الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الصحية
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties

Saudi Nursing Licensure Examination (SNLE)

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 the Saudi Nursing Licensure Examination (SNLE)?

SNLE is an exam that assesses your readiness to practice and/or proceed to postgraduate training. It consists of 200 MCQs, which may include up to 10% of pilot questions. It is divided into two parts of 100 questions, each with a time allocation of 120 minutes for each part. There is a scheduled 30-minute break between the two parts. These questions have four options from which the candidate will choose one best answer.

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

Application and Eligibility

How to apply for SNLE?

To apply for the SNLE, you must have a recognized primary degree (BSN or equivalent) from an accredited health science program or commenced training during the internship year or student who is one year away from graduation.

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. The blueprint is the plan used for "building" the exam. The purpose of the blueprint is to ensure including questions related to what is expected to know.

Saudi Nursing Licensure Examination Blueprint

Sections	Sub-sections	Competencies						
		Professionalism	Patient Centered	Evidence Based Practice and Research	Leadership and Management	Quality and Safety Management	Health Education and Promotion	Communication and Information Technology
Nursing Fundamentals 20%	Fundamentals of nursing							
	Physical assessment							
	Pharmacology							
	Basic sciences							
Adult Nursing 40%	Medical nursing							
	Surgical nursing							
	Critical care nursing							
	Community nursing							
	Mental/psychiatric nursing							
Maternal-Child Nursing 30%	Maternity nursing							
	Gynecology							
	Neonatal nursing							
	Pediatric medical							
	Pediatric surgical							
Nursing Management and Leadership 10%	Resources to support and coordinate patient care							
	Quality and safe patient care at the frontline							
	Nursing teams and interprofessional relations							
	Nursing informatics for safe and legal delivery of patient care							
	Research and Evidence Based Practice							

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

Definitions

Sections

- Nursing Fundamentals

An emphasis on the spectrum of basic human needs and related nursing competence in basic skills as a prerequisite to respond to patient needs at the basic levels, including prioritization of care delivery.

- Adult Nursing

This is the range of care provided to adult patients in medical and surgical nursing in the context of in-patient or out-patient settings for patients who are suffering from a variety of health conditions, ranging from minor injuries and ailments to acute and long-term illnesses and diseases, and includes the nursing care of patients with complex and comprehensive needs (critical care).

- Maternal-Child Nursing

Maternal-child nursing refers to a framework of health care provided for child-bearing women and their families. Maternal-child nursing strives to approach the birth process as a natural life event rather than a medical procedure. This field of nursing includes prenatal care to pregnant women, and health care to mothers and their newborn infants, and extends to the family. The range and impact of this care include the neonates and children up to adolescence, usually in an in-patient, out-patient or day-clinic context.

- Nursing Management and Leadership

This pertains to the performance of leadership functions at the frontline on a nursing unit level that ensures that nursing care is delivered safely and that all patients on a nursing unit are receiving adequate care, and includes the essentials of nursing informatics. It embraces elementary and common management processes such as planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling that involves technical, human, and conceptual skills with corresponding responsibility, authority, and accountability.

Competencies

- Professionalism

The Nursing graduate will demonstrate accountability and responsibilities for the delivery of nursing care that is consistent with moral, ethical, legal, humanistic and regulatory principles.

- Patient Centered

The Nursing graduate will deliver compassionate and coordinated care that recognizes patients'

preferences, values, and needs and respects the patient as an active partner in providing holistic, safe, and effective care.

- Evidence Based Practice and Research

The Nursing graduate will be able to conduct scientific research related to current trends, issues in nursing, appraise evidence-based practice by using their clinical expertise and make clinical decisions based on patients' preferences, experience and values (Adapted from QSEN, 2007).

- Leadership and Management

"The Nursing graduate will demonstrate leadership and management competencies to have affect the conduct of nursing and healthcare professionals in their community in a way that will facilitate the establishment and fulfillment of shared goals". (Tomey, 2009).

- Quality and Safety Management

-"Quality: The Nursing graduate will be aware and uses information to display the effects of care given and uses improvement techniques to design and check modifications to continuously enhance the fine and protection of health care systems". (QSEN, 2007).

-"Safety: The Nursing graduate will minimize chance of harm to patients and health care providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance". (QSEN, 2007).

