RBT® Practice Test: 30 Questions

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30 multiple-choice questions across all six domains of the RBT Test Content Outline (3rd ed.), in roughly the same proportions as the exam. Allow about 35 minutes. Circle one letter for each question.

The questions are on pages 1–9. The answer key is on pages 10–11, so you can print the questions on their own.

Name _____ Date _____ Score / 30

1. Aaliyah, an RBT, is running a block of 10 discrete trials on a tacting program at a clinic. A paper data sheet is beside her.

What is the BEST way to record the trial outcomes?

(A) Count the correct trials at the end of the block and enter the total
(B) Write all ten outcomes at the end of the block while they are still fresh
(C) Mark the outcomes after every three or four trials so the teaching pace stays brisk
(D) Mark each trial's outcome on the sheet before presenting the next trial

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2. On past pool visits, a client often poked children while waiting for the slide. Whenever he keeps his hands to himself, the lifeguard gives him a high five. After a few visits, the RBT's data show he waits with his hands to himself more often.

Based on its effect, the high five functioned as which of the following?

(A) Negative reinforcement
(B) Positive punishment
(C) Negative punishment
(D) Positive reinforcement

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3. During a community outing to a grocery store, a client, age 7, grabs a candy bar from the shelf. Her mother takes it away, and the client screams. The RBT's data from several outings show that the screaming starts the moment an item is taken away and stops as soon as it is handed back, even though both adults are standing in view and talking to her the whole time.

Which function do the data BEST support?

(A) Tangible, because the behavior ends only when the item is returned
(B) Attention, because two adults keep talking to her the whole time she screams
(C) Escape, because screaming may get her taken out of the store
(D) Automatic reinforcement, because screaming releases built-up tension in her body

4. At a grocery store, a neighbor says to Amara, an RBT, "I saw your car at the Nguyens' house every afternoon. Are you working with their little boy?"

What should Amara do?

(A) Confirm it, since the father said the neighbors know.
(B) Neither confirm nor deny, and change the subject.
(C) Deny it, since that best protects the family's privacy.
(D) Confirm it, since HIPAA covers only written health records.

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5. Before a hand-washing program begins, an RBT takes a client to the sink, says "Wash your hands" once, and waits without helping. The RBT records the steps completed independently and corrects no errors, at the start of three sessions.

What is the RBT doing?

(A) Running discrete-trial teaching
(B) Running baseline probes
(C) Running maintenance probes
(D) Running generalization probes

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6. Teodora, an RBT, works with Samir, age 4, during snack at his home. Samir's juice is on the counter where he can see it. He looks at it, reaches toward it, and says 'juice.' Teodora hands him the juice.

Which verbal operant did Samir use?

(A) A tact
(B) A mand
(C) An echoic
(D) An intraverbal

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7. An RBT realizes she wrote the wrong date on a paper data sheet from yesterday's home session.

Which correction is acceptable?

(A) Strike the wrong date once, write the correct one, and date it without initials.
(B) Strike the wrong date once, write the correct one, and initial it with yesterday's date.
(C) Cover the wrong date with correction fluid, write the correct date, and add initials and today's date.
(D) Draw a single line through the error, write the correct date, and add initials and today's date.

8. Lucia, an RBT, uses partial-interval recording with 30-second intervals to record hitting for Marco. In interval 4, Marco hit three times; no hitting occurred in any other interval, so her sheet shows 1 of 20 intervals scored. The supervisor asks how many hits occurred in that session.

What can Lucia report from the data sheet?

(A) One hit, since each marked interval stands for one occurrence of hitting
(B) Hitting occurred in 1 of 20 intervals (5%); the hit count cannot be read from it
(C) Three hits, since partial-interval recording tallies each response in its interval
(D) Hitting occurred in 1 of 20 intervals, meaning it took up about 5% of the session time

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9. Esperanza asks to go to the bathroom about 15 times per hour; a medical check found no toileting problem. Her plan says that if she makes 5 or fewer requests in a session, she earns computer time at the end of it.

Which procedure is this?

(A) Spaced-responding DRL
(B) Whole-interval DRO
(C) Full-session DRL
(D) Momentary DRO

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10. An RBT in a clinic notices that a client, age 5, answers "Which one is bigger?" correctly every time she runs the program, but when a second RBT runs the same program with the same cards, the client is at chance. Watching a session video, the first RBT sees that she has been glancing at the correct card before the client responds. When she runs the next trials without glancing, the client is also at chance with her.

What does this show?

(A) Faulty stimulus control: the first RBT's glance, not the size of the items, controls the response
(B) The client has generalized the skill to the first RBT but not yet to the second
(C) The skill is mastered with the first RBT and needs only maintenance probes
(D) The client is responding to card position, since the bigger card is likely on one side

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11. Leo, an RBT, receives a follow request on his personal social media account from the mother of one of his clients. Agency policy does not allow staff to connect with families on personal accounts.

