



AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY

**SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE: CONTENT OUTLINE FOR THE CERTIFYING  
AND RECERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS**

| <b><u>Topic</u></b>   | <b><u>Weight*</u></b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>I. Initial Resuscitation</b>   | <b>6%</b>             |
| <b>II. Cardiovascular Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Therapy</b>                    | <b>10%</b>            |
| <b>III. Respiratory Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Therapy</b>                      | <b>9%</b>             |
| <b>IV. Fluid and Electrolyte Pathophysiology and Therapy</b>                          | <b>11%</b>            |
| <b>V. Neurological Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Therapy</b>                       | <b>5%</b>             |
| <b>VI. Metabolic, Endocrinologic, and Nutritional Effects of Surgical Illness</b>     | <b>5%</b>             |
| <b>VII. Infectious Disease, Pathophysiology, and Therapy</b>                          | <b>10%</b>            |
| <b>VIII. Hematologic Disorders Secondary to Acute Illness/Blood Transfusion</b>       | <b>2%</b>             |
| <b>IX. Acute Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, and Obstetric-Gynecologic Disorders</b> | <b>10%</b>            |
| <b>X. Trauma</b>  | <b>10%</b>            |
| <b>XI. Thermal Injury</b>   | <b>4%</b>             |
| <b>XII. Monitoring, Bioengineering, and Biostatistics</b>                             | <b>6%</b>             |
| <b>XIII. Life-Threatening Pediatric Conditions</b>                                    | <b>2%</b>             |
| <b>XIV. Principles and Techniques of Administration and Management</b>                | <b>3%</b>             |
| <b>XV. Pharmacology, Pharmacokinetics, and Drug Metabolism in Critical Illness</b>    | <b>2%</b>             |
| <b>XVI. Ethical and Legal Aspects in Surgical Critical Care Medicine</b>              | <b>2%</b>             |
| <b>XVII. Immunology, Transplantation, and Cell Biology</b>                            | <b>4%</b>             |

\*Percentage of questions included in 2011 SCC Certifying and Recertification Examinations. Percentage may vary slightly from year to year.

**Sample Question**

The example that follows shows the format of the multiple-choice questions. The example is not meant to indicate the degree of difficulty of questions that may be encountered in the examination.

*Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is BEST in each case.*

1. The most common cause of spontaneous pneumothorax is:

- ☐ A. tuberculosis
- ☒ B. pulmonary blebs
- ☐ C. carcinoma
- ☐ D. bronchiectasis
- ☐ E. chronic bronchitis