- Health Education and Promotion

The Nursing graduate will be able to identify communities, individuals and patients' needs related to their health preventions, and promote healthy behaviors by providing health information and educational activities using reliable resources with respect to different age groups and cultural backgrounds.

- Communication and Information Technology

The Nursing graduate is expected to maintain effective communication and interaction with patients and their families notwithstanding their co-workers. They will also be expected to foster mutual respect for one another and harbor cooperative decision-making with the outcome of optimizing patient Satisfaction and the overall improvement of the patient's health outcomes. Information Technology. The Graduate Nurse will be expected to take advantage of these developments to analyze and synthesize information in order to collaboratively make critical decisions for the best patient outcome. (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2015).

Applying for the SNLE

When applying for the examination, you must apply through the e-application. Once your application is processed, a scheduling permit with your eligibility period will be issued. You will receive an email with instructions for accessing your permit.

After obtaining the scheduling permit, you may visit the specified website to schedule a test date. Scheduling may not be available for more than three months in advance. Refer to SCFHS for testing windows availability.

Important Notes:

- Saudi university/college students can sit for SNLE during the final year of undergraduate studies.
- Scheduling the allowed test attempts during the year is the sole responsibility of the candidate.
- SCFHS is not responsible for delaying the test attempts until the end of the year and not finding a test spot.
- Candidates can test in any SCFHS approved Prometric testing center locally and internationally as locations appear upon scheduling.
- A candidate is not allowed to sit for the test twice in the same testing window. In this instance, the result of the first dated test will be announced, and the second will be considered an attempt and result invalid.
- All candidates must review the applicant guide before taking the test.

SNLE Practice Examination

To experience a test that resembles the actual test blueprint and sampled from the SNLE item bank, you can apply for SNLE mock test from SCFHS website.

For more information, please visit the SCFHS website.

https://www.scfhs.org.sa/

Important Instructions

What to Expect on Test Day?

- All test centers follow the same procedures and rules, which you should get familiar with before test day.
- Testing sessions for the Saudi Licensing Examinations are monitored by test center administrators (TCA), in person and through audio and visual recording. Staff are required to report any violations of assessment bylaws or test center rules.
- You must follow instructions from TCA throughout the examinations; failure to do so may result in a finding of irregular behavior.
- TCAs are not authorized to answer questions regarding registration, examination content or format, testing software, scoring, or retesting.

Registration on Test Day

SCFHS test centers open at 7:30 a.m. If you are late more than 30 minutes from the time noted on your admission ticket or absent on test day, you will not be allowed to sit for the test, and this will be considered an attempt unless an acceptable reason with required documentation is presented and accepted by the committee supervising the test as per the assessment rules and regulations.

When you arrive at the test center, you must present your scheduling permit and the required identification.

Acceptable forms of unexpired identification include:

- Passport
- National/Residence Identity Card (KSA Only)
- Your name, as it appears on your scheduling permit, must match the name on your form(s) of identification exactly.
- If you do not bring your scheduling permit on paper or electronically (e.g., via smartphone) and acceptable identification, you will not be admitted to the test and will be required to pay a fee to reschedule your test. Your rescheduled test date(s) must fall within your eligibility period.
- During check-in, test center staff will conduct the appropriate security check before entering the testing room to confirm that you have no prohibited items.

- You will be asked to repeat this process each time you return to the testing room after a break. Additionally, your photo ID and fingerprint may be scanned electronically, and you must sign the test center log.
- Before you enter the test room, TCA will give you laminated writing surfaces, erasers, and markers to use for making notes and/or calculations during the testing session. They should be used only at your assigned testing station.
- You must return laminated writing surfaces\e-tablets to test center staff at the end of the testing session. Do NOT write on anything other than the laminated writing surface\e-tablets (e.g., your hand, other body parts, tissue, etc.). Failure to comply may result in a finding of irregular behavior.
- TCA will escort you to your assigned testing station and provide brief instructions on the use of the computer equipment. A brief tutorial is available before each examination.
- Your test session is scheduled for a fixed amount of time, and the computer keeps track of the time allocated for each block and for breaks.
- Once you begin a testing block, the block time continues to run even if you leave the testing room (e.g., for a personal emergency).
- If you leave during the block without permission from the test proctor, the test center will file a report of the incident. Additionally, the unauthorized break screen, described in the examination tutorial, will appear on the monitor after a defined period of inactivity.

