scored if behavior is occurring at the instant the interval ends
Permanent product	Measure the lasting result of a behavior, such as a completed worksheet

B. Behavior Assessment

Preference assessment	Finds items likely to work as reinforcers: single-stimulus, paired-choice, multiple-stimulus, free operant
ABC data	Record the antecedent, behavior and consequence
Functions of behavior	Attention, escape, tangible (access) and automatic reinforcement

C. Behavior Acquisition

Positive reinforcement	Something added after a behavior makes it more likely
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Negative reinforcement	Something aversive removed after a behavior makes it more likely
Schedules	CRF every response; FR set number; VR varying number; FI first response after set time; VI first response after varying time
Prompt fading	Gradually reduce help; too slow leads to prompt dependence
Shaping	Reinforce successive approximations of a target behavior
Chaining	Forward = first step first; backward = last step first; total task = all steps each time
Discrete-trial teaching	Short trials with a cue, response and consequence
Token economy	Tokens earned for target behaviors and traded for backup reinforcers
Generalization / maintenance	Skill occurs across people, places and materials / skill lasts over time
Motivating operation	Changes how valuable a reinforcer is right now (deprivation raises it, satiation lowers it)

D. Behavior Reduction

Extinction	Stop providing the reinforcer that maintained the behavior; watch for an extinction burst (temporary increase)
DRA / DRI	Reinforce an alternative / an incompatible behavior
DRO / DRL	Reinforce when the behavior is absent for a set time / stays at or below a set rate
Punishment	A consequence that decreases behavior; positive adds, negative removes
Antecedent strategies	Change what happens before the behavior, such as warnings or choices
Crisis procedures	Safety first, follow the plan, report to your supervisor

E. Documentation and Reporting

Session notes	Objective and observable, not opinions or guesses
Reporting	Tell your supervisor promptly about concerns, incidents and factors that may affect progress (illness, medication, schedule changes)
Confidentiality	Share client information only with authorized people and store records securely

F. Ethics

Supervision	RBTs work under ongoing supervision from a qualified BACB certificiant
Competence	Provide services only after demonstrating competence
Boundaries	Avoid multiple relationships; follow gift guidelines; keep social media professional
Cultural humility	Identify personal biases and respond respectfully to clients and families
Where to read	BACB Ethics Code for Behavior Technicians

More free practice, quizzes, flashcards and a full glossary are available on the RBT Practice Exam website.