

## WHAT DO MY IBHRE-JAPAN EXAMINATION SCORES MEAN?

For the IBHRE Examination administered in Japan in January 2008 there is one reported pass/fail decision score. You need a total test scale score of at least **570** to pass the IBHRE Examination administered in the Japanese language. Scores are determined by converting the number of questions answered correctly (i.e., each correct question is worth the same) to a scale score that ranges from approximately **525** to beyond **570**. In this IBHRE computerized test all candidates are administered the same number of questions. The number of questions answered correctly is taken into account in computing the scale score.

A scale score is a transformed raw test score (the number of test questions answered correctly). The raw score has been transformed into other measurement units, a scale score, something like transforming height (your test performance) from centimeters (your raw score) into inches (your scale score). To interpret any test score, a uniform frame of reference is required. Scale scores provide that frame of reference based on the standard adopted by the IBHRE of the amount of knowledge necessary to pass without regard to the specific test form or version taken. A scale score of at least **570** is required to pass. **PLEASE NOTE THAT A SCALE SCORE IS NEITHER THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS YOU ANSWERED CORRECTLY NOR THE PERCENTAGE OF QUESTIONS YOU ANSWERED CORRECTLY.**

The passing score was established via a systematic procedure that linked the passing score on a US-based examination to the IBHRE examination administered in the Japanese language. The decision regarding the passing score was made by the IBHRE and was applied through statistical linking procedures to the test you were administered.

Passing candidates receive a score report with a brief message about achieving a **PASSING SCORE**; no numerical scale score is reported to passing candidates. If you receive a score report that says **PASSING**, you have mastered the IBHRE knowledge required to receive the credential at a level judged by the IBHRE to represent competence.

Failing candidates receive a score report with one reported scale score between **525** and **569**. If you receive a score report with **YOUR SCORE** reported as a number, you have failed the IBHRE Examination in the Japanese language and you must retake and pass the entire IBHRE examination if you wish to attain the credential.

Your score tells you how far away from **570** - or passing - you are. If you receive a numerical score, you have not mastered the knowledge and clinical skills that are required to practice IBHRE medicine at a level judged by the IBHRE to represent competence. Your numerical score is reported along with a diagnostic message for each of the content areas included in the examination. The full content outline is provided in the following link:

<http://www.ibhre.org/ExamPreparation/ContentOutlineEP.htm>

 **OVER**

The diagnostic messages are intended to help you identify content areas that contributed to your failing score by showing areas of strength and weakness; diagnostic subscores are not designed to be consistent with subsequent performance; these messages are to help focus IBHRE failing candidates' study for subsequent examination. However, it is best for failing candidates to study all content areas. These diagnostic messages are *not* to be used for pass/fail determination, because they may lead to unreliable decisions. The two IBHRE diagnostic messages are reported to failing candidates as follows:

<b>Message Number</b>	<b>IBHRE Diagnostic Message</b>
2	Your score was at or above the level of minimum competence
1	Your Score was below the level of minimum competence

If you were to take this IBHRE examination again, you would be administered an examination composed of different questions and you would probably obtain a slightly different score. No test measures performance with perfect accuracy and consistency. The content consistency of this test is about 0.95, using an index that varies from 0.00 (no content consistency) to 1.00 (perfect content homogeneity). This index tells you that the IBHRE examination administered in the Japanese language measures the content consistently. If you took several different versions of the test, you would probably obtain a number of different scores that cluster around a typical or average value due to differences in the specific content of each test form questions. Some of your scores would be higher and some would be lower than your average score. In actual practice, you do not know your average score, but only your score from this administration. The "error of measurement" can be used to determine where your average score would lie, that is 68% of the time your average score would lie somewhere within a band defined by the error of measurement. A statistical estimate of this variation is called the "standard error of measurement." The standard error of measurement (SEM) for reported scale scores is about two (2) points. Thus, the standard error of measurement can be said to capture where your average score might lie by adding and subtracting it from your obtained score on this examination (i.e., approximately  $\pm 2$  points).

Further, if you were to take this IBHRE examination a second time without further study, you would probably obtain the same pass or fail result. The estimated percentage of candidates obtaining the same passing or failing classification each time is about 91%.