Breaks between Test Blocks

- Each time you leave the testing room, you are required to sign out and sign in when you return. You must present your identification each time you sign in.
- If you take too much break time and exceed the allocated break time, the next test block will start automatically, and the excess time will be deducted from your testing time.

- Ensure you arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of your next block to allow time for sign-in as the signing process may take more around 10 minutes based on testing capacity.
- Repeated or lengthy departures from the test room for unscheduled breaks will be reported by the TCA.

Test	# of Test Block(s)	Duration of Each Block	Break Time (Pool)
SNLE	2	120 min	30 minutes total

End of Test

- The test session ends when you have started and exited all blocks, or the total test time expires. You will receive a notice during checkout that you have appeared for the test.
- After you start taking an examination, you cannot cancel or reschedule that examination. If you experience a computer issue during the test, notify the test center staff immediately. The testing software is designed to restart the test at the point that it was interrupted.
- You will maintain the confidentiality of the materials, including, but not limited to, the multiple-choice items. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through recording, memorization, or by any other means.
- You will not provide information relating to examination content to anyone who may be taking or preparing others to take the examination. This includes postings regarding examination content and/or answers on the internet.

For more information, please visit the SCFHS website.

https://www.scfhs.org.sa/

Exam Day

Instructions for examination day

- Any clothing or jewelry items allowed to be worn in the test room must remain on your person at all times. Removed clothing or jewelry items must be stored in your locker.
- You must conduct yourself in a civil manner at all times when on the premises of the testing center. Exhibiting abusive behavior towards the Test Center Administrator (TCA), or any other staff member of the test center, may result in legal prosecution.
- To protect the privacy of all testers, the TCA can neither confirm nor deny if any particular individual is present or scheduled at the test center.
- You must return all materials issued to you by the TCA at the end of your test.
- Persons not scheduled to take a test are not permitted to wait in the test center.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many times can I retake the SNLE?

- All eligible candidates may take SNLE up to four times a year, starting from the first attempt to obtain a pass score.
- SCFHS classification and registration rules and regulations apply to candidates who fail the SNLE for two years after the graduation date.
- After obtaining a passing score in the SNLE each candidate is eligible for two further attempts to improve their mark for the purpose of attaining a better opportunity for residency selection.
- After one calendar year of the second attempt mentioned above, each candidate is eligible for one further attempt annually to improve their mark for the purpose of attaining a better score for residency selection.

2. How is the examination conducted?

SNLE is conducted using computer-based testing. After finishing the first set of 100 items, a 30-minute

scheduled break can be taken. Upon leaving the testing area candidates are required to sign- out and when entering sign-in again and go through a security check.

3. How are SNLE results announced?

SNLE contains 200 multiple-choice questions with the possibility of including up to 10% unscored items. Results are not provided instantly. During the window closing period, psychometric analysis is conducted, and results are announced within 2-6 weeks of the end of a test window. Two reports will be provided to every candidate, statement of results and a feedback report on performance in comparison to other test-takers.

4. How is the SNLE pass score established?

The SCFHS brings together a panel of Saudi nurses to define an acceptable level of performance and establish the passing score for the SNLE through a standard-setting exercise. The panel then recommends its pass score to the Central Assessment Committee (CAC) for approval.

In April 2017, the SCFHS conducted a rigorous standard-setting exercise with a diverse panel of 14 nurses. Following the standard-setting exercise, the panel recommended a passing score of 500 on the reporting scale of 200-800. This passing score was reviewed and approved by the Central Assessment Committee.

