

**01: Introduction To OAT Biology**

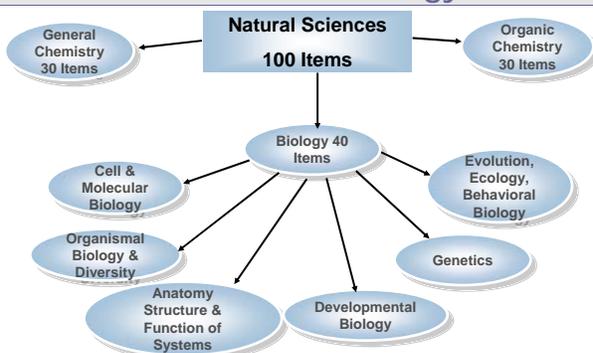
**Key OAT Terms**

- **OAT:** Optometry Admission Test, standardized exam used to measure academic skill and science comprehension.
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) ASCO and American Optometric Association (AOA) are sources for information on educational requirements and careers in optometry. [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org) and [www.aoanet.org](http://www.aoanet.org).
- Prometric Test Centers: sites where the OAT is administered, [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).
- Test Content: Survey of Natural Sciences, Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning.
- Survey of Natural Sciences: tested areas include: Biology, General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.
- Scoring: No guessing penalty, score reported is a "standard" score not raw score.
- Equating test questions: questions that create a link between tests administered on different dates so that examinees standard scores may be placed on the same scale.

**OAT Format**

- You may schedule to take the OAT almost any day of the year.
- The OAT should be taken after you have had at least one year of college level education in: biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics.
- You may register on line or via your college advisor or paper application.
- Test Sections: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning.
- After you register for the OAT you will be given instructions to call a Prometric Testing Center to schedule a test date.
- Scoring: Each section is independently scored and range from 200-400.
- Within Natural Science subsection, Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry gets its own score.
- Scores for all sections except for the Perceptual ability test are combined for an academic average.
- Your scaled scores and percentile ranking are reported to the schools.
- No penalty for wrong guessing.
- You will be given your score immediately after the test.

**OAT Natural Science: Biology Section**



- Natural Sciences is broken down into Biology 40%, General Chemistry 30% and Organic Chemistry 30%.
- Biology test topics are shown in this image.

**OAT Overview**

**Pretesting up to 25 min.**  
**Total Time 275 – 300 min.**

<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>15 min</b>	
<b>Survey of Natural Sciences</b>	<b>90 min</b>	<b>100 items</b>
<b>Reading comprehension</b>	<b>50 min</b>	<b>40 items</b>
<b>Optional Break</b>	<b>15 min</b>	
<b>Physics Test</b>	<b>50 min</b>	<b>40 items</b>
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	<b>45 min</b>	<b>40 items</b>
<b>Post Test survey</b>	<b>10 min</b>	

- OAT Time and Subject Lay out.
- The tutorial includes time to practice using the computer effectively.
- ASCO web site provides CBT practice tests.

**Test-Preparation Strategies**

- Time Management
- Study only the Biology topics tested.
- Spend core study hours on weak areas only.
- Set a study schedule and stick to it.
- Concept Mastery
- Translate complex formulas and pathways into words, mnemonics or images.
- Generalize concepts to save memorization and time.
- Clarify all areas of confusion.
- Take practice tests, know how you are progressing.
- Solve problems in the Rapid Learning tutorials.
- Use many different sources for practice questions and tests.
- Make custom cheat sheets and flash cards.

**Test-Taking Strategies**

- Know The Test
- Arrive early with required materials.
- Memorize the OAT time format ahead of time.
- Memorize the instructions ahead of time.
- Plan Your Attack
- Budget your time amounts depending on the section you are working on. For Biology it is less than one minute.
- Build Focus
- Go with your first instinct answer.
- If distracted, pull back to regain focus.
- Zoom In On The Answer
- Think of the answer first, and then scan the choices.
- Beware the familiar and the absolute.
- Deal with similar or opposite answer choices.
- Guess The Right Way, "Educated Guessing"
- Never leave a question blank. Guess instead.
- Eliminate incorrect answers to improve guessing odds.
- Never Run Mentally!
- Engage as many areas of your learning mind as possible: Multimodal thinking.
- Visual, Audio, Written (physical), Aural (tell someone what you have learned) all these methods of learning will result in DEEP Subject and Test Mastery.

How to Use This Cheat Sheet: These are the keys related this topic. Try to read through it carefully twice then recite it out on a blank sheet of paper. Review it again before the exams.