What should Leo do?

(A) Decline politely, explain the agency's policy on connecting with families, and tell his supervisor.
(B) Accept the request, avoid posting about work, and let his supervisor know about the connection.
(C) Decline the request and block the mother's account so no further requests reach him.
(D) Leave the request pending without replying so the mother is not upset, and tell his supervisor.

12. Wren, an RBT, is assigned a six-item MSWO for Eli. After Eli picks the toy truck, Wren puts it back into the array for the next trial and rotates the positions. Eli picks the truck again.

What has Wren's error done to the assessment?

- (A) It kept the assessment an MSWO, because rotating positions is what defines that format
- (B) It turned the assessment into a free-operant assessment that needs engagement timing
- (C) It turned the assessment into an MSW, which may say little about items below the top
- (D) It turned the assessment into an MSW, showing the other five items will not work as reinforcers

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13. A client's plan calls for errorless learning on a new receptive-identification target. On the first trial the RBT says "Touch ball" and waits to see whether the client guesses correctly before giving any help. The client touches the wrong card.

Which statement BEST describes the problem?

- (A) The RBT should have used error correction instead of errorless learning, since the target is new
- (B) The RBT should have presented the ball card alone, since errorless learning removes all distractors
- (C) The RBT waited too long to reinforce attending, which lowered motivation and caused the error
- (D) Errorless learning prompts early so errors stay rare; waiting for a guess let an error be practiced

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14. An RBT at a clinic reads the plan for a client, age 11, whose worksheet tearing is maintained by escape from math. Baseline data show tearing on most worksheets with ten problems. The plan says: in week 1, present one problem and then give a break; in week 2, two problems before a break; and increase the number of problems each week only when the data show tearing stayed low.

Which procedure does this describe?

- (A) High-probability request sequence, because a few easy problems come before each break
- (B) Escape extinction, because the client gets a break only after he finishes each set of problems
- (C) Demand fading, because demands start at a level the client tolerates and are increased gradually based on data
- (D) Noncontingent reinforcement, because the client receives breaks on a set schedule whether or not tearing occurs

15. Over three weeks, the data Omar, an RBT, collects on his client's two-step instruction program have stayed at 20 to 30 percent correct with the current gestural prompt. Omar thinks a partial physical prompt would help.

What is within Omar's role?

- (A) Try a partial physical prompt for one week, take data on each trial, and report the results afterward.
- (B) Keep the gestural prompt and raise the flat data at next month's meeting.
- (C) Move the program to maintenance and tell the supervisor, so the client gets a break.
- (D) Share the flat data and his idea with the supervisor before next session, keeping the current prompt.

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16. During a 50-minute clinic session, an RBT counted 15 instances of self-injury. The client's graph has a y-axis labeled "Responses per hour."

What value should the RBT plot?

- (A) 15 per hour
- (B) 30 per hour
- (C) 12.5 per hour
- (D) 18 per hour

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17. A client speaks so quietly that no one can hear him across a small table. Following the plan, an RBT first gives praise and a token for any audible sound, then only for words at a soft conversational level, then only for words heard across the table.

Which procedure is the RBT using?

- (A) Shaping
- (B) Chaining
- (C) Stimulus fading
- (D) Schedule thinning

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18. A client screams when her tablet is turned off, and the plan identifies a tangible function. The plan calls for extinction for screaming and teaches her to ask for the tablet. Her RBT checks what extinction means in this plan.

Which statement is correct?

- (A) The tablet is not returned after screaming, however long it lasts
- (B) All attention, including eye contact and talking, is withheld while she screams
- (C) The tablet is taken away for the rest of the session each time the screaming starts
- (D) The screaming is blocked or interrupted right away so that it cannot go on any longer

19. An RBT has had no supervision for three weeks because her only supervisor went on leave and the agency has not assigned a replacement. The director asks the RBT to keep running her sessions so families are not disrupted.

What should the RBT do?

- (A) Continue sessions and make up the missing supervision hours once a new supervisor is assigned.
- (B) Continue sessions and have a senior RBT observe weekly, logged as supervision until a replacement arrives.
- (C) Stop sessions until a qualified supervisor is assigned, and document and report the lapse as required.
- (D) Report the agency to the BACB and continue sessions while the report is reviewed.

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20. Talia, an RBT, provides home sessions for Bodhi. Bodhi's mother asks Talia to write a letter to his pediatrician saying Bodhi should be evaluated for ADHD medication, because Talia sees his behavior up close. The supervising BCBA has not discussed medication with the family.

What should Talia do?