References and Exam Preparation Resources

Sections	Textbooks
Nursing Fundamentals	• Timby's Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts 12th Edition (International Edition), 2020 Author: Loretta A. Moreno ISBN/ISSN 9781975141769 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer • Workbook for Timby's Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts 12th Edition, 2020 Authors: Loretta A. Moreno, Brigitte Moseley, and Barbara Kuhn Timby ISBN/ISSN 9781975159658 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer • Kozier & Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing 10th Edition, 2016 Author: Audrey Berman, Charles Snyder, and Geralyn Frandsen. ISBN13: 9781292106106 Publisher: Pearson • Bates' Nursing Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking 2nd Edition, 2016 Authors: Beth Hogan - Quigley, Mary Louise Palm, and Lynn S. Bickley. ISBN/ISSN 9781496305565 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer • Bates' Visual Guide to Physical Examination (Clinical Skills Database) (Access via E - Library) https://batesvisualguide.com / • Pharmacology a Patient-Centered Nursing Process Approach 9th Edition, 2017 Authors: Linda McCuistion , Kathleen DiMaggio, Mary Beth Winton, and Jennifer Yeager. eBook ISBN: 9780323399159 Paperback ISBN: 9780323399166 Publisher: Saunders • Nutrition Essentials for Nursing Practice 9th Edition, 2021 Author: Susan Dudek ISBN/ISSN 9781975161125 Publisher: Wolters Kluwer
Adult Nursing	• Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing, 14th Ed., 2018 Authors: Janice L. Hinkle PhD, RN, CNRN, Kerry H. Cheever PhD, RN ISBN/ISSN: 9781496355133 14th Edition (International Edition) Pages: 2352 • Clinical Handbook for Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing,14th Ed. 2018 Au thor(s) : Lippincott Williams & Wilkins ISBN/ISSN 978149635514 • Medical-Surgical Nursing Assessment and Management of Clinical Problems, 11th Edition, 2020. Authors: Sharon Lewis, Linda Bucher, Margaret Heitkemper, Mariann Harding, Jeffrey Kwong, and Dottie Roberts. eBook ISBN: 9780323371438 Imprint: Mosby Published Date: September 2016 Page Count: 1776

	• Perry, A.G., Potter, P.A., Ostendorf, W. (2017). Clinical nursing skills and techniques (9th Edition). Mosby. ISBN-13: 978-0323400695 ISBN-10: 0323400698 10th Ed. March 2021 • Cri tical Care Nursing Diagnosis and Management, 9th Edition, 2021 Authors: Linda Urd en Kathleen Stacy Mary Lough Paperback ISBN: 9780323642958 Paperback ISBN: 9780323751476 eBook ISBN: 9780323696791 Imprint: Elsevier, March 2021 • Emergency and Trauma Care for Nurses and Paramedics, 3rd Edition, 2019 Authors: Kate Curtis, Cl air Ramsden, Ramon Shaban, Margaret Fry & Julie Considine eBook ISBN: 9780729587204 Paperback I SBN: 9780729542982 Elsevier • Patricia Gonce Morton, Dorrie K. Fontaine. (2018) Cri tical Care Nursing: A Holistic Approach 11th edition. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer • Community & Public Health Nursing, Promoting the Public's Health, 7th Ed., 2019 Author(s): Cherie Rector PhD, RN-C ISBN/ISSN 9781496349828 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins • Stanhope, M. & Lancaster, J. (2020). Public health nursing: Population -centered health care in the community (10th Edition). St. Louie, Missouri: Elsevier.ISBN-13: 978-0323582247 ISBN-10: 0323582249 • Psychiatric Nursing: Contemporary Practice, 2017 Author(s): Mary Ann Boyd PhD, D NS, RN, PMH CNS - BC ISBN/ISSN 9781451192438 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Lippincott's • Sheila L.Videbeck. (2020): Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 8th_Edition. Varcarolis, E. M. & Halter,M.J.)2018(. • Manual of Psychiatric Nursing Care Plans, 2012 Author(s): Judith M. Schultz MS, RN, Sheila L. Videbeck Ph D, RN ISBN/ISSN 9781609136949
Maternal- Child Nursing	• "Murray S. and McKinney E. (2019). Foundations of Maternal-Newborn and Women's Health Nursing 7th Edition.C74 • Susan Scott Ricci (2017) Essentials of Maternity, Newborn, and Women's Health Nursing, Fifth Edition. Philadelphia, Wolters Kluwer". • "Hockenberry, M,J., and Wilson,D., (2018): Wong's Essentials of Pediatric Nursing,9th ,ed., Elsevier • Hockenberry, M. & Wilson, D. (2020). Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children. 11th edition. London: Mosby Company"

Unit Management and Leadership	Outcomes (2nd edition). Wiley Blackwell: New Jersey • Polit, Denise F., Beck, C. T. (2018). Essentials of nursing research: appraising evidence for nursing practice. (9th ed.) Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer". • Marquis, B.L. & Huston, C.J. (2020). Leadership Roles and Management Functions in Nursing: Theory and Application, 10th Edition. • Sewell, J. (2019). Informatics and Nursing: Opportunities and challenges. Wolters Kluwer Health; 6th edition.

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.

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