

01: Introduction To OAT Biology

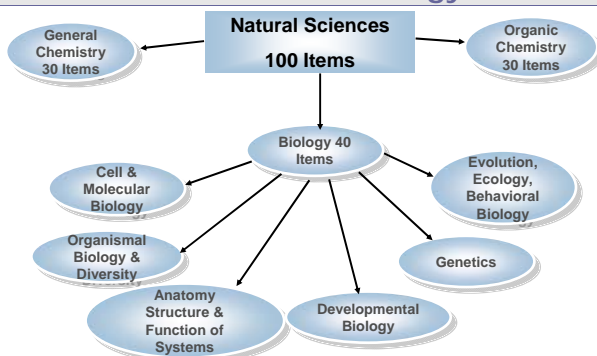
Key OAT Terms

- **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 and www.aoanet.org.
- Prometric Test Centers: sites where the OAT is administered, 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.

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

- 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.