- (A) Write the letter but limit it to data on his out-of-seat behavior, leaving medication to the mother.
- (B) Explain that this recommendation is not hers to make, and pass the request to the supervisor today.
- (C) Ask the pediatrician's office to call her so she can describe his behavior by phone.
- (D) Say the supervisor would likely agree, and suggest she ask the pediatrician.

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21. Lucas, an RBT, runs discrete-trial teaching with Kofi, age 5, at a clinic. The plan says to give the instruction once while Kofi is looking at the materials, wait 3 seconds, and guide his hand if he does not respond. On one trial, Kofi is looking at the window when Lucas says 'Touch cup.' Kofi does not respond, so Lucas repeats 'Touch cup' twice more, louder each time, and then guides his hand.

Based on the plan, what was the FIRST mistake?

- (A) He gave the SD while Kofi was not attending, then repeated it instead of prompting
- (B) He used a physical prompt when a gestural prompt should have come first
- (C) He skipped the intertrial interval between the first and second instruction
- (D) He repeated 'Touch cup' louder twice, which acted as an unplanned vocal prompt

22. After observing an RBT run a DRA session with a client, the supervisor says, "Our IOA was 92% and your procedural fidelity score was 70%."

What does the 70% mean?

- (A) The RBT and the supervisor agreed on 70% of the data they recorded
- (B) The RBT implemented 70% of the steps of the plan as written
- (C) The client responded correctly on 70% of the DRA trials the RBT ran today
- (D) The RBT recorded data in the moment for 70% of the trials

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23. Two RBTs disagree. Rina says a functional analysis and a functional behavior assessment are the same thing. Marcus says they are different.

Who is right, and why?

- (A) Rina: both terms name the same process of arranging test conditions such as attention and play
- (B) Marcus: an FBA is the whole process, and a functional analysis is its experimental part
- (C) Rina: FBA is simply the older name for a functional analysis
- (D) Marcus: a functional analysis finds the function, while an FBA finds preferred items

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24. The plan for Zahra includes a token economy in which she earns tokens for completed tasks and trades them for a preferred activity. It says nothing about removing tokens. Her RBT, Santiago, removes a token each time she whines.

Which statement is correct?

- (A) Santiago added response cost, a punishment procedure the supervisor has not put in the plan
- (B) Santiago acted within his role, since the RBT manages both giving and removing tokens
- (C) This is extinction, since whining no longer earns tokens, so it fits the token plan as written
- (D) This is acceptable if Zahra's parent agreed and the supervisor is told after the session

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25. During a maintenance probe, Sofia, an RBT, finds that Ivan, age 9, answers only 4 of 10 previously mastered addition facts. The plan has no instructions for this situation.

What should Sofia do?

- (A) Move the facts back into acquisition and tell the supervisor afterward
- (B) Record the probe results and report the drop to the supervisor
- (C) Re-run the probe with prompts until Ivan reaches 10 of 10, then record it
- (D) Remove the addition facts from the program since they were not kept

26. An RBT works in a small rural town. He discovers that his new client's family attends the same church as his family, and their children are in the same youth group. There is no other RBT available in the area.

What should the RBT do?

- (A) Say nothing to the supervisor, since the overlap cannot be avoided in a small town.
- (B) Ask the agency to take him off the case without explaining the reason.
- (C) Disclose the overlap to his supervisor, document it, and follow the supervisor's boundary plan.
- (D) Agree on church boundaries with the family himself and tell the supervisor only if problems arise.

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27. A client who does not yet use words has pulled at his right ear several times over the last two sessions and has hit his own head 9 and 12 times. Before that, head hitting ran from 0 to 2 per session for over a month. No one has mentioned an illness.

What should the RBT do NEXT?

- (A) Tell the supervisor today about the ear pulling and head hitting.
- (B) Tell the caregiver to take the client to a doctor, and report it if a problem is found.
- (C) Collect data for another week before telling the supervisor, so the trend is clearer.
- (D) Note that an ear infection is likely causing the head hitting, and tell the supervisor today.

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28. Before intervention, baseline rates of calling out per hour for a client were 2, 3, 4 and 5. After the phase change, the intervention rates were 5, 4, 3 and 2.

Which description of the difference between the phases is MOST accurate?

- (A) Change in level
- (B) Increase in variability
- (C) Change in trend
- (D) No change between phases

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29. Two days into an extinction plan for tangible-maintained screaming, the father of a client, age 5, tells her RBT that the screaming is louder and longer than ever and that he wants to stop the plan.

What should the RBT do?

- (A) Say the increase means extinction is not working, and suggest pausing it until the father decides
- (B) Suggest he give the item briefly to end each episode and take it back once she calms
- (C) Recommend switching to time-out, since it usually works faster, and say the supervisor will approve
- (D) Explain that an early, temporary increase is expected, urge consistency, and tell the supervisor

30. An RBT is teaching a client, age 9, a 6-step snack-preparation chain at a clinic using forward chaining. The client has mastered steps 1 and 2 and is now working on step 3. The plan says to deliver reinforcement after the currently targeted step and to prompt the remaining steps. A coworker suggests praising and handing over a piece of the snack after every single step so the client stays motivated.

