



Saudi Public Health Licensure Examination (SPHLE)

EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINE

Note: Read this guide before submitting an application to test. At the time of application, you will be required to acknowledge that you have read and understood this guide and the policies and procedures contained within.

EXAMINATION MODEL

General Rules

What are Licensure Examinations?

Licensure Examinations are assessments to ensure that the incompetence of healthcare practitioners will not harm the public. It assesses the ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles that constitute the basis of safe and effective healthcare.

What is Saudi Public Health Licensure Examination (SPHLE)?

The SPHLE is an exam that assesses the readiness of Public Health Specialists to practice. It consists of 200 MCQs, which may include up to an additional 10% of pilot questions. It is divided into 2 parts of 100 questions (+\10), each with a time allocation of 120 minutes for each part. There is a scheduled 30-minute break between the two parts. The questions have 4 options from which the candidate will choose 1 best answer.

The examination language is English, and it will contain recall questions that test knowledge and questions with scenarios that test other skills (interpretation, analysis, decision-making, reasoning, and problem-solving).

How is the SPHLE pass score established?

In the first quarter of 2023, the SCFHS conducted a rigorous standard-setting exercise to assign a cut score on the reporting scale of 200-800. Following the standard setting exercise, the panel recommended a pass score of 500 on the reporting scale of 200-800. This pass score was reviewed and approved by the CAC.

What is a test blueprint, and what is its purpose?

A test blueprint is a document that reflects the content of a specialty licensure examination and is the plan used for "building" the exam. The purpose of the blueprint is to ensure including questions related to what is expected to be known.



Note: The test was launched in March 2023.

Saudi Public Health Licensure Examination Blueprint

Section	Competency
Foundations of biological and life sciences (5%)	Understand the basic sciences and key concepts underlying human health and disease processes. This includes but is not limited to host susceptibility, genetic factors, immunological responses, agent virulence, and treatment resistance.
	Provide a biological description of the major causes of communicable and non-communicable diseases and their determinants.
Fundamentals of public health (20%)	Understand the history and philosophy of public health.
	Explain the core values and concepts of public health. This includes but is not limited to population focus, prevention orientation, social justice, life course perspective, and health equity.
	Identify the core functions of public health and the essential public health services.
	Indicate the differences in public health priorities at national and international levels.
	Identify key influences on global health trends and practices.
	Explain the role of globalization on disease control and prevention.
	Identify public health problems/needs relevant to the population by assessing existing data, prioritizing identified needs, and examining needed areas for intervention.
	Understand the fundamental elements of project/intervention implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation to detect, prevent, and control health-related issues.
Explain how health determinants (biological, behavioral, psychological, cultural, social, genetic, political, and economic factors) can impact human health and contribute to health disparities.	
Biostatistics (10%)	Apply the basic statistical concepts and methods of research analysis.
	Implement statistical tests used for public health research, policy, and practice.
	Interpret basic results of data analysis for public health research, policy, and practice.
Environmental and occupational health (15%)	Understand the role that public health plays in disaster prevention and management.
	Identify the effects of environmental and occupational exposures on human health, population health, and their contributions to health outcomes.
	Recognize common environmental health policies for air, food, water, and waste management.
	Identify environmental and occupational risks. Assess and participate in surveillance systems.

Epidemiology (20%)	Explain the basic principles of epidemiology and its applications, including the distribution of major human diseases and their underlying etiologies.
	Describe various levels of prevention of diseases.
	Recognize the major causes of morbidity and mortality in the Saudi community compared to the international community.
	Identify the differences in epidemiologic causation models in studying communicable vs. non-communicable diseases.
	Understand different types of infection transmission and the implementation of universal precautions.
	Explain the outbreak investigation steps.
	Recognize the impact of social disparities and communicable and non-communicable diseases on health.
	Identify the basic concepts, methods, tools, and analysis for quantitative and qualitative data used in public health studies and the concepts of surveillance systems.
	Apply various research principle designs to health-related topics.
	Explain the evidence-based approaches and their importance in public health practice.
	Apply abstract reasoning to communicate public health research results to public and professional audiences.
	Calculate and interpret the epidemiological measures of effect, impact, morbidity, and mortality.
Health Policy, Management, and Economics (15%)	Understand the basic concepts of health economics.
	Understand the building blocks of healthcare and public health systems.
	Identify the basic components of the health system in Saudi Arabia.
	Assess public policy issues concerning access, quality, and cost while considering health outcomes.
	Understand the basic concepts of quality management, clinical governance, and patient safety.
	Identify the relevant legal and ethical considerations related to public health.
	Explain the roles, influences, and responsibilities of the different agencies and sectors of government toward healthcare and population health.
	Evaluate the impact of public health policies on health outcomes.
Recognize priority health problems to be addressed in public health projects and programs.	



Social and behavioral sciences, health communication, and health promotion (15%)

Identify the common health behavior theories and models used as strategies in changing population behavior.
Understand the basic concepts of public health-specific communication, including technical and professional writing, mass media, and electronic technology.
Use health-need assessment to identify needs, i.e., social, environmental, economic, and other determinants required for public health promotion and intervention.
Explain the main processes of developing and implementing a public health project/program.

 **Note:** Blueprint distributions of the examination may differ up to +/-5% in each level.



References

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Note: This list is intended for use as a study aid only. SCFHS does not intend the list to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are the exam questions necessarily taken from these sources.