Why is the coworker's suggestion a problem under the plan's chaining format?

(A) Reinforcing every step would turn forward chaining into shaping, with each step an approximation

(B) Reinforcing every step is allowed only in total-task chaining, where all six steps are attempted

(C) Snacks are unconditioned reinforcers, so only praise or tokens may follow chain steps

(D) Each finished step should cue the next; reinforcement belongs after the target step, as planned

Answer key

#	Answer	Why
1	**D**	Marking each trial's outcome before the next trial keeps the data accurate and keeps details such as prompt level.
2	**D**	A high five was added after the behavior and the behavior increased, which is positive reinforcement.
3	**A**	The screaming stops only when the item is handed back, even though adults attend to her throughout, so the data point to a tangible function.
4	**B**	Whether a family receives services is confidential, and declining to confirm or deny protects it without lying.
5	**B**	Giving the instruction once with no prompts or correction, before teaching starts, is how baseline probes are run.
6	**B**	Samir asked because he wanted the juice and getting the juice reinforced the response, which makes it a mand rather than a tact.
7	**D**	A paper correction keeps the original readable under a single line and adds the correct entry, initials and the date of the correction.
8	**B**	Partial-interval recording marks whether hitting occurred in an interval, so the sheet shows 1 of 20 intervals, not a count of hits.
9	**C**	The reinforcer comes when the session total stays at or below a limit of 5, which is full-session DRL.
10	**A**	The client is correct only when the first RBT glances at the card, so her glance, not the size of the items, controls the response: faulty stimulus control.
11	**A**	Connecting with a caregiver on a personal account breaks agency policy and risks a multiple relationship, so Leo declines politely and tells his supervisor.
12	**C**	Putting the chosen item back turns an MSWO into an MSW, which often shows little beyond the top choice.
13	**D**	Errorless learning prompts early so errors stay rare, and waiting for a guess let the client practice an error.
14	**C**	Starting with a number of problems the client tolerates and raising it gradually as the data allow is demand fading.
15	**D**	Omar reports the flat data and his idea to the supervisor promptly and keeps running the written prompt, because changing it is the supervisor's call.
16	**D**	15 responses in 50 minutes is 0.3 per minute, and $0.3 \times 60 = 18$ per hour, the unit on the y-axis.
17	**A**	Reinforcing louder and louder speech while no longer reinforcing the quieter versions is shaping.
18	**A**	For a tangible function, extinction means the tablet is no longer delivered after screaming.
19	**C**	An RBT with no qualified supervisor stops providing services until supervision is restored, and documents and reports the lapse.

#	Answer	Why
20	**B**	A letter recommending a medication evaluation is a clinical recommendation outside the RBT role, so the request goes to the supervisor.
21	**A**	The plan says to give the SD once while Kofi is attending, but Lucas gave it while Kofi looked away and then repeated it instead of prompting.
22	**B**	Procedural fidelity is the percent of plan steps the RBT carried out as written; agreement between two observers' data is IOA.
23	**B**	A functional analysis is the experimental part of an FBA, which also includes indirect and descriptive methods.
24	**A**	Taking tokens away is response cost, a punishment procedure the supervisor must write into the plan, so Santiago added it outside his role.
25	**B**	Returning a lost skill to acquisition is the supervisor's decision, so Sofia records the probe as it happened and reports the drop.
26	**C**	An unavoidable multiple relationship is disclosed to the supervisor right away, documented, and handled by the supervisor's plan.
27	**A**	Possible signs of pain and a rise in self-injury go to the supervisor the same day, described as observed, without guessing a diagnosis.
28	**C**	The level did not jump at the phase line, but the data path reversed from rising to falling, which is a change in trend.
29	**D**	A temporary increase early in extinction is an expected burst, so the RBT supports the plan and tells the supervisor about the father’s concern.
30	**D**	In forward chaining the reinforcer follows the target step as written, so reinforcing every step departs from the plan.

Score by domain

Domain	Questions	Correct
A. Data Collection and Graphing	1, 8, 16, 22, 28	____ / 5
B. Behavior Assessment	5, 12, 23	____ / 3
C. Behavior Acquisition	2, 6, 10, 13, 17, 21, 25, 30	____ / 8
D. Behavior Reduction	3, 9, 14, 18, 24, 29	____ / 6
E. Documentation and Reporting	7, 15, 20, 27	____ / 4
F. Ethics	4, 11, 19, 26	____ / 4

A low count in one domain is a place to start reviewing. This short set does not predict an exam result.